

UGANDA TRIP

SUMMER 2009

This summer we will be taking our third trip to Africa. We will be working in an orphanage called the **Buyamba Orphan Outreach** outside of Kampala City, Uganda in the southern part of Africa. Here is some information about the orphanage where we will be ministering these two weeks.

Buyamba translated into English simply means "Help". Uganda has endured the scourge of civil war and the deadly AIDS epidemic. Approximately 1.7 million children have been orphaned by these calamities throughout Africa. Currently, there are 880,000 Ugandan children living as orphans as a result of AIDS according to a UN AIDS statistic.

After seeing such a great need within, God put it on the hearts of Bethuel and Florence Dongo to reach out to His people: people with Aids (HIV), orphans, and children abandoned and poverty stricken. Recognizing thousands of children lacked love, education, and simple basic needs, Bethuel and Florence started Buyamba Orphan Outreach which not only reaches orphans but also assists children whose parents are too sick or destitute to care for them. Once Bethuel and Florence identified these children and saw to their critical needs, they realized they would have to start a school to educate them. God Cares Nursery and Primary School was started in 2002 with 97 children, and today has an enrolled student population of 468. Though Uganda now has a stable government, it is still crippled by debt, lack of industry, and the AIDS crisis.



Through a generous Liberty family, we were able to purchase these orange tiles for the outside of the orphanage



Therefore, the government is unable to support services to rescue its children. Churches and international relief agencies are vital to confront this crisis on a daily basis. While other children are able to remain with grandparents or other family members, this is not always the ideal. Often these relatives neglect the children or use them as servants for the rest of the household. There is so much malnutrition that thousands of children suffer from stunted growth, disease, and the ravages of neglect. Very few have access to an education.

At times, these abuses are so flagrant children are forced to flee. They have nowhere to go but into the streets. There they become thieves, prostitutes, and drug addicts. Ultimately, many become infected with AIDS (HIV) themselves. Our ministry at Buyamba is to provide children with the ability to have education and to know God as their Lord and Savior. No one can advance economically without education. Nowhere is that more true than in Uganda, which is the reason the sponsorship

program was created, attempting to find sponsors for more than 2000 of the most desperate children, sponsors willing to pay tuition fees and other costs of education.

Because education is the only way these children will one day rise above their circumstances and be able to support themselves, sponsors make a life-changing difference. Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to live out Isaiah 1:17.

Dates: June 1 – June 16

Cost: \$2400 due 5/22 (Includes airfare, lodging, and food)

Application and \$100 deposit need to be turned in to Searcy's Office

Purpose:

There are three separate goals that we believe God has called us to for this journey to Africa.

1. To teach/train teachers in the Christian school/orphanage with some of our highly trained lower/upper school staff
2. To break ground on a new high school
3. To do ministry through Awanas and Bible studies with children

Flight Itinerary:

D
E
P
A
R
T
I
N
G

AIRLINE	DATE	FROM	TO
British Airways #192	June 1 MON	Dallas Ft W, TX 5:30P	London-Heathrow 8:35A
British Airways #063	June 2 TUES	London-Heathrow 9:10P	Entebbe, Uganda 7:40A

R
E
T
U
R
N
I
N
G

AIRLINE	DATE	FROM	TO
British Airways #062	June 15 MON	Entebbe, Uganda 9:10A	London-Heathrow 3:55P
British Airways #193	June 16 TUES	London-Heathrow 11:40A	Dallas Ft W, TX 3:40P

BUYAMBA TRAVEL PACKET

Buyamba, Inc. welcomes all teams who are interested in serving on a short-term missions visit to God Cares Primary and Secondary Schools. We certainly appreciate your support of this worthy ministry and your willingness to serve the orphans and needy children at God Cares. Pastors Bethuel and Florence Dongo look forward to hosting any team that wishes to travel to Uganda. They appreciate your generous help and labor of love and would like to assure you of Uganda's government stability.



However, travel to Africa does require some preparation. Here are some tips to assist leaders as you prepare your teams for travel, and as you answer God's call to His Great Commission.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

PASSPORT: You will need a current U.S. Passport book to travel to Uganda. We do advise that you make at least 2 extra copies (one to keep at home and the other to take with you on your trip, should your original passport be lost or stolen). High School team leaders might insist on keeping an extra passport copy for each of their members in their possession. We also suggest that you travel with at least 2 extra passport photos.

VISA: A visa is needed for entry to Uganda. The cost is US\$ 50 for single entry (valid for three months from the date of arrival). We will purchase our VISAS as a team, the cost is included in your trip.

PACKING: You may have two checked bags, neither one weighing over 50 lbs, over you will have to pay a fee. Make sure you pack deodorant, items to freshen up, malaria pills, small pillow, a journal, pen, Bible, and maybe a change of shirt in your carry on bag with you during the long journey over to Africa. The two most important items to pack are your **PASSPORT** and your **YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CARD**. Chris will take care of meals wherever you go, so do not worry about carrying very much money.

WHAT TO BRING:

Bible, journal, notebook, pen	2 pair of long pants
Clothes for church (skirt/dress)	7-8 Pair of shorts
9-10 T- Shirts	Travel size baby wipes
Tennis shoes	Undergarments
Raincoat, poncho	Passport, Visa
Sleepwear	Toiletries(shampoo, deodorant)
Sweatshirt	Water bottle (Hard)
Towel and washcloth	Insect repellent (100% Deet)
Sunscreen	Work gloves
Camera (optional)	Passport, Passport, Passport
Spending money for souvenirs	Bounce Fabric Softener

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Yellow Fever vaccine has been the only required documented immunization for travel to Uganda.

All visitors must be prepared to present a yellow fever certificate to the Uganda Immigration officials upon landing at Entebbe Int'l

Airport. Malaria is a serious disease to which there is no immunity. Anti-malaria medication (such as Malerone, our personal recommendation) must be taken

before, during and after your trip. Health professionals will discuss your anti-malaria drug options when you go to receive your immunizations. Besides the Yellow Fever vaccine, the U.S Health Dept. also recommends Hepatitis A and B (if working with or near blood) and Typhoid. Our team will all get our shots taken at one time at Liberty, information to follow.



U.S EMBASSY REGISTRATION

Our trip will be registered with the U.S Embassy.

The U.S Embassy in Uganda is located near God Cares School at:

Plot 1577 Ggaba Road,

Kampala, Uganda.

Tel: 0414 259 791/2/3/5 **Fax:** 0414 259 794

Website: <http://kampala.usembassy.gov/>

TRANSPORTATION

Pastor Dongo will arrange for your transport to and from the airport, as well as all other transportation needs while you are in Uganda. For planning purposes, he will give teams an estimate of these costs as they do fluctuate with gasoline prices. The school is about a 40 - 45 minute drive from the airport.

SPENDING MONEY AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE

- The Uganda Schilling (USH) is the country's national currency. The rate of exchange for the Uganda Schilling tends to vary between 1,500 – 1,700 USH to \$1.00 USD, averaging around 1,600 USH.

Currency Converter (USD to USH): www.gocurrency.com

- When traveling to Uganda, it is strongly recommended that visitors travel with U.S currency in \$50.00 and \$100.00 bills for the best conversion rates. Banks will refuse bills in denominations smaller than a \$50 bill.

Please note: Only bills issued in 2001 or newer will be accepted.



LODGING/FOOD/WATER

LODGING: Lodging arrangements are made and confirmed for all teams prior to their arrival in Kampala. Pastor Dongo works with several nearby Christian guest houses and hotels for reasonable rates. Most of these properties are located within walking distance to the school. Teams can average approximately \$20 - \$25 per day for lodging for each team member (\$30/couple). Breakfast is included in these rates. **Mosquito nets** are provided for

each bed along with linens. However, it is advised that teams bring their own linens and towels.

FOOD: Teams can budget about \$20.00/day for lunch and dinner. Bottled water is also included in this estimate. Lunch is prepared daily at the school for the teams. Dinner is often prepared as well. However, teams are able to have dinner at recommended local restaurants within the daily budget. Team members are advised to drink and brush their teeth with bottled water ONLY.

WHAT TO WEAR

Temperatures are an average of 80-85% in Kampala. However, it can get cool in the evenings. A light sweatshirt or cardigan is recommended. Since it can rain regularly, a light weight, hooded rain coat can be handy. Jeans and T-shirts are perfectly acceptable if teams will be engaging in manual/hard labor (construction or agriculture). It is also acceptable for teenage girls to wear jeans. Modesty is the rule of thumb for all female team members. Please refrain from wearing mid-drifts, tops with spaghetti straps or visible bra straps. Skirts/dresses are recommended for ladies who will be helping teachers in the class rooms (no shorts or skirts above the knees, please). It is customary for all Ugandans to dress “smartly” for Sunday church services. Dresses or skirts are advised for females. Males should wear casual slacks and a shirt (no jeans or T-shirts please). Closed toe shoes are also recommended but sandals or thongs are fine to wear at the school as long as members are not engaging in construction. Remember to apply DEET to your clothing, arms and legs before leaving your room in the mornings.



SPONSORSHIPS

It is the sole responsibility of Buyamba, Inc to oversee the Buyamba Orphan Sponsorship Program. When teams visit they see the great need and desire to assist us in securing sponsors for the unsponsored kids. Any team member may begin to sponsor an unsponsored child at God Cares. They simply need to meet with the social worker at the school, fill out their personal information and the name of the child, then take the child’s photo with them. The school’s social worker will communicate that information to Buyamba and we will add you to our sponsorship database. You will begin to receive our newsletter and be billed monthly. However, we humbly ask that teams not take any photos of children back to the U.S to attempt to secure sponsors. Though we appreciate your kindness and willingness to help in this area, such action can result

in erroneous record-keeping and double sponsorships of these children. However, if any team member desires to introduce the Buyamba Sponsorship Program to his/her home church, with the intent to host a sponsorship drive, please contact Julie Dimas at (805) 558-0089 or email Julie@UgandaBuyamba.com. We will be happy to assist you in any way and will send the necessary materials to you (promotional DVD, photos, brochures, and “new sponsor” registration forms).

FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

Is it safe to go to Uganda?

Yes, Uganda's government is stable. Pastor Dongo pre-arranges all transportation, food, lodging, and even excursion needs. He is very protective of the teams and even hand picks which restaurants teams may visit, in an effort to ensure food safety. You will fall in love with Uganda.



What can I expect with regards to lodging accommodations?

The lodging is quite comfortable and each property includes breakfast in their daily room rates. Pastor Dongo hand-picks the lodging and you can rest assured that you will be comfortable.

Are the bathrooms indoors or out?

Yes, the bathrooms are all indoors.

Is there electricity?

Yes, Uganda is wired for 220V electrical. You will need to bring a 110 converter to use your electrical appliances. However, you can expect some periodic power outages.

Is there hot/running water?

Yes, you will be able to take daily showers. But please refrain from drinking the tap water.

What is the food like?

Very delicious! Teams will eat lunch at the school and sometimes dinner too, if so desired. You can expect to eat rice, a type of flat bread, ground provisions (vegetables) and your choice of beverage is usually bottled water. And for dessert?? The best pineapple you will ever taste. Teams should only eat at the restaurants recommended by Pastor Dongo to ensure freshness. Teams can expect pizza or continental cuisine for reasonable prices at these restaurants.

Need More Information?

We trust that this information will serve as a helpful resource for your short term mission to Uganda. For further information, or team briefings, please contact Degna Horton at (805) 405-6431 or email Degna@UgandaBuyamba.com.