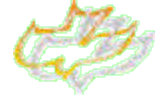


Hope and Kindness Newsletter



November 2008

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

Keeping a promise



One of the biggest challenges we face in our work in Kosele is making sure that we keep our promises. In the Bible it really does say "Let your yes be yes and your no be no". It doesn't say much about your "maybes" so we have to be very careful about what we say.

The children pictured on this page are part of a very happy story. The smiling children on the right are Maureen and Clifford, looking smart in their new uniforms after joining our school in April. We first met Clifford, then aged three, in April 2006. Judi visited Clifford's home and found him and his baby brother Collins being cared for by older brother Kevin and sister Maureen. Their recently widowed mum was unable to care for the

younger children because she was out looking for work in town. The picture on the left shows how tough this situation was for the children. (Clifford is sitting on the ground in this picture).

Since that first meeting we have been able to assist the family with further food and built a new home for them. (The home they were in was so damp and rotten that it was becoming a much sought after home for local snakes - including the deadly Black Mamba).

Now that we have built the new classrooms in our school Clifford and Maureen have been able to join the school and can look forward to a brighter future. The look on Clifford's face in each picture says it all.

Which brings us back to the problem of keeping promises. There are hundreds of children like Clifford and Maureen "living" in the community around our children's home. We can't say yes to all of the requests for assistance that we receive, but we want to be able to say yes to many more. Hope and Kindness is a forward looking organisation - hoping to build better, brighter, sustainable futures for the children we care for. We plan to be working in Kosele for a long time.

Our dream is to offer school places to 270 children. To make this dream a reality we need to find more sponsors who will say "YES" to the continuing challenge of making poverty history.

Wash Out - There's Water About



It's hard work! - Fetching, carrying and washing

Across Africa getting enough water for the day is a persistent challenge. The pictures on this page show the water challenge is something we have to take seriously at Hope and Kindness. As we have reported before our principle supply of water for drinking and cooking is a tap in Oyugis, (our nearest "town"). We rely on a very old tractor filling up with water at the tap then pulling an even older water bowser the 7 kilometres to our place to fill the main water tank. It's a miracle every time it happens. We have experienced weeks when the tractor didn't make it. On one memorable occasion the bowser lost a wheel on the way back to Oyugis and our security team had to guard it overnight.

Water is an increasingly big problem for us. We provide breakfast and lunch for 90 children 5 days a week, (increasing to more than 100 from next January when the new school year starts). When



we don't have enough water because the tractor hasn't come, or our "roof harvest" from the gutters on the roofs of the houses has run out, the children still have to fetch untreated and unsafe water the "old fashioned" way from the local 'spring'. Unlike our neighbours we have never had to rely on this source for drinking water, but it provides water for washing the children and their clothes.

During our last visit to Kosele in August we made a good start on preparations to drill a bore hole to provide a permanent supply of water - safe for drinking, cooking and washing. We are hoping that the bore hole will be drilled and working by next February.

Now that the children are older it is important for them to start learning basic life skills - like washing their clothes. Every day the children take it in turns to do some of the washing. Girls and boys have to muck in and help. The boys have taken this "equal opportunity" in their stride - living out the new school motto of being "Caring, Responsible and Prepared for Life". The New Man is alive, well and thriving in Kenya.



Young Farmers - Preparation for Life



One of the highlights of our visit to Kosele this summer was spending a couple of days doing some training with the teachers. We had a very good time together and, amongst other things, we reviewed our school motto. We agreed that the main aim of our school is to make sure that the children grow up to be "Caring, Responsible and Prepared for Life".

Kosele is a very rural community. Most of our neighbours scratch a living as subsistence farmers. A good number of the children who come to our school will become farmers themselves so we think it is important for all of them to learn about agricultural skills to equip them for the future. Grounding our hope for the children's futures in the real world is something we take very seriously. Working out our curriculum in the fields as well as the classrooms is an important part of making our children prepared for life.

On this page you can see pictures of the children hard at work on our newest and most ambitious project with them. One of our neighbours has allowed us to "farm" four large plots on her land, immediately behind our school field. The

children have dug the ground and are planting a variety of crops with the aim of helping us to grow some of our own food. With over 100 mouths to feed every school day this is not an indulgence - it will help us to make our sponsors' money go further. By planting their own crops we believe that the children will see the value and importance of farming.

We are trying out a new method of farming based on the use of raised beds and new crops like tomatoes, water melons, butter nut

squash as well as more traditional crops. This kitchen garden approach has been very successful for Andrew, one of our night guards. (His crops are pictured below). Using raised beds and growing a variety of crops is not common around Kosele. Following a late night conversation that we had with Andrew, at the end of our visit last year, he started using this method and has been so successful that we now buy some of our vegetables from him!

Crop failure is increasingly the norm in our community so finding a promising "new approach" to making the land more fertile is very exciting. Our land is better than Andrew's so we are optimistic that we can grow a wide variety of crops and obtain a bumper harvest. We are using the "waste water" from the washing up and clothes washing to make sure that our crops are well watered. Recycling water in this way is another important lesson for the children, who are very enthusiastic about the project. If our approach is successful we hope to encourage other members of the community to try it as well - the proof of the method being in the eating!



A Promising New Start



Dorothy is a lovely girl. She's nine years old, and until Monday 18th August 2008 she had **never** been to school.

Dorothy is like many children in Kenya - trapped in a way of life that

hasn't changed for centuries. Try to imagine life in 14th century England. Living in poverty with death, disease and hunger as your most constant companions. Dorothy doesn't need to imagine. She knows what that kind of life is like because she has lived it for most of her life.

Fortunately for Dorothy that way

Great Team

Every year the children and members of the community have been blessed by visitors who have come to Kosele. This year was no exception. Pete, Henry, Emily and our daughter Ellie, (pictured below from right to left), travelled out to Kosele with us and worked their



socks off! They delighted the children with the games and enthusiasm that they brought with them and toughed it out through upset tummies, the joys of our latrines and long days travelling. We know that all of the staff and children were really touched by their visit and we would like to thank them for being such a great team.

We have written before about the importance of relationships in our work. The best way to get to know about what we do is to spend time with the children, staff and members of the community in Kosele. In the coming year a number of visitors to Kosele will be getting their first taste of real life in Kenya. If you would like to find out more about visiting Hope and Kindness please contact us - or look at the visitors information on our website.

of living is about to change. For starters she now goes to school!!! On her first day in our pre-primary class, (on Monday 18th August 2008), Dorothy was so excited that she couldn't sit still and she couldn't stop smiling. When we visited her home the neighbours thought, because of her home circumstances, it was too late for Dorothy to do well at school. We are sure Dorothy's teacher, Madam Rose, would beg to differ.

In our school Dorothy receives breakfast and lunch as well as the education that she has so far missed out on. It is our prayer that Dorothy will now be able to start enjoying her childhood and can really start believing in a brighter future.

Poverty isn't history yet!

As our story about Dorothy shows there are still too many children in Kenya living in conditions that belong in the past.

Please help us to help them.

We still need sponsorship for other children like Dorothy to come to our school.

If you are already a sponsor please pass this newsletter on to someone who isn't - when you have read it.

If you would like to become one of our family of sponsors please contact us.

We really can make it happen.

Contact Details

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