



Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

CHALLENGES at God Cares School

Now that school has been in session for almost two months, the students have settled into their routines. The teachers and staff have a sense of where students need extra support, whether intellectually, spiritually, or physically and they are working with them accordingly. Some things have changed, and there are new challenges along with a fresh sense of gratitude.



After two years of being out of school, students are finding it difficult to **speak English**. Students struggle to remember words, and their confidence in their second language has diminished. Even the high school students are embarrassed to speak in English, for they are reaching to remember how to pronounce words and form sentences. Some older students insist on speaking Luganda because that is all they have spoken at home during the lockdown. This attitude has never been an issue at God Cares School with older students, for the usual English-speaking focus and teaching have only been at the preschool level.

Now that's changed... the challenge to speak English is schoolwide. The administrators are looking forward to teams coming from the U.S. to encourage the older students who will be highly motivated to communicate with the team members.

Another change was that over 250 high school boys left the previous makeshift classroom dorms and moved into their new home **boys' dorm building**. Most of the boys now live on the first floor of the future 5-story building, and they love it. The rooms are spacious and surround a courtyard that allows for outdoor seating, washing clothes, and living life in their new home. Unlike the students in the girls' dorms, the older boys (S6 level) are not yet in the dorms and are waiting for the second level to be built.

The other element the boys are looking forward to is the second level which will bring with it a study room for the students to prep for their classes. We will need the second story built as soon as possible so all boys can be housed together and thus moved out of all the classrooms and various rooms in the Assembly Hall. (Continued on Page 2)





A Student's Story



Meet Emmanuel



Emmanuel - 13 years old

My name is Emmanuel Wasajja, and I am 13 years old. I live at Bunga, Kavule, with my grandmother and other relatives. I have never known my parents, for I have lived with my grandmother all my life. My grandmother sells food along the roadside as a source of livelihood.

I joined the God Cares School family when I was in Top Class (preschool) at 5 years old. I am happy that I am still at GCS and am now in P6. Being with a sponsor who pays my school fees and provides me with class materials has motivated me to do well and concentrate on my studies. I love God Cares Primary School because I also learn to pray and read the bible. At some point in 2020, when the dangerous virus broke out, I was scared because everyone seemed to be struggling; even my grandmother was not working, but all my fears went away when Buyamba started providing us with food packages during the lockdown. On top of that, we were provided with school holiday packages. The teachers also came regularly to teach us at the learning centers in our village, to make sure that we did not forget what we studied.

I am now at school, and I am happy to be back. I have a new uniform and sportswear. I am reading and praying so hard that I can complete my primary level and then test well to enter God Cares High School. I am so grateful that I have the privilege of getting a good education and getting to know God because we have Chapel every Friday at School. I love my sponsor, and I thank Buyamba for loving me.



Emmanuel - 5 years old

CHALLENGES at God Cares School

Mealtime has also seen a change in that the students are so appreciative of all they receive every day. Meals are like a celebration as the children are so grateful for the variety and are eating well! They had struggled so much with the food situation before coming back to school, and now God Cares has more variety than ever thanks to the Buyamba Farm growth. The students' regular servings of posho and beans, now include vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and cassava (root) added in and fruits like matoke (bananas) or mango or jack fruit on the side. There is also an occasional meat and rice meal with eggs sometimes in the morning. The staff and children enjoy the fundamental blessing of healthy meals for they know what it has been like to do without them.

