

NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTRE

Soweto, Kenya.

“Commissioned to serve”

Newsletter July, 2025.

SOME OF OUR CHILDREN AT NEW HOPE ARE BECOMING WEAKER BECAUSE OF LACK OF FOOD TO EAT AT HOME.

(Edward Owino, School Director)

Report from the Director: Our workers are such a hard working team with a lot of dedication despite the hard conditions that we all have to face in transforming children's' lives with slightly lower payments being dictated by our geographical area. We are courageously focused on offering quality education irrespective of all circumstances. We are happy and confident that the work we do in Soweto is never in vain. Your financial support, words of affirmation and love is keeping our heads up for the work. I lack words to express my heartfelt gratitude for what the Lord has done in providing for our needs through your support.

I am hoping to feed more families as we assess their situation, as some children are getting weaker because of lack of food at home. The food prices have suddenly gone up affecting many families yet their income remains the same. Some prices have shot up by 50% like cooking oil and maize flour but the government doesn't give the reasons as to why. Last month, uniforms, shoes, mattresses, blankets and food were handed out to many of our more desperate families. (photos right)



Shaline Tumany (above) a very needy child along with Maryann Moraa (below) are two of many children who received bags of rice to take home to their family so they will not go to bed hungry.



These are the happy faces, above, of children who've received new clothes for school.

60% of Kenyans living in Nairobi, live in slums.

WE ARE MOURNING THE DEATH OF NEW HOPE TEACHER

Ruth had taught her Grade 2 class during the day, but died that evening after having an 'asthmatic episode' made worse by the cold weather. Ruth had three small children, all learning at New Hope.



Sadly, Ruth had an abusive husband and is unlikely to be caring for his children following his wife's death. Ruth's body was transferred to her family village in Western Kenya where she was laid to rest. Fourteen teachers and staff drove to the burial ground in a show of respect and love for Ruth and to support the family. New Hope has taken care of mortuary bills, food and transportation and have promised to help with her children's education. (Edward)

Changes in Soweto bring hope for a better future in Soweto. (Edward Owino):

Some New Hope parents are becoming more educated and enlightened so that they are able to monitor the class work of their children.... unlike a decade ago where nearly all people living in the Soweto slum were illiterate and didn't care about education or excellence.

There is now more order in the streets due to improved quality of life. Mothers used to give birth in their houses or use traditional, untrained midwives which caused many deaths and transfer of HIV to their newborn babies. Mothers are now starting to attend prenatal clinics and go to hospitals to deliver their babies. There is more hope for a better future now in Soweto than there was a decade ago. New Hope is playing a huge role in affecting these changes through education, spiritual education and small levels of financial aid. Young people have experienced the impact that New Hope has had on them directly and indirectly. God brought us to Soweto to face its challenges. It is changing indeed!

Soweto children and families still need our support. (Edward Owino)

Despite the positive changes happening in Soweto, there is still great lack, particularly in regard to food. There are several factors causing this lack of food and basic needs in many households. People are working harder but payment is far below what can meet their basic needs.

For example, if you have a job that earns you 10,000 KSH (\$112) per month, this may have to support 3 or more children. Rent is 4000 KSH (\$45) per month and there are transport costs. This often leaves only 3,000 KSH (\$33) left for food for the whole month. Even the few who may get as much as 20,000 KSH (\$220) per month, this is still not enough to sustain these basic needs. In our African context any money earned is expected to support an elderly parent or siblings who may be in the family village waiting for your support from Nairobi.

There is no consistency in employment because almost 80% of Kenyans have no formal jobs and job creation in the country is at zero. People are steadily losing their jobs because of taxes and government related issues that reduce profits of the company. For example, our New Hope income from School fees can only sustain teacher salaries. We can't charge more due to the general situation all around us. Were it that we were paying rent then we would have to have closed down our school a long time ago.

"Please pray for us as food prices have almost doubled in recent months for essential items such as gas, porridge flour, beans, sugar and cooking oil. Please also pray that finance to help with the new school becomes available." (Edward)

Sustaining regular food distribution to Soweto families.

"We have had two meetings with a selected team of Pastors and other service providers within our Church to look at how we might provide regular food distribution to the most needy in our community. We would like to combine street evangelism while providing food for the most vulnerable, including the elderly, now that food prices are so high in Kenya currently

If we had support which would enable us to buy food regularly, we could give some families monthly portions. I would keep a record of families that are in the most desperate circumstances, and monitor each family's progress so we know when to stop should their circumstances improve. We are also thinking of compiling a list of the elderly people in our locality, those who can't walk because of sickness and old age". (Edward Owino)

If this is something that you would be able to support, I think we could begin a FOOD BANK to help this ministry get started. Together we CAN make a difference. Thank you.

Janet and Mark Thornthwaite (Partners with New Hope Education Centre and Global Development Group)
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New Hope Bible School

(registered as Systematic Bible Institute of Kenya)

Our classes continue to be held at New Hope School on Monday and Friday nights. My focus is on pastors who come from the slums in Soweto and Nairobi so that they acquire sound scriptural doctrines and so the flock of God is not deceived. Pastor Oscar (who helps me on Monday and Thursday morning at the school) is completing his three year course now. We charge only 2000 KSH (\$25) per subject but our students are rarely able to pay. We are generally serving our people without charge but we love the Lord and His work. We are allowed to train students up to diploma level depending on their high school grades and class performance, including daily assignments. I am personally trained up to Masters level allowing me to train to a degree class. Our students are very poor and some are less qualified academically but they show a strong sense of the calling of God in their lives.

SITE WORKS BEGIN FOR THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Dear Friends, I hope the information in this newsletter has given you some insight into how things are with a ministry that some of you have supported for many years...either by supporting a child to help with school fees, or providing financial support to help in other ways. We are so thankful for the way you have stood with us in these hard times. There are so many untold stories, particularly in the area of parental neglect of children. It is truly heart wrenching but we do what we can, with God's help, knowing that, together, we are making a difference in many children's lives. Please let us know if you have questions about anything shared in this newsletter. Janet