



Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

God Cares...From Baby Class to the Doors of University

Since God Cares High School was completed, the span of education in the God Cares School system now runs from baby class (age 3) to S6 (the last year of high school). A child's education ends with level testing and school assessment—helping to direct a student to the doors of trade school, small college, or even university. To that end, the administrators and teachers at God Cares come alongside every student who is motivated to launch them into a post high school program of study—one that will set them up for success.

Many of the God Cares' students have similarities in their stories. Although each student has an individual history, most share the inexplicable sadness of being orphaned by at least one parent. Then there are the "emotional orphans"—those who have been affected by parental addiction and/or physical abandonment of a parent who was unable to provide for their family due to extreme poverty. In the latter cases, these children are often forced to work just to provide food and shelter.

This makes school for these children not just a place to find hope for a better future, but it also serves as a needed sanctuary from life's present hardships. At God Cares, a child receives a quality education, discipleship, personal mentoring and, sometimes, the only meal he or she will have in a given day.

Frank Tumusiime is one of these students. His story, though initially tragic, became one of redemption because of people like you who cared enough to step in the gap to help.



Reversal of Fortune

Most of my classmates at God Cares School grew up poor. Not me. My father was rich, so my two brothers and I had everything we wanted. We had it all...until we had nothing.

After my father died suddenly when I was in Primary 1 (1st grade), my relatives swooped in and took all of his property, throwing my mother and us out. To put a roof over our heads, my mother was forced to do all kinds of manual labor. For two boys who never lacked anything, going hungry was an unbelievable truth.

In 2002, we came to know about Pastor Dongo and his ministry that helps children. In desperation, my mother took us to him and told him the story of our lives. Touched by our situation, he started helping us financially with our education. By the time I got to Primary 6 in 2006, I was invited to join God Cares School. Amazingly, a sponsor had stepped in to help take care of my education needs. The good, good Father has seen me through each day to my graduation last August—and now, beyond! Thanks to my high school education, I was able to go on to technical school, acquiring a diploma in Information and Technology. Now I'm able to earn a good living and also help my family have a better life.

Just as important, I no longer see myself as a failure but as a successful young man who God will use to influence other people. I am grateful to Buyamba and God Cares School...because of you my life will never be the same.



@godcaresschoolsuganda



Prayer Team for the Buyamba Ministry



Throughout the year, the Buyamba staff, largely made up of volunteers, has had the privilege of talking with many of our donors and sponsors. It's not uncommon to overhear one of our volunteers on the phone praying with a friend of the ministry who's going through a tough time. Each of us in the Buyamba office considers it both a blessing and a privilege to pray with them! To help us focus on these specific needs, we regularly turn to our Buyamba "Prayer Board" that lists those prayer requests as well as the ongoing needs of the ministry, both in Uganda and in our California office.

Prayer has always been pivotal to this ministry. The word "Buyamba" means "help" and we are keenly aware that God is the ultimate source of our help, giving us the strength and perseverance to reach out to Uganda's most vulnerable, her children. As you can imagine, health issues, financial hardships, and challenging family dynamics make the needs of these children plentiful and ongoing! This need extends to those who take care of them, including the God Cares staff and the Dongo family. They've dedicated their lives to give a "future and a hope" to so many needy Ugandan children and it's our honor and privilege to help them. And you're a critical part of this lifesaving mission. So thank you!



This year, we're looking to enlarge our prayer covering by enlisting a team of prayer warriors! If you're interested in helping the Buyamba ministry in this way, please contact us at info@ugandabuyamba and we'll keep you informed of our prayer requests each month, including any urgent needs that arise. Our long-time Buyamba friend, Bill Thurlow, will be leading this effort, emailing each prayer partner a list of prayer needs. This will include updates of answered prayers to encourage you as you stand in the gap through prayer for those who are dear to the Lord's heart, the children of Uganda.

Creative Giving

The Shoe That Grows

Buyamba has recently partnered with Because International to obtain the "Shoe that Grows" for our many students at God Cares. The founders of the non-profit who reach out to several Third World countries explain the reason they exist: "Over 2 billion people suffer from soil-transmitted diseases and parasites. They live in areas that do not have adequate sanitation. They struggle with proper hygiene. They do not have the right clothing, resources, or healthcare. And being sick = struggling. Kids miss school, can't help their families and suffer with pain. Many of these diseases and parasites get into the body because people don't have shoes. Today, there are over 300 million children who do not have shoes."

The "Shoe that Grows" is the solution. Imagine a shoe that grows five sizes and lasts for years because of its durable material! With this shoe, a child can always have a pair of shoes that fit. This means they can stay healthy and focused on school.

Buyamba is partnering with Because International to get as many shoes to God Cares as we can. Because we're buying in bulk, we've been given a discount, reducing the cost of a pair of shoes for each child to \$15! That includes a shoe bag for each pair.

Through the help of "shoe drives" held this past Christmas in two southern California churches (Crossroads

Community Church in Camarillo, and Shepherd's House Church in Thousand Oaks), Buyamba now has enough to purchase over 200 pairs of shoes!

Of course, many more shoes are needed which is why the "Shoe Project" will be ongoing throughout 2017. So if you're looking to give your sponsored child, or another child, a birthday gift, a pair of shoes will be ideal! Just add the designation "shoes" when you give online or through the mail. Thanks in advance for giving a God Cares' school child some "happy feet!"



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UgandaBuyamba.com

Write your child at: God Cares Schools

c/o The Dongo Family
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