



# Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

## Impacting Families in Uganda

As our Buyamba mission mandates, we continue to offer love, hope, and a future to our students in through education and discipleship. However, that process has gone beyond the walls of God Cares School, and reaching the students looks very different than it has before. The school administrators are waiting to hear when the government will release the children to go back to school (much like what is happening in the U.S.). Our efforts have turned to reaching as many students as possible and their families at their homes, providing food, prayer, and educational materials.

We will visit our 9th village in the food outreach effort, the town of Kawempe, this week reaching out to the student families with the packages of food that will last for weeks, depending on the family size, and also minister to the people of the village in the name of Jesus. With each area, with each family, God continues to minister his care through the Buyamba Outreach Team. Here are a couple of reports from leaders on the ground:

"I would surely say that as far as the year 2020 is concerned, the Buyamba food distribution during COVID-19 pandemic has been the most powerful. When the Buyamba Outreach Team went to Jinja, they had created a distribution center, but we also had the opportunity to bring food to some of the students' houses. Distributing food and prayer had an impact on all of us. One moment that stood out for me is when a young Buyamba girl named Anita Gipato, walked us down through a banana plantation to her house where we found her grandmother cooking over a pot of boiling cassava flour.

This pot of food would be the only food for the day. When the Buyamba team handed them the bags of various food staples, the big smiles and the tears of joy on her grandma's beautiful face and the joy in Anita's siblings melted my heart, and I was reminded that we exist to bring hope where there's none."

- Worship Byakika Dongo



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"Besides the COVID-19 effects, Uganda has also been devastated by the flooding of all water bodies and wetlands, which has led to displacement and loss of property for some Buyamba families in areas of Bukasa and Kagulu. Bringing relief in the form of food and supplies to these families after weeks of devastation proved to them first hand that they're never alone. One of the students that impacted me most was a girl from GCHS named Winfred. (Continued on page 2)



# When Challenge Turns Into Opportunity.

by Julie Dimas

The first part of this year has not been easy for the Buyamba Uganda ministry, like many other non-profits; however, we have seen the Lord's faithfulness to these children of Uganda through the love of the churches, sponsors, and donors throughout this time. God is faithful, and he uses his children to take care of the desperate and orphaned children, and I have seen His faithfulness over and over through our Buyamba donors.

Yet, I had found myself at times, worrying about school opening in Uganda. Questions were going through my mind...What if the lockdown extends to next year as it seems to be the case several States in the U.S.? How would the sponsors feel about the delays since our partnership through Buyamba is based on loving each child one at a time? How could we collectively take care of the whole group of students when we don't have them in the school building?

As God does so often, He has His way of encouraging us personally wherever we are struggling. During this time, one of the sources of His encouragement came from a long time friend and Buyamba Staff Volunteer (11 years), Bonnie Sloan. We had a great conversation about my concerns one day in the Buyamba office, and she sent a follow-up email with her "additional thoughts" on the matter. Her words and her heart put my eyes back on the OPPORTUNITY we have in this time and not the challenges we face in the ministry. Bonnie explained:



***When I think about child sponsorship, I am reminded that we challenge our sponsors to pray for their kids, encourage them to write letters, ask them to provide Bible Camp and Christmas baskets, and other gifts for needs. This means that our goal in sponsorship is to commit to the well-being of the whole child, not just a commitment to provide for education but also a commitment that includes physical and spiritual development. When times dictate that learning in the classroom is on hold, there are still crucial needs to be met. Early on in the lockdown, I heard a sermon about considering this a "Time of Opportunity." By supporting Buyamba during this pandemic, our sponsors have an unprecedented opportunity to help Buyamba reach beyond the school's boundaries to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are blessed that we get to do this. What an incredible act of love on the part of God Cares to feed families in many villages whether every family has a child enrolled at God Cares School. What an outreach! What an opportunity to share Jesus! Really... isn't this the goal?***



(Continued from page one) Her family had been going through hard times. When Winfred's mom realized that things were getting harder due to the lockdown, she sent Winfred's sister to her relatives because she realized she would no longer provide for both girls after losing her job. Things were desperate, but you could see that when we brought food and supplies to their doorstep, it offered them a glimpse of hope, for this meant at least they were assured of not starving for the next five weeks."

- Ezra Dongo

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