



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

July 2021



ISSUE 07 | VOLUME 07

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Buddhist Rains Retreat Begins

Monastics at the Temple have begun their three-months rains retreat (*Vassa*) on Saturday July 24th. Part of the opening ceremony was conducted via zoom since there is a country lockdown imposed to manage the spread of COVID-19. This year, the main sponsor for requisites during the *Vassa* period is Muditttha, a Sri Lankan devotee living and working in Entebbe, Uganda.

It should be remembered that *Vassa* is a three-months retreat, where monastic members stay within monasteries and temple premises devoting their time on meditation and Dhamma study. During the ancient times in India, it was difficult and dangerous for monks to wander across the vast Indian subcontinent during rain seasons. A group of monastics would temporarily gather and live together. However, in cases of emergencies or urgency, monks and nuns are allowed to go out of the monastery for not more than 6 nights, and the seventh dawn has to them back at the monastery. The rains retreat is concluded on the 11th lunar month of October, and rarely November. The end of *Vassa* period is marked by an event where *Sangha* members admonish one another for any misconduct during the *Vassa* period. The followed by *Kathina* festival, a robe-offering

ceremony.

Here at the Uganda Buddhist Centre, two highly ordained monks and twelve novice monks, and 24 children who are soon getting novicehood ordination.

We invite you all to join this glorious Buddhist lent by observing all the precepts, cultivating mental concentration



Compassion Orphanage Project Kicks off

Preparation of the project started in July with the recruitment of beneficiaries of the project. The project targets 20 orphans to provide them with nutritional meals. Due to the increasing numbers of orphans in Bulega village, Uganda Buddhist Centre initiated the Hunger Relief project extended its feeding program to address oversight on hunger and nutritional issues affecting orphans in Bulega village. Deaths due to HIV/AIDS, premature parental deaths, poverty, accidents among other causes have escalated the number of orphans in the area. Little efforts have been made by the relevant authorities to absorb these children in the development programs. And with the rapid urbanization of the area, chances are that these orphans will end up on streets. Ultimately, these orphans are left with little or no parental





care and support. They live a miserable and frustrated life. As they grow up, they are further confronted by maltreatment, sexual and economic abuse as a result of lack of care and protection.

The project has two main objectives which include:

Objective 1: Providing nutritional meals to 20 selected orphans. The orphans that we have selected live in extreme poverty, and barely can afford one meal a day. The understanding of nutrition is generally low, and malnutrition can impact the thinking and learning capacity of these children. Uganda Buddhist Centre is focusing on providing at least two nutritious

meals per day to these children. This will be supported by building sustainable methods of food security, health and nutrition of orphans for their better and secure future.

Objective 2: To give hope to orphans who feel neglected and make them learn moral and life skills so that they can become self-sufficient. Orphans are cared for and guided for their physical, mental and spiritual growth by way of integrating yoga and mindfulness meditation into their lives.

The project is being funded by the Buddhist Global Relief (BGR) a USA-based charity working to combat chronic hunger and malnutrition. The current cycle of the project is running until June 2022. We continue to network other organisations and individuals to raise funds so that we can also provide education and basic medical care to the orphans.

For more information about BGR work, please visit their website: www.buddhistglobalrelief.org

Updates on Buddhist primary School

In one of our recent newsletters, we highlighted our strong commitment and approach to education. This commitment is resulting in the establishing of the first Buddhist-founded primary school in Uganda to provide holistic education.

With funds from Smile to Smile Foundation a USA-based foundation, we are gradually realising our dream. The first phase of the project was to provide water supply and excavation to facilitate the laying of bricks. This stage was realised successful. We started on the laying of bricks, and currently, 35,000 bricks are ready and more 35,000 are still in the process of being burned to be ready.

We have also engaged 100 IDEAS, a contemporary architectural consultancy firm to provide the designs and documentations of the Buddhist Primary School. The scope of work will include survey and soil testing, production of architectural and structural drawings, electrical and mechanical drawings and bills of quantities.



Gratitude to All Our Supporters

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful Buddhist Global Relief of USA, Huang Tu Lovingkindness Foundation USA, Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, Tan Teo Charitable Foundation, and all our beloved donors from around the world.

UBC still needs your support:

- To maintain resident teachers/monastics
- To maintain the Temple
- To run Buddhist activities
- To build monks accommodation facilities

How to donate:

1. *Donate online:*

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

<https://ugandabuddhistcenter.org>

<https://xpresspay.ug/payments/ugandabuddhistcentre/index.html>

<https://dashboard.flutterwave.com/donate/hd1cwapst9gc>

Please note that this payment gateway accepts 3D secure transactions only. This means that only cards that are Verified by Visa, and Master secure code will be accepted. If your donation doesn't go through, kindly contact your bank to ensure you are secured. Thank you!

2. *wire transfer*

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

Bank Name : Orient Bank Limited

Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

Bank Address: Orient Plaza, 6/6A, Kampala Road.



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