



Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

On The Ground in Uganda

One of the best aspects of my job as the Director of Buyamba Uganda U.S. is the charge to visit God Cares School every year and catch up with all that God has done in Uganda as a result of the love and support of the Buyamba community throughout the nation. This year, I was honored to join an incredible high school missions team trip from Calvary Community Church in Westlake Village, California, who were leading their annual team to minister to the kids at GCS.

The visit far exceeded my expectations of what God had done in both God Cares Schools. I was an eyewitness to what the Dongo family can do in partnership with the support of the sponsors and donors. The school community is thriving. There have never been so many students and so many programs. The actual physical campuses have grown since I was there two and a half years ago with the dorms, the sports courts, and the new safety walls.

The most striking element, however, was **the sheer love and excitement of the students from the baby class to the high school, over having visitors from the U.S. travel over 30 hours one way to love, play and spend time with them.** The children were so happy and encouraged, and the little ones clung to team members' hands, gave hugs, played and talked, and prayed. They were thirsty for the connection. Somehow the team became part of the force that is God Cares.



Students gather during lunch to fast and pray

Another thing that stood out when we toured the high school for the first time was what was happening on the basketball court - and it wasn't a basketball game. Individual kids walked around the court alone during lunch, praying out loud and interceding for their families and offering prayers of thanksgiving for what they had been given in a long list of prayers. It turns out there is a prayer and fasting schedule the STUDENTS made for each weekday's lunchtime in which the students of a given grade level offer to refrain from eating and playing that one day of the week and instead find a place to worship and pray.

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Small Groups

Small Groups are something new at God Cares High School and were implemented by Glory and Cate Dongo. Each administrator, teacher, and staff member are assigned a group to lead; with a student population of 750, that is a lot of groups! I had the privilege of sitting in on one of the S6 girls' groups, which was amazing. The focus questions were follow-up questions from the day's chapel on the topic of fear. Worship Dongo was the leader of "her girls." It was a small group of about 12 students. They shared openly and freely about conquering past fears and their current struggles. We answered two of the five questions because everyone wanted to share, and they listened compassionately and politely to each other as they shared their stories. After our time was over, we prayed, and later, Worship handed me a list of prayers they gave to me the next day, which included genuine struggles such as concern over loved ones or academics in school and even prayers for their sponsors. A student named Mercy shared, "I fear losing the ones I love most."

Exposition Day



Closing Speeches on Exposition Day

Every year, Uganda schools require a day in which the secondary students must exhibit their MDD program (Music, Dance, and Drama). Parents and the school population are invited to come and share in the competitive program put on by each class level, each level chose one act to represent them, and it could consist of music and dance or a student-written and acted drama piece. The talent was exceptional, and included a regional cultural dance (complete with costumes) from the S1 to the S2, more modern dance wearing Laker's jerseys. The S5 students wrote a play warning students about getting distracted from schoolwork. Everyone gave it their all, and the student community wholeheartedly supported each other.

A student display area was also set up in the outside pavilion, which showcased student work in various subjects such as the art and science classes.

The health and nutrition students showed and explained how they made soap for the school by combining the chemicals needed, and they also made yogurt. There was also an experiment on PH balance and battery connectivity. The new trade school class of Tailoring displayed the clothing they had made. The students' work was impressive, and they were proud of it. It was a day that the students were privileged to share their efforts with others, and all applauded it!

- Julie Dimas
Executive Director



The New Tailoring Class