

New Hope Education Centre Soweto, Kenya.

Newsletter

OCTOBER, 2023.



(From Edward Owino, School Director)

We are focused on feeding our children well so that they may achieve better academic results:

To help feed our children, I was able to raise money from sales made from my fish farming business where cages were established in Lake Victoria last year. The children are now eating better and have become stronger throughout the day, unlike previous terms when we had only been able to offer rice each day.

Nairobi prices have become impossible to sustain:



I have had to travel into the rural areas of Kenya so that I could purchase bags of beans at half the price of what is asked for in Nairobi. I was also able to purchase bags of maize to add to the 5 sacks I got from a rural farm. We are turning this maize into flour to make enough "ugali" for the children to eat three times a week.

A visit from an External Auditor:

We recently had an external auditor come to the school. He wondered how we are able to pay school expenses when so few families are able to pay school fees for their children. It has only been possible because of the sponsorship some of our children receive and that we are able to continue to provide quality education for the children of Soweto. It has not been easy sustaining trained teachers, to meet our vision of a better future for all children who go through our School. We can never thank those who are helping to support our children enough. We are so grateful.

Daily Vacation Bible School:

It was such a joy to see so many children coming to New Hope to learn about God during this last school holidays. We are now able to give the older children Bibles, (that came in the container last year from Australia).

University students start small businesses to help pay for Uni courses:

I am so encouraged to see former NHEC students, like Braise, Lilian, Boniface, Stephen...engage in part time businesses so they can pay for their own hostel accommodation and daily needs when they get back to University. These gifted young people receive support from sponsors for their education but we are so proud of them for the initiatives they have undertaken to help themselves.

The progress we have made since we first opened our school is amazing. We very much appreciate all the kindness being shown to us from Australia.

Sponsorship has made a huge difference to these children's lives.

"Before I was sponsored, my life was miserable and I did not know what to do or where to run. My parents were not able to pay for my school fees so I stayed at home for a long time. I lost hope and I thought that God had forgotten me. But a blessing came into my life by way of Mr and Mrs Rose. That's when I saw a great future ahead of me because they wanted to invest in my education. I am looking forward to seeing my dreams coming to reality. I would like to become a lawyer to help people who cannot defend themselves".

(Lilian Gr)

"Before I was introduced to my sponsor, I had no hope for my life. Now my life has changed for you pay my school fees and help me get meals when I am at home. I am so happy to be in school."

(Sara Gr 7)

"Since I was brought to school and you accepted me to sponsor, my life has completely changed. I didn't know how to read or write for I was not going to school because my parents are very poor. Now I can do things with the help of my teachers. I love you."

(Emmanuel Gr 3)

Receive greetings from the deepest part of my heart. Before you came and helped my parents by paying my school fees, I had thoughts of giving up my education because I saw myself as being a burden to them.

(Phyllis Form 3)



Photo above: Ian Nyangau (centre) and George Okello (right) enjoyed reading Bible stories at Vacation Bible School.

Journey to Malawi: In my last newsletter I (Janet) wrote of Edward's upcoming visit to Malawi and the New Hope Gospel churches that have been established in several rural farming districts.

Edward reports on his visit: *This is what I like doing, giving people hope in the midst all difficulties. Many people walked 10-20 kms to come to this conference, some riding on extremely old bicycles for 30-40kms to make it here. At night they slept on the earthen floor of the Church. It melts my heart for they eat just one meal a day because that is all that is available but they are happy still. These people wake up early and go to work on their farms on an empty stomach, returning around 2 pm and eat whatever is available. They will not eat again until 2:00 pm the following day. The Church Pastors asked if I could help them make their lives a little easier by investing in some goats or chickens. The land is very good for goat keeping, and while most of these people have very little education, and some none, they are really hard working people.....*

Following financial support from the Maryborough Baptist Church, and from others, we have been able to help finance the purchase of 30 goats, (three each for 10 families) 10 pair of shoes for Pastors, 10 Bibles and some transport costs. Edward's wife, Hellen, will return to Malawi this month to oversee this new venture and to give encouragement and hope to the women who live in this very impoverished district of Malawi.

Photo below: Women and children gather to hear a message from Pastor Edward



Photo above: Edward stands outside the home of a New Hope Fellowship Church Pastor and his family.

Photo below: Edward prays for a family who recently lost their 8 yr old daughter because they were unable to get her medicine.



Two acres of land has been purchased in the rural village of Bondo, 400 kms north of Nairobi, where there are plans to build a Technical College.

It may take time to achieve this but our vision for a College is to train our young people in skills such as carpentry, animal husbandry, building, welding, and sewing. All this needs a good size area of land, which we could not get in Nairobi due to the great cost. We are so grateful to have received financial assistance this month to help us pay for the land and begin preparations for our College. Now our dream can begin! We have so many of our New Hope children complete High School but they cannot gain employment because they are unable to pay for the fees charged by Technical Institutions here in Nairobi. We shall make our College like our New Hope Education Centre where we don't insist on making profits. Our desire is to transform lives through training. (Edward)



If you would like more information about sponsoring a child, or how to make a donation so that the building of a Technical College can become a reality, please send me an email.

janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com or phone 0438 606319. Your support is so much appreciated. It has given hundreds of families living in Soweto, and the New Hope School community, hope for a better and brighter future Thank you. Janet and Mark Thornthwaite (Partners with GDG)