



# Buyamba News

Helping **Uganda**...one child at a time

## STUDENT TO STAFF

Magala Amos Ezra is blessed to have grown up as a part of the Dongo family for most of his childhood since both of his parents had passed away. Amos was once a sponsored child in the Buyamba sponsorship program. Beginning in Primary, he went on to graduate with a degree from the Medcare Health Professional Institute in Kampala, Uganda, in June of 2015. Amos is now a qualified medical laboratory technician, studying to become a medical laboratory scientist and is working at God Cares High School. He loves his job in the student health center at the high school.

Amos explained, "Working in the medical department gives me joy because I get to help improve the students' health which takes away some of their struggles for excellence in

education. Every day that I am at work, I look forward to testing and treating the sick students with my colleague, Nurse Jennifer. I am so happy to work with the ministry that has fostered me."



**Magala Amos Ezra  
testing a students for  
Malaria**

Amos went on to explain that it is essential to educate the students about health and the prevention side of medicine, and he also tries to show the impact poor health can have on students. He hopes most of the students "will purpose to practice good health practices like right brushing techniques to prevent tooth decay, ulcer prevention, and education on how to prevent HIV. I also want to encourage students to teach communities, starting with their families, of why and how disease can spread. For example, if a family member is sick, it directly impacts everyone in the family. I want to advocate preventive medicine and basic hygiene." Amos also enjoys caring for his students one on one, for he says that he can "encourage students to study hard for a brighter future and also to believe in themselves."

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## How did Buyamba in the U.S. Come to be?

### The Facts:

Buyamba Uganda was first organized as a non-profit in Kingston, New York, in 2002. The late Jerry Lehmann, and other faithful helpers, initially ran the non-profit's operations in the home of Rev. G. Modele Clarke and his wife, Evelyn. The board also worked closely with the efforts of Robert and Nicole Cockburn in Houston, Texas, as they worked with those in their area to impact the growth of the new ministry and joined in to help Jerry manage the sponsorships as the numbers grew. God was also building a hub of "helpers" in California and on January 1, 2007, Buyamba was reorganized as a California 501(c)3, under the leadership of David and Julie Dimas and a board of directors, where it continues to reside today.

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## Reminders

Last Call for Bible Camp  
Donations!  
\$40 to send a child to camp

Send in your July summer  
greeting cards

Consider a monthly pledge to  
support the High School Dorm  
Project

# How did Buyamba in the U.S. Come to be?

## The Dedication:

Jerry Lehmann went to be with the Lord this past month, June 2018. He is remembered and loved by all who knew him and is especially revered by many for the work he did with the Buyamba ministry on both the Uganda and U.S. side. Uganda was deep within Jerry's heart, and his love for God's people helped the late Pastor Bethuel Dongo and his wife Florence, start the Buyamba ministry. In his honor, we will tell the story of Buyamba over the next couple of months in our newsletter so the work that Pastor Dongo and Jerry started together will never be forgotten.

## The Story Behind Buyamba

### » The U.S. Side » Part 1: The Beginning Years

Brother Jerry Lehmann, one of Buyamba's founders on the U.S. side in New York, was stationed in Uganda as a Mennonite missionary from 1984-1987. Jerry told the story that during that time, he decided one Sunday, to walk through the streets of Gonzaga to find a church. As he passed a few people on the way, he asked, "Where do the saved ones meet?" Each person on the street he asked would smile and instruct him to keep walking for he would "run into them soon enough." As he approached Pastor Bethuel Dongo's open-air church, Jerry heard the singing, saw the crowd, and listened as Pastor Dongo got up to share the gospel. Pastor encouraged the assembled believers as they sat under the crude sheets nailed to posts which offered a semblance of a roof over their heads to block the sun. It was then that Brother Jerry began attending Pastor Dongo's church.

It was 1984, and shortly after Pastor Dongo had lost his fingers in the confrontation with the soldiers of Idi Amin. Jerry tells the story that the newlywed couple, Bethuel and Florence Dongo, were in their home one night in Katwe when the soldiers barged in during the night and demanded all of their belongings. This violence had been going on in the area for some time, and the Dongos and other neighbors in the village around them knew it might one day come to their home.

The soldiers took everything...their dishes, their clothes, and even the bed sheets out from under them. They were terrified. While Florence, who was pregnant, sat weeping on the floor, the soldiers asked Dongo to step outside. When they were ready to leave, they told him to go back inside and shut the door. It was then that the Holy Spirit spoke to Bethuel, telling him to stand away from the back of the door and to shut it to the side. This positioning saved his life, as Bethuel reached from the side to close the door from the inside, the bullets rattled through the door, shooting off two of his fingers. God had spared their lives as Dongo followed the leading of the Spirit.

The shattering of that hand became one of Pastor Dongo's signatures later on in his life, as he was asked over and over to tell the story, from the littlest ones to the older people, both in Uganda and America. As Jerry used to say, **"What other person would God have allowed his hand to be 'reshaped' into the sign language symbol for love?"** And love is what Bethuel continued to do on both sides of the globe. His trust in following the lead of the Spirit in every situation would prove to be a faithful foundation in trusting God, both for himself and others. *...to be continued next month*



## STUDENT TO STAFF

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**Our vision is to empower children like Amos and watch as God uses them to impact Uganda for His glory.**

I love the work because I get to know that God has given me a chance to improve the life of another." When a student needs extra care, Amos refers them back home for parents to take them to a more advanced medical facility. Amos said that practicing medicine is his dream and he gets to practice ministry which is always on his heart. He is blessed to be part of Buyamba again as he serves God Cares High School.

