

Kenya's next generation leaders!

A year has passed since our last newsletter and, as ever, a lot has happened. This time last year my wife Judi was still undergoing treatment for breast cancer and having a very tough time. I'm very happy to report that she has made a good recovery now and is building up her strength for the work that is still ahead of us. Judi and I have both now left our full time jobs in the UK and are able to devote all of our time to Hope and Kindness. We are looking forward to spending much more time in Kenya together working with our dedicated team of Kenyan teachers and care staff.

Spending time working with our young people is one of the real joys of being in Kenya for a good length of time. I've been in Kenya since the end of April and will be here until mid-December. In our last newsletter we introduced you to our Senior Management Team and they wrote about the challenges of their work. This year I've been working with a group of four young people who have shown good leadership potential. They have written about themselves for this newsletter, so I'd like to introduce you to Everline, Ephy, Dan and Wycliffe in their own words.

Everline - My names are Everlyne Achieng Baine. I am the eldest child among the family of two children. My background is that one which is poor, as most people in Kenya. I am happy that God didn't take my grandmother, who is still living. My mum and dad have passed away. My grandfather wished the world goodbye in 2009 I'm glad that I didn't and that's the same for my sister Caroline as well.

I was very lucky to have been brought up by the help of well wishers who were very kind to offer their help to Hope and Kindness. I think I am not you are as kind as the school you have started. Your faith is really being shown by your actions. The Lord Almighty will continue showering you his blessings and summer shall remain on your lands.

To continue, I had not yet started going to school in 2003, when I was five and should have started school. Now I am fifteen years old and am in Form One. Without your help that would just have been a dream during the day. You have opened my path and lit all the lights of my day so that I may predict what's going to happen to me after High School.

I have an advantage of exploring to greater heights and getting a grade that would lead me directly to university. I know I am capable. Though I sometimes I wonder that my work after university wouldn't help



Everlyne Ephy Wycliffe Dan

my mother or father at all I know it will help my grandmother.

I know God has good plans for me and my sister. I enjoy living at Hope and Kindness so much and get time to read when no-one knows and cannot interrupt me. Thanks to all the sponsors of Hope and Kindness.

Ephy - I am Ephy. I am fifteen years old now. I have an elder sister and a younger brother. My mother died in the year 2007 while I was only ten years old and this happened when my father had already died. It was a very hard time for me because nobody, not even my relatives, agreed to take care of us. I, my sister and brother were to stay away from school because there was no-one to take us to school.

By good luck God spoke to people of Hope and Kindness and they agreed to take care of me as well as my brother and sister. I came to Hope and Kindness in the year 2008 and started in Class 4 in the Primary School. AS from that time my life has greatly changed and now I am in High School in Form Two.

My life has only changed because of the good health and care I am getting from Hope and Kindness, the p[roper] diet, good education and clean environment to sleep in. Because of all these things I am working hard at school and I'm aiming to be an evangelist in future. I am also hoping to help other people in the way Hope and Kindness has helped me.

Dan - I'm Daniel Otieno aged fifteen years. I was born in Kisumu County by the most beautiful mother I guess. My father was still studying when I was born and my mother had to withdraw from school. I've been humble since my childhood but I was stressed by the death of my beloved father. My mother then abandoned me so I with my (continued on page 2)

grandmother. I later found help in a children's home in Kisumu.

In 2002 I came to Hope and Kindness. I was very happy about that. The best thing was that I was amongst the first children to live at Hope and Kindness. Hope and Kindness has really helped me and I'm glad about it. May God bless all the sponsors of Hope and Kindness.

I'm now in High School in my second year and hope for high grades in the years to come. My ambition is to become a doctor. I don't know why but I just imagine treating people. By the will of God I will be.

Wycliffe - My names are Wycliffe Omondi Mboya. I am fourteen years old and I come from Homa Bay County. I am thankful to God for having mercy on me. I am happy that I am here at Hope and Kindness.

I am from a poor family, but not only from a poor family but also a quarrelsome house. My parents used to keep on quarrelling more often than not. It became worse when my mother died in 2004. My father started mistreating me as if he did not know me. My grandparents tried as much as they could to help me. My grandfather saw that it was not good when I as a small child was being mistreated. One day he woke up very early in the morning and prepared himself and went to the police station. When it reached at noon in

the day two policemen came together with my grandfather to see my father but he was not there. I think it is the will of the Lord. I stayed in the police station for a month in 2005 and later on I was taken to a home known as Hope and Kindness.

I was thankful to the Lord for leading me all the way from where I came up to here. I found out that the children were kind to me and that they wanted me to join in the games that they played. I am also thankful because I have come from Class One up to Class Eight. I have an ambition to be an Aeronautical Engineer and do it to my level best. This is also telling me that what God said to Jeremiah is true. If you read Jeremiah 29:11 you will find it.

I've been working with Everlyne, Ephie, Dan and Wycliffe over the last year to help them develop their leadership skills. Like most of the young people we care for they have experienced the most incredible hardship and heartache in their lives but haven't let these misfortunes stand in their way. Each one of them is pushing on to realise his or her ambitions, fully believing that God does have a really good plan for their lives. Spending time with the four of them always fills me with hope for the future. It would be easy to focus on all of the shortcomings of a country like Kenya. Focusing on the next generation of Kenyan leaders and citizens instead is a much better approach. It's what we are here for. *Terry Mott*

What a great team



Group Photo - The Welford Team

We have been truly blessed this year by our visitors. The 'Welford Team' who spent two weeks with us in July/August worked very hard to create some very special events and resources for the children and encouraged us all by their team spirit, enthusiasm and compassion. Led by Jon and Fiona May the team plunged headlong into organising Sports Days, applying mud to the walls of a new Vocational Training Centre, song and dance routines for an evening's entertainment, supporting and teaching in our schools and making our children feel very special.



Sports Days for the younger and older pupils in our Primary School were a great success. The looks on the children's faces in the pictures above are testimony to the fun that was had by all. Following an activity roundabout the children balanced bean bags, hopped skipped and jumped, dribbled a football, threw



Frisbees, sprinted, jumped about in the sack race passed a rugby and played skittles on the verandah of the school. The whole sports circus was organised, scored and supervised by Abi, who did a really excellent job and set the bar very high for the next Sports Day.

What a Great Team (continued)



Vocational Training Centre Building - just add students and furniture!

As part of our continuing plans to expand secondary education we are building a Vocational Training Centre (VTC). Initially offering training in tailoring and carpentry the VTC will help us to prepare our students

in very practical as well as academic skills. The VTC building has been made in a traditional style and the Welford team made a very good job of applying the first and second coats of mud to the walls.

We could not have started the VTC project without the funds raised by the Welford Team, who, between them, cycled, ran, climbed mountains, organised discos and raised over £4,000 to help us. We cannot thank them enough for all their hard work.



Jon and Calistus hard at work



The finished article

Using a combination of components from England and Kenya the playground was finally finished by Jon May and Mike Carr from the Welford team, who were ably assisted by our staff. The guys did a very professional job and forged very good friendships as they worked together.

Children's Playground

In our last newsletter we wrote about the generosity of Tim and Karen, two friends from church, who raised funds to enable us to build a children's playground.

The swings, climbing frame, balance beams and tyres have been a great hit with the children. It's wonderful to see them having such fun in the way that only children can. Like parents all over the world it's sometimes alarming watching how high the children swing. It doesn't bother the children too much - there is always a scramble for the swings at play times.

Welcome Back Dan and Jess

It's always nice to be able to welcome visitors back to Kosele for a return trip. Dan and Jess (pictured in one of our primary classrooms) made their first visit to Kosele last summer and made a lasting impression on the children. At the end of their 2012 visit they both said that they wanted to return and, true to their word, they did - much to the delight of the children. 2012 was a big year for both of them as they started courses at University last October. Dan is studying Maths at Oxford and Jess is studying Speech Therapy at Reading.



Jess, Dan and helpers painting a Noah's Ark scene

They both put their talents to good use with our children. I'm sure a generation of Kenyan mathematicians will attribute at least some of their

success to the the encouragement and coaching they received from Dan. Jess's artistic skills and gift for encouragement really helped some of our less outgoing children to create a fantastic Noah's Ark mural. Thank you both for your continuing commitment.

Exciting times at school!

One of the best gifts that we can give our children is a good education. Hope and Kindness is very keen on making sure this gift is given to all of the young people we care for as often as possible. When we first started Hope and Kindness in 2002 we had three very small classrooms and about forty pupils. (At that time the pupils were, fortunately, very small as well!). Since then we have added to the number of pupils and classrooms, year by year and now support a Nursery School, Primary School and Secondary school. It's been an amazing journey and its not over yet.

This year we have built two classrooms to house a Vocational Training Centre (see previous page) and will start constructing two more classrooms and a staff room in October to make it possible to add another year group to our Secondary School in January 2014.

As well as adding new buildings and resources we are developing new activities to make the children's experience of school more memorable. This year we have run Maths 'Boot Camps' in both our Primary and Secondary school to address a problem that is common in schools on every continent. Combining practical activities that are fun and 'back to basics' content we have been able to make gains in the children's understanding of maths and 'rescued' maths' reputation as a fiendish and difficult subject.

Building on the progress made with maths we ran a three day water project with our upper primary pupils during the second term. The brief was fairly simple - carry out an investigation to find out how long all of the water stored in our water tanks would last if our borehole suddenly stopped working. It was a great success. The pupils worked in small groups and the winning group at the end of the activity all received a prize of 100 Kenya Shilling each.



One of the fantastic posters made during the water project

As well as finding the answer to a very practical problem by going round the compound measuring water tanks and calculating volumes and water usage, the pupils had to make posters, do a presentation of their findings and compose and perform a song to encourage water conservation. It was the first time the teachers or pupils had experienced this kind of activity but certainly won't be the last. Our next theme will centre on climate change and sustainable energy.

Down on the Farm



New shoots of maize - new hope for a bumper harvest

We are continuing with our efforts to become more self-sufficient in food and have had a successful year on our farm, despite the weather. The beginning of the year saw serious flooding in our area due to the worst storms for forty years. Our crops were badly affected in February and we had to re-think our whole planting strategy. We were, fortunately, able to grow a large amount of Kale which we have been

able to sell. Green peppers have also proved to be a lucrative crop and we have started to use bananas from the banana plantation we started last year. We are learning from experience and adapting to the harsh realities that farmers face the world over - pests and climate. As I type a steady rain is falling which bodes well for the harvest at the end of the year.

And finally Thank you's

Thank you Tom and Ellie (our own children) for coming out to Kosele in August and for putting up with your mum and dad living 4,000 miles away for such long spells at a time.

Thank you Ian and Hilda (now on their third long stay in Kosele) for your continuing support for Hope and Kindness and Elim Gospel Church Kosele. Your patience and good hearts achieve more than you can imagine.

Thank you for sponsoring our work and making Hope and Kindness possible - your kindness and generosity touches the lives of so many people.