



**UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE**

# **JULY NEWSLETTER 2023**



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## BHANTE BUDDHARAKKHITA LEADS TWO MONKS TO SINGAPORE FOR ORDINATION

In a momentous occasion of spiritual growth and devotion, venerable Bhante led two young novice monks on a transformative journey to Singapore for their higher ordination as Bhikkhus. The ordination ceremony, known as Upasampada, took place at the prestigious Burmese Buddhist Temple, an iconic center of Buddhist practice and heritage in Singapore. The event marked a significant milestone in the lives of these two young monks, Brian and Ssekajja, who were bestowed with new names, Saddharakkhita and Sangharakkhita, respectively.

The Upasampada is a sacred ritual within Buddhism, signifying the transition from novice monkhood to full ordination as Bhikkhus. It is a profound and symbolic step towards a life dedicated to the teachings of the Buddha and the pursuit of enlightenment. Bhante, a revered and experienced

monastic, guided the novices through this rigorous and profound process, imparting his wisdom and blessing upon them.

The ceremony itself was a magnificent display of Buddhist traditions and rituals. It commenced with a solemn procession, accompanied by chanting and prayer. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of devotion and reverence, creating an aura of piety.

Once inside the ordination hall, the candidates were presented before the monastic assembly and made their vows to follow the monastic rules, known as Vinaya, and uphold the noble teachings of Buddhism. The Bhikkhus in the assembly, representing the Sangha community, offered their blessings and accepted the candidates into their esteemed order.

The newly ordained Bhikkhus spent the following days engaging in various spiritual practices and

receiving further guidance from Bhante and other esteemed monks in Singapore. They were immersed in meditation, study of Buddhist scriptures, and discussions with senior monks, all aimed at deepening their understanding of the Dhamma (the Buddha's teachings) and the path to enlightenment.

On 21st July, after almost two weeks, Bhante, Saddharakkhita, and Sangharakkhita returned to their monastic community, bringing with them a profound sense of spiritual growth and renewed commitment to their monastic life. The Burmese Buddhist Temple and Singapore left an indelible mark on their journey towards wisdom and compassion.

We are eternally grateful to the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore for sponsoring the ordination process, and the Burmese Buddhist Temple for accepting our request to ordain the two monks at their temple. We are also grateful to Beeh Low See Temple for providing accommodation during their stay in Singapore.

May the blessings of this auspicious occasion resonate far and wide, inspiring countless others on their own paths of self-discovery and spiritual growth. As Bhante and the newly ordained Bhikkhus continue their journey, may they find strength in their shared commitment to the Dhamma and the noble goal of liberation from suffering. May their steps towards enlightenment guide and illuminate the way for generations to come!

*Venerable Saddharakkhita (L) and Venerable Sangharakkhita, the newly ordained bhikkhus.*



*Some members of Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore seeing off Bhante Buddharakkhita and the two newly ordained monks*





## DELEGATES FROM THAI EMBASSY VISITS UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTER

First Secretary at the Royal Thai Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya Mr. Naravit Ongkamongkol and Hon. Barbara Mulwana, the Honorary Consul of the Royal Thai Consulate in Uganda paid a courtesy visit to the Uganda Buddhist Centre.

On behalf of the Royal Thai Embassy in Nairobi, Mr. Naravit presented a donation, which was dedicated as contribution towards to the construction of the Buddhist Peace School (Primary section), and pledged more support and cooperation

The Buddhist Peace School represents a beacon of hope for fostering peace and shaping young minds. This act of kindness reflects the desire to support our educational initiatives that contribute to the well-being of communities, transcending borders and cultural boundaries. This gesture also exemplifies the potential for mutual under-

standing and respect between cultures.

We are grateful to the Royal Thai Embassy in Kenya, and the Royal Thai Consulate in Uganda for their continued support towards our activities.





## HELP US CONTRUCTION PERMANENT CLASSROOMS FOR THE BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL

The Buddhist Peace School (BPS) is an educational program initiated by the Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC) with the aim of providing value-based and holistic education to underprivileged children in Uganda. It is founded on Buddhist ethics, emphasizing the values of peace, tolerance, and compassion as the guiding principles for both teachers and students. By integrating these teachings into the curriculum and daily school life, BPS aims to nurture well-rounded individuals who not only excel academically but also possess a deep sense of empathy and social responsibility. Keeping this in mind, the BPS' vision "Peace for All", and the mission is "to bring forth knowledge and wisdom by the way of training the head, heart,

hands, health and happiness (5H)".

At the core of BPS is the commitment to provide education to children who lack access to quality schooling due to financial constraints or other challenging circumstances. By reaching out to needy children, the project seeks to break the cycle of poverty and offer them opportunities for a brighter future.

Moreover, the vision of the School extends beyond Uganda's borders. The ultimate goal is to create a moral-based model school that serves as a prototype for educational institutions throughout Africa. By sharing the success and impact of BPS with other countries, the project will inspire the replication of its values-based approach, fostering a generation of compassionate and mindful leaders across the continent.

While the school has been operating diligently, we face a critical challenge with inadequate infrastructure. Our current facilities are temporary, limiting the scope of our educational programs and posing risks during harsh weather conditions. We believe that every child deserves access to a safe and comfortable learning environment, and that's why we are determined to construct permanent classrooms.

With the construction of these new state-of-the-art classrooms, the horizons of the Buddhist Peace School will expand beyond measure, unlocking the potential to not only enrich the primary education of our young learners but also to extend our impact by introducing a secondary school.

This transformational milestone will empower us to nurture students through their formative years, providing a seamless and holistic educational journey that instills the values of compassion, wisdom, and excellence from their early days until they step confidently into the world as enlightened and empowered individuals.

Today, we embark on a crucial mission - to construct permanent classrooms that will provide a conducive learning environment for our students. We invite you, our compassionate donors, to join hands with us in this noble cause.

We firmly believe that collective efforts yield extraordinary results. No donation is small; every coin you contribute makes a significant impact.



*An exterior view of the Buddhist Peace School Nursery section.*

Your generosity will shape the lives of these young learners, providing them with an education that will open doors to opportunities they never thought possible.

## How You Can Help

Here are a few ways you can contribute:

1. **Make a Donation**—whether it's a dollar or more, your donation will go directly to constructing permanent classrooms and supporting our educational initiatives.
2. **Spread the Word**—share our cause with your family, friends, and social networks. Your voice can amplify our message and inspire others to join our mission.
3. **Fundraising Events**—host a fundraising event in your community, workplace, or online platform to rally support for the Buddhist Peace School.
4. **Corporate Sponsorship**—if you represent a company or organization, consider sponsoring a classroom or providing in-kind support for our initiatives.

For further information regarding this project, please send us an email at [ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com](mailto:ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com) or WhatsApp +256 775 019180

*Julie Wyard, one of our volunteers teaching French language to BPS' primary section pupils.*





## SUPPORTING UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful Buddhist Global Relief of USA, Huong 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 build monks accommodation facilities

To construct and operation of Buddhist Secondary School

### How to Donate

1. For donors in the USA

1. Please write out the Check/Cheque to:

Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities

2. Please Write in the Memo of the Check:

Dana for Uganda Buddhist Centre or Bhante Buddharakkhita

3. Please take a photocopy of the check and send it via email:

ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com

4. Please Mail the check to the physical address below:

Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities

C/O Hung Pham

10222 Larson Ave.

Garden Grove, CA 92843

#### Donate Online

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

<https://ugandabuddhistcenter.org/donate-now/>

<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 Mastercard secure code will be accepted. If your donation doesn't go through, kindly contact your bank to ensure you are secured. Thank you!

**HOW TO DONATE. 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.

