## Buyamba News Helping Uganda...one child at a time

God's Wonderful Timing

Every Thursday God Cares High School has chapel where the students lead worship and then receive a message by their campus Pastor, Sam Byakika. On the Thursday our team was there, our Youth Pastor Kory Bomar spoke and encouraged the students to not be afraid but to trust and follow God. It was an amazing day as we were able to watch 28 students commit their lives to God. As I was talking to Sam previously, I told him we had brought a portable baptismal to leave just in case they needed it in the future. He had a very surprised look on his face and said he had just finished a 6-week class on Baptism and some students were ready! That day we baptized 94 students who had never been submerged in water, yet stood up to their fear to follow God. Our team was honored to be used in the plan God had been orchestrating for weeks to be sure his beloved children had the tools they needed to be baptized. We know there will be many more baptisms in the upcoming months. The students at God Cares Schools are so grateful and have joyous hearts.



They are quick to say "Thank you for loving us and praying for us! Please tell my sponsor hello and that I am praying for them everyday and love them so much." So I pass their love and blessings, may God bless all the Buyamba supporters as they bless God's children on the other side of the world in Uganda.

-Mary Walls Executive Adult Pastor at The Met Church

## Meeting A Sponsored Child



My daughter Emma and I were able to go to Uganda this summer and meet our family's sponsored child, Beatitude. It's hard to put in to words the anticipation we felt waiting for that moment. I kept thinking about how it would be and what I would say or do when I saw her for the first time. I kept looking around for her, even asked some kids if they knew her. Emma and I were not having much luck finding her, but we were determined. I believed I would know her if I saw her face across the schoolyard, for I had been looking at her picture and praying for her every day for a long time. As I turned around, desperate to spot her, I saw this girl, sitting and talking with someone from our team. I ran over to her and told her that I was her sponsor. Her face lit up and she had the biggest smile. I just melted over this beautiful child of God. Praise God that I had this opportunity to meet her, and what a blessing it is to help this child go to school.

-Stephanie Dobbins, Child Sponsor

## HOME VISITS ~ BEYOND THE WALLS OF GOD CARES SCHOOLS

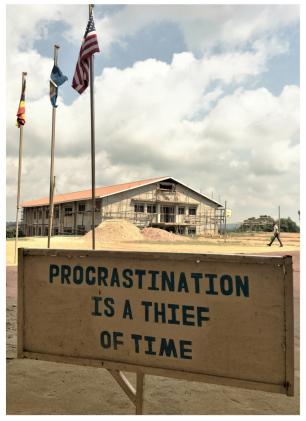
One of the most impactful experiences a team can go through on a short-term mission trip to God Cares School is to venture out of the walls of the school to go visit students' homes. It is then that one gets the whole picture of how very difficult home life can be for these children that come to school each day at God Cares. This year, the teams visited the slums of the Bukasa village from which many our Buyamba students come from.

Some of the older students walk an hour and a half each day to get to GCNP and the younger students are picked up each day by the school bus.

Many of the homes are small makeshift huts made out of wood, or aluminum siding, or in the best cases, brick walls, all having dirt floors or a concrete slab.



Each little home may support a family of 5 or 6 in a single room. There is no electricity or running water and the family usually has limited furniture, such as a small couch, a table and a mattress or two to provide a sleeping area for all.



Life is very difficult for most, and many are single mother homes. Each family has their story of struggle and hardship, and there are many stories of lost loved ones and abandonment due to disease or alcoholism.

Yet, all are grateful that their children are sponsored and attending school for it gives them hope that their children will have a better life.

This year, the Calvary Community Church team came up with a great gift to leave with each family visited that would be life changing. Each home received a small water filtration system that would allow the family to filter their water and provide safe and disease free water for their family in their own house. One of the leaders, Patty Gillette remarked, "It was a blessing to be able to give a gift that would impact lives ongoing in such a profound way."

## New Growth

The campus at God Cares High School is still growing and changing each year. The high school now has its brick exterior and the ramp is tiled with a concrete designed wall painted a bright orange. But the most profound change is the massive Assembly Hall that is closer to completion. Having the main structure built, it is ready for plastering and interior finishing work. The hall has the appearance of a giant ark and sits below the high school building across from the girls' dorm. It is easy to see how this building will serve the ENTIRE GCHS population, including students and teachers. It could potentially be used for many things, including a testing center, a church or an indoor basketball court.



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Write your child at: God Cares Schools

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