

Floods have devastated areas in Kenya...including Soweto.

Newsletter May, 2024.

**Kenyan Prime Minister orders all schools to be closed indefinitely.
(This includes our school, the New Hope Education Centre)**

My newsletter is being sent out earlier than usual as I wanted you to know about what is happening in Soweto and Nairobi, and in many other parts of Kenya. After weeks of heavy rain, floods have ravaged parts of the country.

According to CNN, *"Nairobi county is the worst hit with 147,000 people being displaced, (to date) or 77% of all the displacement in the entire country. The impact of Kenya's recent rains may have been worsened by falling on very hard, dry soils after years of catastrophic drought, which affected many parts of Kenya, killing livestock and crops and causing widespread hunger and water insecurity"*.

People are in dire need everywhere. Even in Soweto, homes close to the school, especially those down by the river, have been washed away. To date, around 300 people have drowned across the country.

Edward says, *"There are some areas where the government and relief agencies are giving out food but not in Soweto. If you are able to help, the smallest of donations will help a hungry family"*.

Thank you so much for all the support you give to this community by sponsoring a child. Your love has changed their lives (and ours)! **Janet Th.**

Contact details:

Janet and Mark Thornthwaite

Phone: 0438 606319

Email: janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com

Australian Partners with
Global Development Group
Project Nos: J786N and
J786NA (High School and Beyond)



A plea for help from New Hope School Director, Edward Owino:

I would like to thank you for your love for Soweto and her people. It is my sincere wish that you have a look at the online Newsfeeds and read of the flooding in Nairobi that has stopped schools reopening this term, with no definite date of re-opening. The government directed that it would be for just one week but again it has been pushed further back. This is making it very hard for our teachers, who will not be paid until our school can re-open and we begin to receive school fees from our students.

We would appreciate any support that you can give to help feed our people.

Many have lost their jobs because some factories and warehouses are submerged in water rendering workers jobless. Some families are facing eviction from their houses because they are unable to pay rent or put food on the table.

If we have the means, we will begin to prepare food at the school to give to those in most need.... to deliver to those who cannot get to the school. It's so cold for many, especially if the stomach is empty.

The government is dealing with millions of people across the Country with major slums like Kibera, Mathare, Mukuru kwa Jenja being given first priority because they are considered to be worse than Soweto. It's an overwhelming situation to say the least.

Thank you for your concern, support and prayers.
Edward

Onyango Antony Omondi

writes in a letter to his sponsor:

"In Kenya, floods have been extremely hard on people. Some people are dying, the roads are destroyed and even some houses are not there anymore. People have lost their families and properties but I thank God that my father and I are safe, even though many are suffering."





New Hope helpers find a little girl alone with her baby brother. They offer words of encouragement and prayer.

(Photo above) New Hope School pastors begin walking nearby streets to assess the impact of flooding close to the school.

(Photo far right) Another slum outside Nairobi is even more devastated by raging flood waters washing away hundreds of shelters.



Another family is faced with rejection and heartache... now reunited by love and acceptance.

(Story told by Pastor Edward)

Fauzi Akinyi Olwalo, was married to a muslim man for over 13 years before he died last year. Not long after his death, the husband's family chased Fauzi and her two daughters out of their home. With nowhere to go, one of the Muslim sheikhs took her children to a children's home to be taken care of and be taught in the Islamic ways of life. The children were there for over a year. Fauzi was allowed to visit them but not allowed to bring them home.

Fauzi then decided to travel to Nairobi to look for a job and stayed with her sister who lives not far from New Hope School. Fauzi's sister, who is married and has three children, lives in a single room together with her husband.

On the 14th April, her sister who is a Christian and our Church member, asked Fauzi to come with her to Church since she wasn't comfortable leaving her in the house. That day, she gave her life to Jesus. I had some counselling time with her and prayed with her that her two girls might be released from the yoke of Islam.

God answered our prayer, for one week later, Fauzi got a phone call from the mosque telling her to come and get her children, as they didn't want them anymore. The girls were released upon her arrival. Now, her sister's husband is saying that they cannot stay in a single room with 8 people and he is demanding that she leaves his house. Fauzi has had little education, has no work or business, no household items whatsoever, only their clothes.

I have asked Madam Vigilance (*New Hope Head Teacher*) to receive and admit the girls into New Hope. I am praying that help will come to assist them. They need shelter, household items, and a little capital to start doing some business. There are a lot of spiritual wars going on around her life but we shall overcome. Thank you,
Edward



(Photo above) Aisha Akinyi (Gr 8) and Yasmin Atieno Ojwang (Gr 5)

Do you know someone who might sponsor these two beautiful girls so they can remain at New Hope School to be loved and nurtured?
(Contact Janet for further details)