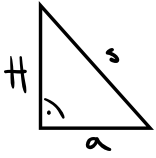


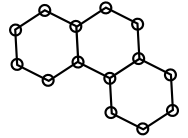


Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

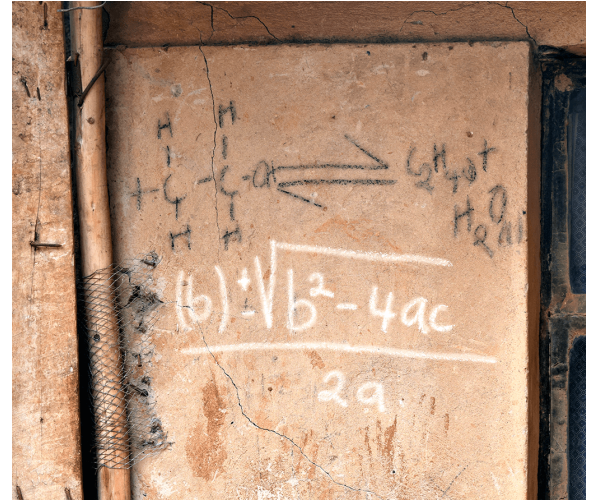


You Do the Math



I've had the privilege and honor to visit God Cares Schools and the communities they serve in Uganda twice in the last two years. I remember my first mission trip well. I was consumed with taking as many pictures of my experience as possible and spending as much time with the child that my wife, Terri, and I sponsor. I came back "wrecked" from the beautiful faces set in the backdrop of extreme poverty as those that had been before had warned. It was an experience I will never forget.

On my second trip, I found myself confused. How could things have changed so much in just a year? The reality is... nothing had changed. I just saw things through the lens of my eyes rather than that of a camera. How could I have missed so much?



One of the many pictures that will stand out in my mind's eye was that of a high-level math quadratic equation that was scribbled on a portion of a wall on one of the student's small home in Bukasa, a slum community of very meager means in which many of the GCS children come from. I missed this and other things on my first trip, but I discovered much more on my second. **(Continued on Page 2...)**

What is the Dongo Run? Can I get a Shirt?



Every year, the Dongo family leads the God Cares School community and Kabalagala Pentecostal Church in a special event called the Dongo Run in memory of the founder of GCS, Pastor Bethuel Dongo. This event has been held once a year for the past three years in October, and it is quite the event as hundreds run to honor a man who stood as a father to the fatherless.

This October, the Dongo family decided to make their own fundraising event to contribute to the Dorm building campaign by selling t-shirts that reflect the occasion. If you happen to be one of the lucky team members who is going to Uganda this summer, you can purchase one at

the high school office. And yes, we did bring some home to the Buyamba office from our last trip if you just have to have one.

Regardless if you have the t-shirt or not, it is fun to know that as we fundraise in the US to build the dorms, our partners in Uganda are working alongside to make it happen. That's something Pastor Dongo would surely celebrate. Every donation towards this building effort helps no matter the size... we have much building to do, and as always, we do that one brick at a time!

Blankets, Blankets, Blankets!

Over a hundred blankets were recently delivered by the Calvary Community High School team who went to Uganda over spring break. They were delivered into the very grateful arms of the student boarders who needed blankets for their beds. Florence Dongo had just visited the Calvary blanket ministry to share about the Buyamba ministry and was able to meet a group of about 35 men and women who gather each month to make blankets and clothing for children in need in various third world country settings.

The visit was a blessing for all but the importance of this ministry really hit home when Florence shared, through tears, that when she was a little girl, she didn't have a blanket and was forced to use various dried banana leaves or pieces of material her family could find to cover up. She explained that when the children at God Cares School receive blankets, it speaks into their hearts to tell them they are loved and not forgotten. To meet such a basic need by someone across the sea reminds them that God and others care. The blanket ministry produced more blankets than their high school team could bring over in their



extra suitcases, yet that has not stopped the plan to deliver many more in future trips with short term teams who are willing to deliver them. Just how many blankets are in the works? "We want enough to cover all of the boarders at both God Cares Schools," says one of the ministry's leaders Jill Hessick. And having seen this ministry leadership and participants, I believe they just might do it!

..... You Do the Math



I got to speak with seven S6 students during their Organic Chemistry class (yes, you read that right). They were preparing to go to University to be in the medical field, engineering, or teaching. It was only when I put down my camera that I realized the kind of education these young people were receiving. Previously, my mind's paradigm told me that the limited resources, such as no marble floors, no air conditioning, no WiFi, and the problem of having to share books, automatically meant a lower level of education. I was wrong. I soon realized that these kids were receiving an education as good as or better than one might find here in the U.S. at an upper-level high school class.

I realized that this is something a lot of other sponsors who haven't been there may not know about, so I would encourage you write to your student and ask them what they are learning. You might be shocked at your the answer. Our S1 student, Patience, is taking 16 subjects, two of which are French and Swahili (she already speaks Luganda and English). This year she's the lead student for her chemistry class. (Sorry for bragging, it's the dad in me).

I can't do the math in the picture. Simple math from my experience tells me what I now know... the \$35 a month it takes to sponsor a child gives a higher return than any \$35 I can spend on anything for myself.

- **Joe Barton**
Volunteer & Sponsor
HE > Me