



# Hope and Kindness Ministry Newsletter



June 2006

*Bringing a message of Hope and Kindness to Kenya  
Registered Charity No. 1108996*

## Reach out and touch somebody's life



roof had numerous large holes and his bed was a pile of rags on the floor with a dirty, waterlogged plastic sheet above it to try and protect him from the rain. I later learnt from a member of our staff that just before we met Elizabeth she had had two sons but the eldest child had already died of pneumonia.

This visit we turned the teachers' staff room into a temporary room for Elizabeth and Clifton to stay in at night time. They did this for a month whilst we found the finances and resources to build them a new home with a rain proof, "iron sheet roof." Thanks to the generosity of a friend from England we have also been able to provide Elizabeth and Clifton with a proper bed with mattress, blankets and mosquito net! Elizabeth and Clifton are a "success story" - because you helped to make a difference

*Judi Mott*

One of our biggest challenges on every visit to Kosele is balancing the financial needs of the home and school with the very urgent and desperate needs of our neighbours.

Although the drought had been very severe at the beginning of this year my visit to Kosele this Easter coincided with the delayed arrival of the "long (heavy) rainy season." Most of this rain falls during the night. It is good news for the crops but it also brings additional hardship for those living in homes that no longer qualify as "shelter."

In April 2005 Terry and I met a young widow and her son Clifton. At the time we thought Clifton was very sick. We began treating him for worms and feeding him a protein rich diet. Nothing more than "daily nutritional food" turned Clifton from a very poorly 18 month old, who did not even have the strength to stand, into a very strong, healthy two and a half year old.

Unfortunately, on visiting his home this Easter I found that Clifton was still in very real danger of becoming sick again. The grass



Holes in the roof - where the rain gets in.



### Somebody should be caring for these children

The problem is most of the time everybody thinks that somebody else should be doing it and in the end nobody does.

Fortunately, with your help, we have been able to care for these little ones.

Together we **CAN** make a difference



# Kosele Diary

Judi Mott

On the eve of setting off for my Easter visit to Kosele, I have to confess to feeling some mixed emotions. Obviously I was really happy and excited about seeing everyone again but, at the same time, I also felt slightly anxious about how I would be received and how I would handle the challenges that would inevitably come during my visit. A year is a long time, especially for children, and I wondered how the children would respond to my long absence. I also knew that our friends and neighbours had been badly affected by the recent drought.

After a long and tiring journey our visitors, Jackie and Olive, and I were welcomed to Kosele by familiar, smiling faces and lots of singing. Having "greeted" me the children went off for their supper and we retired to the house for a much needed cup of tea and rest.

I caught up with the children about an hour later for my favourite time of the day, when we all make the most of the last hour of daylight for games in the field. For the next fifty minutes I sat and watched what I felt was a real picture of heaven. To my right, the setting sun cast a warm, golden light on the landscape and the children. To my left the dark, grey sky began to drop large, steady raindrops (but not the usual downpour that would send us all rushing inside). Together, the sun and the rain created a perfect rainbow across the dark clouds and in front of me I watched the children play.

The very youngest found a ball that they tossed and chased between them whilst the rest, played football "boys against girls" with George (our manager/dorm father/ team leader.) It didn't seem to matter that the youngest player was 6 and the oldest 15! Every child seemed keen to get to the ball (20 layers of plastic bags bound up with string) to show off their best tackling or striking skills.



Wycliffe, Alphonse, Collins and Fabis

The biggest children instinctively gave ground and space to the smaller ones as they ran forward to take their turn and when a child did fall there was always a hand ready to pick them up and brush them down. Whether it was the boys scoring, or the girls, there was not one moan or call of dissent to spoil their moment of triumph. I can't even remember who won. Somehow that didn't seem the point of the game!

I'm not suggesting that **all** our children are perfect "angels" **all** of the time. However, time and again, throughout my three week visit I saw evidence that the love and care the children receive is reflected in their own acts of kindness to others.

The transforming power of love and care in the children's lives was beautifully demonstrated on the last day of my visit. Early in the morning we received a visit from our new District Children's Officer, Madam Rono. She arrived with two little boys, 6 year old Wycliffe and 2 year old Collins. (Pictured above and on the front page). The boys' mother died at the end of last year

and they had been left in the care of their father and a very elderly grandfather. Sadly the father had not coped with the pressures of caring and providing for them. Like all our neighbours he had experienced a total crop failure in the January harvest. The boys had been beaten, locked in the house and then abandoned as the father had chosen to run away. The grandfather was too old to care for the boys and had reported the situation to the police. After spending a week being looked after in the cells at the police station, the boys were brought to us.

Officially our home was full but these boys were in desperate need of a "home." By the end of their first day with us the two boys already had two new brothers, Alphonse and Fabis. Without any direction or instruction from the grownups these two brothers, who had come to live in the home exactly 3 years before, took it upon themselves to be "chief carers" of the two new boys. Clearly what goes around comes around!

# Food Aid - Easter 2006

Report by Judi Mott



Unloading another maize delivery

During one of our trustee meetings in January I expressed my concern about the needs of our local community. We know that April is always a tough time for our neighbours because the food from the small crop harvested in December or January is always exhausted months before the next main crop is harvested at the end of June. This year, the drought that was widely reported to be happening in North Eastern Kenya also hit our friends in this semi-arid corner of South Western Kenya. We all agreed that it was important to do something to help our most desperate neighbours, (even though we are still committed to raising the next installment of £8000 towards the purchase of our children's home and school).

Robin suggested that we had a specific fund raising event for "Food aid" and 3 weeks before I was due to travel he asked church members to give up two meals and to donate the money that they would have spent. Either our church members have enormous appetites or they have very big and generous hearts! The total sum of money raised was just over £3,000. Although it created a lot of hard physical work and administration on the ground, it was wonderful to be in a position to help so many families. Like last year we wanted to help the most desperate cases (mostly

families with children under the age of 6) with weekly food assistance of the more "nutritious" foods.

Last year we were able to help 25 families in this way. This year, when we opened our doors to let people come and make their requests known, over 70 people arrived. We spent all day taking people's details and had to ask them to come back the following day for a decision. Effectively "means testing" people who are all clearly in need was a very humbling experience. None of us felt we could send anyone away empty handed so, thanks to a suggestion from Mary, the newest member of our "management team," we made arrangements to have seventy three 90 kg sacks of maize delivered.

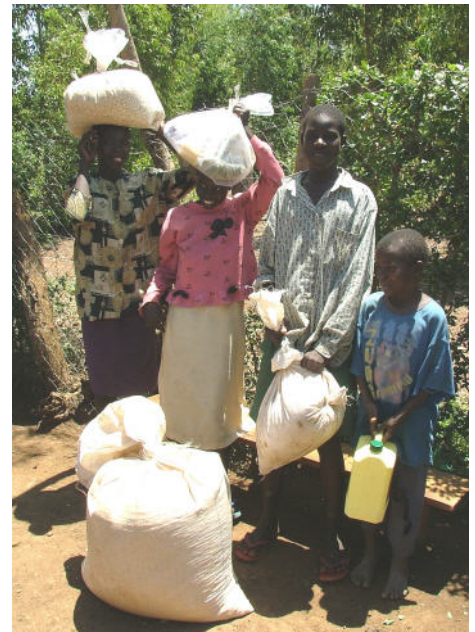
A whole sack was given to each family where there were 4 or more children, and a few sacks were divided in two between smaller family groups.

Transporting a 90 kg sack of maize is a challenge in

itself. Transferring the contents of a 90 Kg sack (because the suppliers insisted on having the sacks returned) was also quite a headache, but "where there is a will there is a way" and there certainly was a "will".

As you can imagine the transfer of so much grain meant some was spilt and yet, just as if it was gold dust, every grain was retrieved from the dust and the dirt and carefully replaced in the sack. Following the distribution of maize we were able to go on and provide weekly food parcels to 37 families for a total of 12 weeks. We have an amazing God!

Being so close to the poor and hungry is something you never forget. Although we could have helped many more families if we had had more funds we know that the food relief we were able to provide this year has made a big difference to hundreds of our neighbours in Kosele. Thanks to the generosity of many people in England somebody **is** doing something to help families in need in Kenya. Thank you to all the "somebodies" who are working with us. Together we are making a difference.



Where there's a will .....



How could you turn them away to go hungry? The elderly often go without because they have no one to look out for them.

# Together we can make a difference

In just the same way that we plan and make provision for our own children we have made a commitment to plan and provide for the children in our Kosele Home and School. Making plans for their future means we need to have a regular and reliable monthly income. This is currently achieved through our 60 faithful and generous sponsors who support us in our desire to bring the children the care they need today that will give them a hope for a better future.

During the last year we have taken in 5 more "emergency cases" who look like they will be staying with us. Less than 5 minutes walk from our gates are three more children who desperately need to be given a place as "day scholars." Take a twenty minute walk in a radius around our home and there are many, many more. We aim to build a primary school that will provide a full primary education (from

Nursery to Year 8) for up to 250 children. As well as guaranteeing these children a good start academically the school will provide invaluable nutritional benefits as the pupils will also receive breakfast and lunch at school.

We urgently need more sponsors. If all of our sponsors could find just one more person who is able and willing to commit at least £10 a month as a sponsor we could begin to make a difference to even more children in desperate need.

It is always a challenge making ends meet in Kosele. So far we have been able to honour all of our financial commitments and keep the work going. Thanks to all of you for making the impossible possible

Terry and Judi will be in Kosele in July and August, completing some of the work Judi started this Easter. Our next newsletter, in October, will be devoted to our future plans.

## Live Ate 2006

Our friends and sponsors Jean and Tony Pratt are organising another major fundraising meal at the Eagle and Sun near Hanbury

on

**Wednesday June 28th**

This will be a great night out -  
**Good food**  
**Good company**  
**Good Cause!**

For more details call Tony on  
 07973 676607

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**From all of us to all of you**  
**"Thank you"**