

Uganda Buddhist Center Newsletter

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Garudhamma Celebrations

On 18th September 2016, the Uganda Buddhist Centre celebrated GARU DHAMMA DAY under the guidance of Ven. Adicca. This is a day where focus is on keeping the Five Moral precepts and this celebration was the first of its kind at the Centre.

The event was graced with the presence of H.E. Prasittiporn Wetprasit – Ambassador of Thailand to Nairobi, Kenya and Hon. Barbara Mulwana--- The Honorary Consul of the Royal Thai Consulate Kampala, Uganda. The presence of the Royal Thai Embassy in Nairobi and the Royal Thai Consulate in Kampala was to support “the Propagation of Buddhism and

the Strengthen solidarity of Thai Community in Uganda.” Other guests at the event were nationals of Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar calling signifying solidarity, peace and harmony among Buddhist community in Uganda.

The day started with the monk inculcating Buddhist values in children from the neighboring communities.



*Hon. Barbara Mulwana receiving a copy of
the UBC Annual report fom Ven. Adicca.*



*H.E. Prasittiporn Wetprasit receiving a
copy of the UBC Annual report fom
Ven. Adicca.*



*H.E. Prasittiporn Wetprasit planting a tree at
the temple .*



*Hon. Barbara Mulwana planting a tree at
the temple.*

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Ven. Adicca emphasized the value of living in closest harmony with each other. This was followed by the teaching about the Five precepts by Ven. Adicca and here, emphasis was on the fact that the basic moral precepts are both for the good of oneself and one's own community and for the good of the life hereafter.

The Buddhist community led by the ambassador then offered lunch to the monk and also invited the rest of the people to join him for lunch at the temple. This was followed by the offering of "dana" and a mediation session.

H.E. Prasittiporn Wetprasit and Hon. Barbara Mulwana also planted trees at the temple. They took a walk around the temple where they appreciated the ongoing projects such as the water project. They promised to support projects that have been undertaken by the Uganda Buddhist Centre.



(Left-right): Andrew Mukomazi, Hon. Barbara Mulwana, H.E Prasittiporn Wetprasit, Ven. Adicca and Tom Muwanga engaged in a chat at the Uganda Buddhist Centre.



Thanks for Your Generous Chair Donation

We would like to acknowledge and thank a group of Burmese people who donated fifty (50) plastic chairs to the Uganda Buddhist Centre. Our appreciation goes to Mr. Wunna, Mr. Lyaw Zaya, Mr. Aung Thiha from Australia, Ms. Nilar Kyi from Central African Republic and Ms. Moe Moe from Uganda.

This donation comes after the temple struggled to hire chairs from the neighboring communities whenever we had events at the Temple.

Once again, your support means a lot to us. Many people will be able to receive Dhamma as well as share their experiences for the benefit of all beings. Our special thanks goes to Ms. Moe Moe who mobilized and presented the chairs to the Temple to be used in the future events and activities at the temple.

Uganda Buddhist Peace School : Past, Present and Future

The Uganda Buddhist Peace School (UBPS) began on Sunday, November 30, 2008 as a small parent-driven school. The main focus for its establishment was on reforming the character of children through teaching Buddhist values and ideas of virtue, generosity (emotional taming), learning and wisdom as well as giving scholarship fund to children from poor families.

The School began with four children aged (5-11) years. Bhante Buddharakkhita began teaching children with a Dhamma stories that relate to real life experiences. It was then that Ugandan and visiting volunteers expounded upon this teaching. The teachers and children were keen to share their own experiences and also eager to learn from each other.

The number of children started growing from time to time making a total (15 children) by 2009. The first batch of children was offered an annual scholarship fund for their school fees. Donations of blackboards were generously offered by Sri Lankan Buddhists leaving in Uganda. Other people offered exercise books to the children for the whole term of three months to be used by the children.



Volunteers engaged in activities with children of the Peace School in 2008.

Realizing the benefits of bringing their children to attend the Peace School Dhamma classes, more parents started sending their children to the Centre. Between 2010 and 2015, the total number of children was 40. The number however keeps fluctuating due to lack of facilities to cater for all.

We have since been overwhelmed by the big numbers given the fact that we don't have enough facilities to cater for such a big number. We used to teach children under the tree shades, which was a big challenge especially in times of rainy seasons, not until in 2014 when we received a tent from where we could conduct classes for children.

Today, the UBPS still maintains its original spirit serving nearly 20 children from Bulega and the surrounding communities. The UBPS teachers are volunteers, local and foreigners who come with their unique backgrounds, global perspectives and experiences to provide a structured learning atmosphere for young children focusing on both individual and group learning. UBC has also continued to offer scholarship funds to children. Some of the beneficiaries of this project are Mugalu Moses an 18 years of age, who received a full scholarship to study Senior Five from the UBC, Lutaaya Andrew, Zam and Rashida.



Bhante Buddharakkhita, volunteers from USA and Uganda with the Peace School children at UBC in 2011.

Since its foundation, our curriculum has expanded to include; teaching English language, Dhamma, meditation and Yoga practice to build both the mental and physical personality of the young children. We are also designing artistic works to help children retain, develop and expand creativity as well as support cultural awareness to children.

Moving forward, we are inspired by the enthusiastic young children eager to learn and the achievements of our history. UBPS continues to grow and we believe that every child can benefit from all our programs.

As we embark on our next phase of UBPS evolution, we are still challenged with limited resources and facilities to cater for an ever growing number of children. Our challenges include:

⇒ Lack of classrooms to teach children – currently we teach children under the tree shades and another group in a tent which is always blown away by wind, leaving children and the teacher hanging in space. We

need funds to buy land and build permanent classrooms for children to learn.

⇒ Limited funds in our scholarship program, yet there are number of children needing support in their education. We need more scholarships fund.

⇒ No volunteers to teach – the UBPS is entirely taught by volunteers who donate their time to spend with children, share and learn. We need volunteers to support children shape their individual needs and realize their intellectual, social, and emotional growth.

⇒ Lack of funds to feed children when they come to attend classes at the Temple.

Currently, we are planning to purchase land for a fulltime school and build a Primary school with 7 classrooms and Administrative offices. The cost of the land is US\$ 99,100.

We are also looking forward to building partnerships with individuals, schools and organizations or companies that will support and promote our values.



Ven. Ashin Adicca teaching meditation to children in the Temple.

Bhante in Australia

In our previous issue of this Newsletter. We reported about Bhante Buddharakkhita's Dhamma activities in Australia. Bhante is still traversing Australia, teaching and conducting retreats at different meditation centres and universities in Australia.

He has given a number of Dhamma talks at the Buddhist Society of Victoria in Melbourne on various topics including: "More Dhamma Less Drama: How to Make Wholesome and Awesome Decisions in Life" in which he formulated three principle to be upheld when making firm and wise decisions; (1) consequential principle, (2) motivation principle and (3) priority

principle. He also gave an in-depth understanding on "The Way to Heaven: A Buddhist's Perspective".

Bhante has also given a talk at the Melbourne Thai Buddhist Temple on "Peace in Buddha's Teachings" with emphasis on the practice of meditation to develop the power of reflection on our actions. This event was organized by the Buddhist Council of Victoria on the United Nations Day of Peace with co-sponsorship from the Australian government. The Buddhist Council of

Victoria operates as a voice for its members and engages with Buddhist communities through programs aligned with the principles of the Buddha Dhamma, for the benefit of Buddhists and all wider communities of Victoria .



Bhante Buddharakkhita teaching at the Buddhist Society of Victoria, Melbourne.



Bhante Buddhaakkhita teaching at Melbourne University.

Upcoming Activities and Events

1. Monthly Metta Event

The Monthly Metta Event brings together individuals from different Buddhist traditions and other religions to practice and send Metta (Loving-kindness) to all beings across the world.

The event includes the practice of meditation, a Dhamma discourse and chanting of Karaniya Metta Sutta.

The next event will be held on the 16th October 2016. It will feature included chanting of Karaniya Metta Sutta, Dhamma discourse given by Ven. Adicca

Given the scale of this event, we would like to call every one of you to come and join us to spread Metta (Loving-kindness) across the world.

2. Meeting in Morocco



Bhante Buddharakkhita is honored and invited by The Contemplative Alliance and Shinnyo-en to join a group of meditation practitioners on the theme “Joining the Sacred and the Secular: Understanding the Spiritual Quest of Young People Today.”

This meeting will be held in Morocco between the 10th—17th November, 2016.

Besides the main theme, the meeting seeks to answer the following questions:

- ⇒ What is driving young people away from mainstream religion/spirituality?
- ⇒ What is important to the younger generation of meditators?
- ⇒ Can meditation practice be separated from a spiritual philosophy of life, from a sacred worldview?
- ⇒ How can a meditation practice ground us in time of global transition?

We would like to wish Bhante Buddharakkhita, the organisers and other invited guests a successful meeting!

Providing Life and Hope: Water Project to Extend to the neighboring School.

In many of our previous newsletters, we have written about the progress of the Water Project and again, we most heartedly would like to thank all our supporters and stakeholders for their input at all its stages.

Once again, we would like to reach a local school (Bulega Primary School) just 1500 meters away from the Temple which has no near source of safe water for both the staff and children. The school with an enrolment of 400 pupils requested the Uganda Buddhist Centre in a letter to supply them with piped water from the Temple. Bhante Buddharakkhita generously accepted this request.

The whole process of extending water to the school however, requires water pipes, water taps, cement, gravel, sand, bricks as well as technical support. The budget set amounts to a figure of USD 2,500.

If you would like to support this project, please write to us at: ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com

Gratitude to All Our Supporters

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful for your kind and generous donations.

UBC still needs your support:

- To maintain resident teachers/monastics
- To maintain the Temple
- To establish the African Buddhist School/College
- To run Buddhist activities
- To build accommodation facilities

How to donate:

1. By paypal:

Please follow the link below to make a secure donation online:

<http://ugandabuddhistcentre.com/site/donate/>

2. wire transfer

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

Bank Name: Bank of Africa Uganda Limited

Bank Account # 01178230007

Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift address: AFRI UG KA

Address:

Main Branch, Plot 45, Jinja Road.

P.O. Box 2750, Kampala, Uganda.

THE INTERMEDIARY / CORRESPONDENT BANK DETAILS

FOR U.S DOLLAR TRANSFERS:

Citibank, N.A.

399 Park Ave.

NY, NY 10043, USA

A/C 36883378

SWIFT Address: **CITIUS33**

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