



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

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UBC COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE BIRTHDAY OF VENERABLE BUDDHARAKKHITA WITH GRATITUDE

The Uganda Buddhist Centre community came together for a warm and lively celebration to honor the birthday of its founder and abbot, Venerable Dr. Kaboggoza Buddharakkhita. The day brought together students, teachers, monastics, staff and friends to appreciate his life, leadership and impact on the growth of Buddhism in Uganda.

The event opened with a short meditation session led by Venerable Ashin Pandicca, reminding the community about the value of a calm and disciplined mind. He encouraged the learners to understand the connection between body and mind, and how meditation supports better choices, emotional balance and a peaceful life.

After the meditation, the celebration shifted to tributes. Speakers from the

Buddhist Peace School, African Buddhist High School and the monastic community expressed admiration for Bhante's guidance and dedication. Many noted the privilege of learning directly from the founder of the institution, something rare in many schools around the world. Teachers shared heartfelt messages through Mr. Ssemwanga Charles, recognizing Bhante not only as a director, but as a mentor and a living library whose experiences and teachings inspire the learners. Students highlighted his compassion, humility and commitment to their future, thanking him for creating an environment that nurtures both academic growth and personal development.

One of the recurring themes in the messages was Bhante Buddharakkhita's journey. Speakers reflected on the determination that shaped his path from his early education to becoming a respected Buddhist leader.



His story of studying in Africa, Asia and the United States, and later teaching at Columbia University, served as a reminder of what hard work, intention and discipline can achieve. In his remarks, Bhante expressed gratitude to his mother for her role in his education and upbringing. He encouraged students to honor their parents by studying diligently and making the best use of the opportunities available to them. He also reaffirmed his commitment to bringing the best of global education to the UBC schools, drawing from his experiences across three continents. Bhante also thanked the teachers, monastics and staff for their dedication to maintaining high standards in the schools. He appreciated the students for their good conduct and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence.

The celebration included moments of generosity as Bhante offered gifts to the netball team and presented the school with a snake and insect bite kit for the health centre, emphasizing safety and readiness. Sports activities were also lined up for the afternoon, including netball and football matches, adding a joyful and memorable touch to the day. Speakers reminded the community of the blessing of having the founder present and active in the institution. While many schools only read about their founders, students at UBC schools are able to learn directly from Bhante's guidance, vision and lived example. The event closed with gratitude, well-wishes and the shared hope that Bhante Buddharakkhita continues to enjoy good health, happiness and a long life as he guides the Uganda Buddhist Centre. The celebration was a true reflection of community, appreciation and the steady growth of the Buddhist movement in Uganda.



UBC COMMUNITY MARKS KATINA DAY WITH REFLECTION, GRATITUDE AND A RENEWED SENSE OF UNITY

The Uganda Buddhist Centre community gathered for this year's Kathina Day, a ceremony that carries deep meaning in the Buddhist tradition.

The celebration brought together monastics, teachers, students, staff, families and friends for a morning filled with reflection, generosity and teachings on living a peaceful and compassionate life.

The event opened with welcoming remarks from Venerable Pandicca, who reminded the audience that while Buddhist festivals have an outer meaning, their true value lies in their inner meaning. He explained that ceremonies like Kathina are not simply celebrations but opportunities to deepen generosity, strengthen moral discipline and cultivate mindfulness.

He emphasized that without this inner meaning, festivals become empty events. With a warm and patient tone, he encouraged everyone to carry

these principles into daily life, saying that even one precept, such as refraining from killing, has the power to transform families and communities.

After his message, the Kathina robe was carried around for all present to touch, symbolizing the collective offering made to the monastic community. This robe, offered once a year, represents the shared generosity of the entire community and is considered one of the most meaningful gifts a layperson can offer. Once the robe returned to the front, the community recited the traditional Pali verses and presented the Kathina offering to the Sangha.

Venerable Dr. Kaboggoza Buddharakkhita then gave his Kathina talk, offering a rich blend of history, teaching and personal experience. He explained the origins of the ceremony dating back 2,600 years, when monks stayed in one place during the rainy season and practiced intensively. He shared how the tradition grew out of compassion, discipline and the wish to protect all forms of life.



He reminded the community that, monks and laypeople depend on each other. Laypeople offer material support, while the monastics offer spiritual nourishment through meditation, teaching and guidance. He highlighted how this mutual support has shaped the Uganda Buddhist Centre, from providing water for surrounding villages to establishing schools so that children no longer walk long dusty roads for education. Bhante also reflected on the growth of the community, drawing parallels to his early days of teaching in California, where Dhamma talks were translated into multiple languages so that everyone could understand. He encouraged the community to keep strengthening unity, emphasizing that harmony is the foundation of all progress at UBC.

The ceremony continued with messages of appreciation and the offering of blessings. Bhante extended well-wishes to Primary Seven candidates preparing for their final examinations, encouraging them to work hard and aim high. He also acknowledged the international supporters who contributed to this year's Katina celebration, including the Vietnamese community in the United States.

The event concluded with the sharing of merit, symbolized by the pouring of water a reminder that generosity flows outward, nourishing others just as water nourishes a tree. The community chanted together, dedicating happiness and peace to all beings, including departed family members and friends.

Katina Day closed with a renewed sense of gratitude, unity and purpose. For the Uganda Buddhist Centre, the ceremony was more than a festival it was a moment to reaffirm shared values, strengthen bonds and carry the spirit of generosity and peace into everyday life.



MYANMAR DELEGATION VISITS UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE, DONATES ROBES AND REQUISITES TO THE SANGHA

The Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC) was honored to receive a special visit from a high-level delegation from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The delegation was led by His Excellency U Than Swe, Minister of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by His Excellency Kyaw Tin Shein, Ambassador of Myanmar to Egypt, together with several senior officials.

The visit underscored the growing friendship between Myanmar and the Uganda Buddhist Centre, founded on a shared commitment to preserving and spreading the Buddha's teachings. The delegation toured the Centre's facilities, met members of the monastic community, and expressed appreciation for UBC's work in promoting peace, spiritual education, and community development in Uganda.

During their visit, the delegation offered robes and other requisites to the UBC Sangha, a gesture received with heartfelt gratitude. This act of generosity reflects the long-standing Buddhist tradition of supporting monastics so they may continue guiding and serving their communities.

In their remarks, the officials reaffirmed Myanmar's ongoing support for the Uganda Buddhist Centre's mission to nurture the Dhamma in Africa. They commended the Centre's growing impact through its education programs, youth initiatives, and humanitarian outreach, encouraging continued efforts to expand these activities and strengthen international collaboration.

Venerable Bhante Buddharakkhita, Founder and Abbot of the Uganda Buddhist Centre, expressed his sincere appreciation for the delegation's generosity and goodwill. He highlighted the spiritual bond between Myanmar and Uganda, noting that such exchanges deepen mutual understanding and inspire collective efforts to share the Dhamma across cultures.



FORTUNA UGANDA SUPPORTS UBC SCHOOLS WITH GENEROUS DONATION OF LEARNING MATERIALS

Fortuna Uganda, led by Mr. Shyam Krishna Manandhar, donated essential school supplies to the Buddhist Peace Nursery School, Buddhist Peace Primary School, and the African Buddhist High School in Garuga.

The donation was welcomed with appreciation from teachers, learners, and administrators who described the gesture as timely and deeply thoughtful. The supplies will support classroom learning, ease daily challenges, and contribute to the Centre's broader mission of nurturing young people who are educated, compassionate, and mindful.

Mr. Ssemwanga Charles on behalf of Buddhist Peace Primary School thanked Fortuna Uganda for the support, noting that the contribution strengthens the Centre's work across its schools. "We are truly grateful for this generosity. These materials will go a long way in shaping a better learning environment for our students and in supporting our dedicated teachers," he shared.

The event brought together community members, teachers, and students who reflected on the importance of generosity. Mr Ssemwanga also reminded everyone that giving carries a powerful blessing. "Blessed is the hand that gives," he said. "Although the students are the direct beneficiaries, this gift has lifted the burden for teachers and parents as well."

Students expressed their excitement and gratitude. A student representative thanked Fortuna Uganda on behalf of the three schools, saying the new materials would motivate them to study with confidence. She also added that the donation would improve their daily school experience and offered blessings for the continued success of Fortuna Uganda.

Ven. Pandicca, also linked the event to the values shared by both Buddhist and African traditions. The act of giving is central to the Buddhist virtue of *dāna*, while the philosophy of Ubuntu teaches that communities grow stronger through mutual care. Fortuna Uganda's support, beautifully reflected both principles. He also closed the event with a heartfelt blessing: "As you have opened your hand to support us, may it be refilled with abundance. May Fortuna Uganda continue to prosper through the power of generosity." The Uganda Buddhist Centre remains committed to building a peaceful and compassionate society, and gestures like this continue to strengthen its educational mission and its impact in the community.



**WALK IN THE BUDDHA'S FOOTSTEPS: SECURE YOUR SPOT
FOR THE 2026 INDIA & NEPAL PILGRIMAGE**

Pilgrimage to India and Nepal





WALK IN THE BUDDHA'S FOOTSTEPS: SECURE YOUR SPOT FOR THE 2026 INDIA & NEPAL PILGRIMAGE.

India & Nepal March 2026 In a rare and transformative opportunity for spiritual seekers around the world, RetreaTours, in collaboration with Tricycle: The Buddhist Review, has announced the return of its acclaimed pilgrimage, Walk with the Buddha. The 2026 edition will be led by Venerable Bhante Buddharakkhita, founder of the Uganda Buddhist Centre and one of Africa's pioneering voices in engaged Buddhism.

Running from March 8th to 21st, 2026, this immersive journey invites participants to trace the footsteps of the Buddha himself from his birthplace in Lumbini to his enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, to his first teaching in Sarnath, and finally, to his peaceful passing in Kushinagar.

For those seeking an extended spiritual experience, an optional post-tour extension in Kathmandu, Nepal, will run through March 24, offering time for reflection, exploration, and community connection.

This is more than a pilgrimage; it is a profound return to the roots of the Dhamma, says Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita. It's an invitation to connect deeply with the teachings in the very places where they were first shared.



A Spiritual Journey Grounded in Ethics and Sustainability

The pilgrimage is intentionally designed to honor Buddhist values, not only in practice but in logistics. The tour is carbon-negative, thanks to RetreaTours' partnership with Carbonfund.org, and prioritizes cultural sensitivity, mindful travel, and ecological responsibility. Participants will benefit from:

Daily meditations and teachings with Bhante Buddharakkhita

Guided visits to the Four Holy Sites and surrounding communities

An intimate group setting to foster deep spiritual reflection

Thoughtfully arranged accommodation, meals, and transportation for a seamless and nourishing journey

He was born in Uganda as Steven Kaboggoza to a Christian family in 1966 in Kampala, Uganda, East Africa, Africa. He first encountered Buddhism in 1990 while studying in India. He was fully ordained as a Buddhist monk by the late Most Venerable U Silananda in 2002 at the Tathagata Meditation Center in San Jose, California. He then spent eight years under the guidance of Bhante Henepola Gunaratana at the Bhavana Society in West Virginia.

He is the Founder/Abbot of the Uganda Buddhist Centre in Uganda. Bhante is also the founder of the Buddhist Peace School (Pre-Primary), Buddhist Peace Primary School, and African Buddhist High School in Entebbe Garuga, Uganda.

He is a long-time member of Global Buddhist Relief's advisory council in New Jersey. Bhante has been teaching mindfulness meditation in Africa, the U.S., Singapore, and worldwide since 2005, and he is a much-loved teacher in many countries.

Global Interest Already Building

With limited availability and international interest growing, early registration is highly encouraged.

To learn more and reserve your place, visit:

www.retreatours.com/Buddha2026

The Buddha's teachings are timeless. This pilgrimage is a reminder that the path he walked is still alive today within us, and across the world, Bhante Buddharakkhita.

Walk in the footsteps of the Buddha with Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita and Tricycle on a pilgrimage through India and Nepal, March 8th–21st, 2026.

Optional extension to Kathmandu.

Reserve your place today

<https://www.retreatours.com/Buddha2026/>

Registration Link below

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoQF-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoQF-FUGq1D9ag-Z0L7Eif1PCv7NfvWRZPvLmF0yLVjeDwXqg/viewform)

[FUGq1D9ag-Z0L7Eif1PCv7NfvWRZPvLmF0yLVjeDwXqg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoQF-FUGq1D9ag-Z0L7Eif1PCv7NfvWRZPvLmF0yLVjeDwXqg/viewform)



GRATITUDE MESSAGE FROM THE ABBOT: VEN. BHANTE BUDDHARAKKHITA

I am eternally grateful to all our supporters around the world who have supported the Uganda Buddhist Center projects, like Compassion Care Center, to provide education, food and accommodation for the orphans. And the Buddhist Peace Schools, preschool, primary school, and African Buddhist High School to help us educate children from our community, who are underprivileged, and do not have access to holistic education. Through your support, women in our com-

munity have acquired skills that have enabled them to earn income, sustain their families and take their children to school.

We are grateful for all your continued support. And also, I would like to welcome more support so that we can continue to help people in Uganda.

Thank you very much. This is my blessing to you all.

May you have long healthy life, May you be happy, May you be peaceful, May you have spiritual strength, May you be free from suffering and its causes.

Sadhu, sadhu, sadhu.

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
2. Please write out the Check/Cheque to: Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities
3. Please Write in the Memo of the Check: Dana for Uganda Buddhist Centre or Bhante Buddharakkhita
4. Please take a photocopy of the check and send it via email: ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com
5. 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://www.every.org/uganda-buddhist-centre-ug>

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.

Use Wise or Xoom.

Thank you!

HOW TO DONATE. wire transfer

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

Bank Name : I & M Bank

Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

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

