

## Supporter Story

### Gloria Bradley, Stamp Collecting for the Kingdom

Gloria has been a loving supporter of WorldShare since the early 1990's. She first encountered us through her church, St Matthews Mahly, which she attended along with our former director, David Cohen. One afternoon, following the service, Gloria and David were discussing her interest in stamp collecting when David mentioned that he had some old stamps that Gloria could have and offhandedly suggested that she could sell them as a fun way to raise funds for WorldShare. Gloria loved this idea and took to it with more dedication than we could have ever anticipated. For the past 25 years she has been selling stamps at stamp fairs, markets and numerous other locations to fundraise for WorldShare.

What we particularly appreciate about Gloria's story is how a 'small' idea can have such a big impact. To date, Gloria has raised over \$11,000 for WorldShare through the sale of stamps alone. Here in the office we send Gloria our leftover stamps, as do many of our other supporters, so if you have any spare, please get in touch.



WorldShare   
Restoring hope and life. Together.

## Partners Review

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Edition



## Broken Bones and Healing Hope

Moise Bahati is a three-year-old boy who lives with his mother, Chloe, on the outskirts of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Earlier this year, while his mum was out looking for food, Moise was playing near their home when a wall of volcanic rock collapsed on top of him.

Neighbours rushed to unbury him and retrieve his mum. Chloe returned to find her son lying in the street with bones sticking out of his leg and foot in multiple places. She hurried him to the local emergency clinic but before they would see him they asked her to pay for the consultation and when she couldn't afford it they were sent away without assistance.

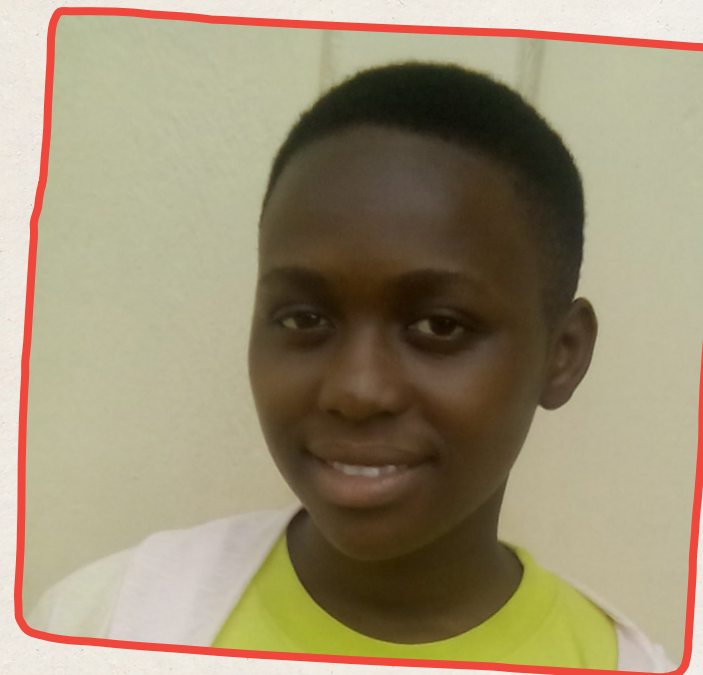
The next day Chloe took Moise to a larger medical clinic and spent two and a half days there waiting for help, but again when they found out she couldn't afford it they were sent away without help. They ended up spending a whole week moving from clinic to clinic trying to get help and the whole time Moise's wounds were getting worse.

Finally, Chloe received some words of hope, when a nurse told her to take Moise to the HEAL Africa hospital - the only hospital in Goma that has

specialists in orthopaedic surgery that could fix his shattered bones. Chloe was afraid that they would get turned away again but by this time Moise's foot had started to smell very bad and she was desperate.

When they arrived at HEAL Africa, Moise was immediately admitted due to the severity of his wounds. Chloe nervously told them that she had no money for the surgery but the nurse explained that his surgery would be paid for by HEAL Africa's Mercy Fund.

After a long and complicated surgery, Moise received a month of follow up treatment in the hospital before being sent home, free of charge. He has almost fully recovered and Chloe is overwhelmingly grateful to everyone involved in helping her son, "I thank God... and I thank all of you who assist vulnerable people like us, may God bless you all."



## Annabel - Birth and Rebirth at 14-Years-Old

*"My father told me he would kill me if I told anyone... but I was more scared when he said I would never go to school again. I loved school very much... so I never told anyone."* - Annabel Aisha, from Wakisa Ministries.

See inside for Annabel's story...

## Come and meet Vivian from Wakisa!

We are delighted that Vivian Kityo, Director and Founder of Wakisa Ministries, will be joining us in September 2019.

Vivian will be sharing stories from the critical work of Wakisa as they provide shelter, care and vocational training for abandoned young mothers in Uganda.

### Dates:

2nd – 9th Sep: Sydney & surrounds  
10th – 15th Sep: TAS / VIC  
16th – 20th Sep: QLD  
21st – 22nd Sep: Sydney



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touch



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your support!



## CEO message

*No man is an island,  
Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main...  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind,  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.*

**John Donne, For Whom the Bell Tolls**

I was recently reminded of this poem, one of my favourites. Written in 1624 by John Donne, an English writer and cleric of the Church of England, the poem speaks of how all humans are connected to one other.

To me, it is an apt introduction to this edition of Partners Review. For why should we care to read about what is going on in the lives of people halfway across the world from us, if not because we believe we are intricately connected in some way. We are all part of God's family, and in the words of Martin Luther King Jr "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly".

It's a beautiful and eloquent reminder of our connectedness.

Given that we are told to love our neighbour and in today's globalised world, our neighbours are those all around the world, the work before us is vast. But we do not live in fear or anxiety, as we are filled with the Spirit and fix our eyes on Jesus. We remember that we have the strength of the "Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:4).

So wherever you are as you read this newsletter about the lives of Annabel, Moïse and Nikitha, I hope that reading their stories brings their lives into your living room, church or workplace. As you learn how Annabel came to faith after receiving care as a frightened young pregnant girl, how little Moïse's shattered leg was healed, and how Nikitha was, against all odds, able to go to school and become the first ever female captain of her school, may you continue to connect with lives of those who live so far away, knowing that we are all God's children and made in His image. And just as you may grieve when they grieve, may you also celebrate and rejoice when, through our Ministry Partners, lives are transformed and hope is restored.

Grace and peace,

Joanna

## Work With Us...

We're currently looking for someone to join our Supporter Relationships team and we have a number of immediate volunteer opportunities. Join us in restoring hope and life to the outcast and forgotten.



## Annabel - Birth and Rebirth at 14-Years-Old

Annabel came to the Wakisa Centre after falling pregnant to her biological father at age 14. He had begun sexually abusing Annabel two years earlier when her mother fled to Sudan, leaving behind Annabel and her younger brother. Over those years her father repeatedly threatened to kill her if she told anyone but, according to Annabel, it was actually a more 'minor' threat of his – that she would never go back to school again – that kept her quiet all that time. "I loved school so much that I never told anyone."

When she fell pregnant at 14, Annabel was so innocent that she didn't realise what was going on in her body until her school's Headmistress noticed her body's changes and told her she was pregnant. When Annabel described what

had been going on the Headmistress reported it to the police and Annabel's father was arrested and jailed.

A few months after arriving at Wakisa, Annabel safely gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

While at the Wakisa Centre, Annabel received counselling and went through vocational training before deciding to go back and finish school. Also during this time, Annabel's life was changed by the love she experienced at Wakisa and, by the Grace of God, she converted from Islam to Christianity.

All of that was four years ago. Today she is in her final year of high school and she hopes to go to university and eventually become a lawyer to defend the rights of women and girls like her.



The Wakisa Centre provides a loving community for outcast young mothers.

According to her teachers, Nikitha (left) is known for encouraging her classmates.



## From Outcast to First in Class

*"I thought I would never be able to step inside a school."*

From a very young age, Nikitha always felt that she had something to contribute to this world. But as she grew up - living in one of the poorest communities in Bangalore, with her father barely earning enough to feed the family, let alone send her to school - she was beginning to lose hope. "I began to feel like I didn't belong in society. Our family was neglected and ignored because of our poverty, it was as if we didn't exist."

All of that changed when she found out that she had been accepted into Sinclairs School thanks to the generous sponsorship of a WorldShare supporter. "When I found out I had been accepted I jumped with joy and shared the news with all of my friends and neighbours."

Once she was given this opportunity Nikitha has never looked back. She is a

hard-working student and held in high regard by teachers and fellow students alike. According to her year 11 teacher, "Nikitha is a jovial kid with the heart of a servant leader. She is constantly encouraging her classmates through her words and her actions and inspiring them every day with her positive approach to life. I think everyone at the school looks up to her."

So it came as little surprise when this year, after some encouragement from her peers, Nikitha ran for school captain and won the election by a huge margin, becoming the first ever female captain of the school!

Nikitha thanks God, BCM, WorldShare and especially her sponsors for restoring her hope, "I thank my sponsors everyday for supporting me when my family couldn't and for believing in me when it felt like no-one else did."

*"I thank my sponsors everyday for supporting me when my family couldn't and for believing in me when it felt like no-one else did."* – Nikitha, from BCM's Child Sponsorship Program



Nikitha, performing in this year's school play.

### Child Sponsorship Letters - Volunteer

We've just received a large bundle of letters from our child sponsorship program in India and we'd love some help to read, review and sort them before sending them to supporters. It's a great service and a great way to get insight to the children's lives.



### Photo Library - Volunteer

Do you have an eye for a good photo? We have recently received an influx of photos from our ministry partners and we need help reviewing and sorting them. Help us to better show the impact your support is having overseas.

Want to find out more?  
**Get in touch!**