



New Hope Education Centre Soweto, Kenya.

Partnering with Global Development Group to build better lives for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Newsletter, April, 2024.

I was very fortunate to be able to attend Global Development's two day conference in Brisbane a few weeks ago. It was a good reminder of the partnership



that Mark and I share with GDG and School Director, Edward Owino, (the 'In Country' Partner for The New Hope Education Centre).

As partners, we share the same values, purpose and vision. Several key factors were made clear

in this conference.

- 1) to recognise the need to establish the parameters of our partnership.
- 2) to look again at our goals, our mission and our purpose.
- 3) to work towards New Hope Education Centre being able to control its own financial future, to thrive and survive independently.

Many times I have thought of the vast need that exists in Soweto and have asked the question, "Are we achieving what we set out to do? Are we making an impact on the outcomes we so desire"? The answer is a resounding YES! All of you who are praying for Soweto families and/or financially supporting these beautiful children so that they can be educated, ARE making a very great difference. You too, are partners in enabling children to attend school, to love and support them in different ways.

Already, several of New Hope's young adults have acquired skills beyond high school that we hope will provide them with the ability to shape their own lives. We are so blessed to have you partnering with us. Thank you. Janet (Australian Partner)

GDG VISION: To work towards a world where people live free of poverty, with the opportunity and the ability to shape their own lives.

Photo Right: Agnes Kerubo

For Agnes, happiness means going to school and having a new pair of shoes. Agnes lives with her mother and brother in a single iron clad shelter in Soweto. (other siblings remain in their village) There are two up-turned buckets to sit on, but no other furniture, yet she is a happy girl, having started school this year. Agnes has a new uniform, thanks to a kind donation, and the family are being provided with bags of rice and maize. Agnes' mother looks for work washing clothes for people living nearby.



An Update on Everlyne:

(From Edward) "When the family arrived in Soweto a month ago, they were given a place to rent for \$30 per month. The house had rusted iron walls with no electricity. I had to move them from this house because sewer water was flowing right through the house. It was a terrible place where no human should have to live. We are so grateful for the help Everlyne and her children have received. I have now been able to move the family to a better place where electricity is available (for extra payment). It is just one room but most places in Soweto are like this, with a community toilet and wash room outside. Everlyne trained as a tailor on manual sewing machines so I am hoping to give her the opportunity to use the electric machines we have at the school".



Photo above: Everlyne and her daughter, Blessing.

"Jobs are not easy to come by in Kenya because people outnumber the available jobs by millions". (Edward)

Empowering New Hope School to own their financial future.

This is at the heart of our Partnership..... to see the Soweto school community transformed through education and training. Ps Edward, School Director, saw a business opportunity that he believes will one day help the School to become financially independent. Fish cages, where tilapia fingerlings are grown, have been placed in Lake Victoria, and the business is showing great promise. He says, "I would really appreciate support for my fish cage business because if I had 12 cages carrying 12,000 pieces of tilapia each, then I could be harvesting every month throughout the year. This would help me support the school and others in our community. The suffering of many dear people here, and in Africa generally, can be overwhelming, yet these are my daily battles. I would like to support more widows and orphans in the future. Through this business, I hope that one day I might even buy a car for myself when we have enough money by the grace of God. This car will not serve any purpose apart from moving around to check on the needy mothers and children. I have no pleasure for anything in this world except to serve the poor. By supporting me you will be supporting thousands of families in Africa because this is what I live for and I will continue to do 'til the very end of my life. It is what gives me joy and hope in life. May God bless you, our beloved Australian family."



Photo above: Children who will take home maize flour, rice and cooking oil to their families. Only eight of the children in this photo are sponsored. Edward says: (*"We thank God for those who have helped us to provide food for hungry families. The needs are overwhelming, however we cannot help every hungry family so I have weighed up several factors to be sure we give to those families where it's most desperately needed."*)

FRONT ROW L - R: Jevian Andende, Melque Manyara, Natalia Nyagoa, Faith Mwendwa, Beyonze Akimran, Maureen Nyaboke,

Image of a Nation: by Peter Firstbrook an excerpt from his book.

"Despite the poverty, corruption, poor governance and tribal animosity in Kenya, there is also much that the people should celebrate. If you visit any village school in the country, you cannot help but be impressed by the eagerness and commitment to learning that practically every child displays. Often they walk miles, barefoot, to the classroom yet they are always well behaved and eager to work. Often the teacher is without books and the classroom without windows, yet these school children - many of whom can speak three languages before they are ten - consider themselves to be blessed and are determined to make the most of their good fortune to be enrolled in a school - and their eagerness to learn does not stop when they leave school....."



Photo left: Meet five happy children wearing their new school uniforms.

L- R back row: Melque, Dickson, and Griffin. Front row: Agnes and Morris. It is such a boost to the children's confidence when they have a uniform that is not torn or too small. They are so grateful for the help they have received.



Can you HELP!

I'm wondering if there is someone who could help me forward letters on when they come? **Letters** are written twice a year and are received at different times of the year. e.g. Primary and Junior Sec School children will write in March and October, High School in April and

November, and Colleges/Uni in June and December. If you have the time and would like to help, please contact me.

Thank you so much. (Photo: Janet entering the school..taken 2017)

If you would like to make a donation or sponsor one of the children mentioned in this newsletter, please phone me on 0438 606319 or email:

janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com

- 1) Tax deductability is given to all Australian donations when money is sent through Global Development Group.
- 2) All Projects are listed on the GDG website with details on the incredible work being done around the world.

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"Individually we are but a drop, but together, we are an ocean."