



Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

Partnering in Sponsorship for the Journey of a Child

Sponsorship is a matter of entering into a child's school journey through the Buyamba program. When a child is admitted to God Cares School, Buyamba commits with the sponsor to that child to stay with them through the duration of their schooling, whether that student enters nursery school, Primary (Elementary), or Secondary School (High School). Whether a sponsor is called or able to sponsor for a year, five years, or ten years, the Buyamba program will never kick that student out of school for lack of sponsorship. Instead, we will find another to share that journey.

There are some sponsors in the Buyamba program who have journeyed more than 12 years with their students and have seen them grow physically, academically, and spiritually from one year to the next. Many sponsors have even extended their sponsorship to university. Although University sponsorship is the cost of three regular sponsorships per month, even keeping the level of a sponsor's current rate of support can empower that student to go to university or trade school.

Your care and provision for these children are essential. Most of these children have lost at least one parent due to diseases such as AIDS, malaria, dehydration, respiratory infections, and even simple viruses. Many fathers have also abandoned single mothers with multiple children. Children who have lost both parents often live with a grandparent or extended relative, or they might be taken in by a neighboring family who already has many children. These families have no way to support children in school financially. There is no free education. *(continued on next page)*



A Moment of Perspective

Working for kids in Uganda while sitting in my office in sunny southern California can cause me to lose perspective of the kids we serve far away in Uganda. Still, every once in a while, something wakes me up and reminds me of the lives and struggles of the children of Africa we serve. I got one of those wake-up calls the other day that brought that reality all back in a single moment. The caller reported that a young God Cares High School Sudanese student had gone back to South Sudan with his guardian over the term break, along with other students to visit relatives. Tragically, they were attacked. Emmanuel, age 15, was shot and killed, and two other Sudanese girls that go to God Cares High School with him were also shot and in the hospital, expected to recover. We don't know their names yet. *(continued on next page)*

A Moment of Perspective

We do know that Emmanuel's older sister was in the hospital already in Kampala battling sickness, and when she heard, she was overwhelmed with grief and died soon after, leaving her two sons, ages 8 and 10.

I was stunned.

This news was so hard to process, violence and death are not in "our program." All these thoughts raced through my head as I tried to keep the reality from hitting my heart and breaking it again. I want safety for all our God Cares School kids; I want their trauma gone, I want all their heartaches and struggles to be gone, I want lives to change.

The reality of the lives of children in Uganda and the kids we serve at GCS who are from the Sudan, the Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, etc. don't necessarily have lives that are "safe." Poverty, disease, infection, abandonment, pain, and even violence...all these things are part of the lives of the children we serve through the Buyamba ministry.



It makes me think of the 41 Sudanese kids that go to God Cares, who grew up in the Sudanese camps of northern Uganda. Violence is what their parents or guardians had fled from previously to find shelter in the camps. This very reason is why Buyamba just opened a house for the Sudanese kids for term break (thanks to two generous donor families), so they don't have to go back to the camps at all during term break. The law states that each kid has a guardian set over them that determines their care during term break. This time, that choice caused the tragedy in multiple lives.

The good news is we will take those newly orphaned boys into God Cares School and find sponsors for them. When I shared with the sponsors of Emmanuel, they both agreed to cover these new boys. I had almost decided not to tell the sponsors, to shield their hearts from the reality of the news. But, as one Buyamba board member put it, ***"We have partnered with our Buyamba sponsors in transparency to make a difference in the lives of these children. Hardships are the reality of the children we serve. We are in this together with our supporters."***

She is right; this is what sponsorship is, educating and discipling our kids to equip them to impact their nation. Buyamba means "help." Help implies need. May God help this family and friends to recover. May God grant all the courage to move forward and continue to help, whether that is on the Uganda side or in sunny California, we move forward in prayer and purpose, regardless of broken hearts, we are called to serve and love.

- Julie Dimas/Executive Director

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Sponsorship empowers... engages...and impacts lives forever. It makes a difference.

Through sponsorship, a child receives the gift of education and discipleship at God Cares School (or another approved school until they transition into GCS), and each sponsor that commits to a child is making that happen. Thousands of children have entered through the doors of God Cares, and whether they are there for a year or their entire school journey, they are offered love, hope, and a future through education and discipleship...one child at a time.