



Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

Buyamba U.S. and Uganda Standing Together

Update: God Cares Schools

The Ugandan government ordered the school to close for a month, making reopen day April 20th. This closure was a shock to the God Cares School administration because there wasn't even a case of COVID-19 known in Uganda when this directive came (although there are 44 currently upon this writing). Schools across the nation were closed, and that included all 900 boarding students at God Cares High School. Just like in the United States, restaurants and non-essential shops have also been closed, and so have the borders between African countries.



According to an article in the World Economic Forum, African countries require an aggressive response to preventing the virus for several reasons, "Malnutrition and disease means COVID-19 could be more deadly in Africa than elsewhere in the world. Health systems in Africa have limited capacity to absorb the pandemic; thus, the strategic approach should focus on containment and aggressive preventive measures."

Closing the school and having the students return home for a month midterm was a concern to all, for it was the consensus of the Buyamba administrators that the students would be safer together at school since no one ventured in the community. The students were contained collectively on campus. (Continued on Page 2)

Update: Buyamba U.S. Office

The Buyamba office has gone remote, and the staff and many volunteers continue to work at home. Donor support has been wonderfully steady. We are following the Lord's lead to be at peace and to continue to stand as always with those we love and support in Uganda to the best of our abilities. There is and will be adjustments, but we are trusting in the Spirit to lead us in the right direction as we ask for wisdom daily and give over our concerns to the Lord, who is more than able. The Lord has had this ministry from the beginning and taken the Buyamba family through the time and challenges that have been to grow us to this point and we trust He will continue through this trial. (Read more about what Buyamba is doing during this time on our website).



Bringing Hope to a Boy Named Noordin



Noordin Kalumba is an 8-year-old Ugandan boy, who lives with his stepmother and elder sister (9-year-old) in a one-room rented house. Noordin's mother passed away when he was still a toddler, and the father is a builder who has multiple kids from different women.

At the time when Noordin's mother was critically ill, he and his sister had no one to take care of them, and his father abandoned them at their stepmother's place, where they have been staying ever since. The stepmother operates a small local market stall from which she earns a living to sustain both her and the kids. Like other kids, Noordin was not able to start school immediately (at either 3 or 4 years) since the earnings from his stepmother's local stall could only cater for the family's basic needs. Since the father could not offer any financial support given his number of children and an unstable job, there was no way the children could go to school without help.

Fortunately, Noordin's story ended up in the office of the Buyamba Social Worker in 2018, and he was approved and sponsored soon after. His future is now bright and full of great hope. His educational needs are met, and he is currently in "Top Class" at God Cares Primary School.

Sponsoring a child impacts a life forever.

Leaving God Cares Schools

But that security changed. Worship Dongo reported that many of the students did not want to go home, and many were crying. It took encouragement and prayer to help all leave. Many students went home to the slums and into a situation where there may not be enough food. The Dongo family is there helping the most desperate families with food for many families were unprepared to have their children back home.

The school administrators and teachers gave the students to take home materials. Since there are no home computers, school online is not possible. The office personnel copied and copied to put packets in the students' hands so they could work at home. They are also talking about meeting with small groups of students to check in on their progress and answer questions.

Please PRAY for these students, teachers, families, and the administrators of God Cares School. May God protect them and keep them from the virus, and may He provide for their needs in this time of confinement.

Worship also shared that while the students are gone, they have planted the soccer field with grass, so it will be a big surprise to the students when they return, explaining that this would "Cheer them up and give them hope for the future."