

# Christmas Greetings

From New Hope School  
children, teachers and parents.

Newsletter: December, 2023



## From Pastor Edward Owino:

As the year 2023 comes to an end, I wish to say how much I have appreciated your support. We simply couldn't do what we have done without you. None of our success would be possible without our generous supporters. We are so grateful that you chose to donate to our cause. We promise to be responsible stewards of both your donation and your trust in us. As I have often said, it would not be possible for many Soweto children to step into a school classroom yet New Hope has enabled our children to not only finish their primary education, but to also finish High school. Some are now even attending university or

other colleges to further their education.....what a blessing to behold!

## We count our blessings, and "name them one by one."

1. Over 60 children are now fully sponsored in Primary and Junior Secondary School.
2. Over 30 children are now sponsored in High School, some receiving full fee payments and some partially, (for those attending boarding schools out of Nairobi).
3. Our NHEC building is almost completed.
4. Families have often received food baskets to take home.
5. Children have received uniforms.
6. Teachers are receiving salary support through a subsidy to the School financial account. (Photo below: New Hope Teachers wearing T shirts for DVBS))
7. We have been able to purchase farmland to build a technical school so that, in the future, some of our High school leavers can gain hands on skills and training so that they can be employed or start their own business.

## Despite these blessings, our needs are many.

We are praying that further support will make the building of a Technical school a reality. We also need to purchase textbooks to cover the new curriculum syllabus for children going into grade 8 next year.

We would dearly love more sponsors so children can be in class in 2024. Would you pray with us that our vision to give our children a better future through education may be made possible? May God bless you all during this season of Advent.

With love and gratitude, Edward Owino.



## What's Happening in November and December?

**DVBS (Vacation Bible School)** From 14th to 17th November, 200 children and 30 volunteers (our High Schoolers) will come together at New Hope to learn more of the love of Jesus.

**Youth Camp** We look forward to having all the High School and College students in the first week of December over a period of 3 days; they will be boarding in NHEC. We expect all students to attend even from rural areas.

There will be activities like dancing, a children's choir, viewing the Jesus film and we shall sing Christmas carols for them. Should the Lord provide some extra help, then we can give food parcels to them on the last day.

**Repair of the main hall roof.** Serious damage has been caused to the ceiling and roof of the Main Hall due to incorrect size of timber used previously. This has caused serious leaking of water when it rains. We shall correct this by removing 200 ft of 4 x 2 timber then replace with 6 x 2. We shall also need to replace a few iron sheets because of the damage.

## Can you help these boys find a sponsor?



**Jevian Andende** is in Grade 2. His mother is single since separating from her husband two years ago due to domestic Violence. Currently she gets casual jobs in order to pay rent and buy food but she is unable to pay school fees for her two children.



**Jiden Oboka is** 15years of age, His father died in February last year leaving his mother to find casual work to help pay for food for the family. She was not able to pay for any school fees for her children. The family lives in Soweto, next to New Hope School. Jiden would like to continue his High school education.



**Wilfred Adhaya** is 8 years old and in Grade 2. His mother suffers from epilepsy and is often very unwell. His father sometimes gets casual work in a garage but is unable to provide for the family's basic needs plus his wife's medication. Their children have fee arrears and are in and out of school due to his father's inability to pay for school fees.

**"One person may not change the world but you can change the world for one person."**

This will be my last newsletter written from our home in Maryborough, Queensland. It won't be our home for very much longer for the house has sold and will settle on 14th December. Our packing is well and truly 'on track' and we expect it to be a fairly smooth transition back to South Australia. I've always felt that this home here in Qld had been 'heaven sent' for we have been truly blessed over the past 19 years to have been able to live in this very beautiful part of the world.

Despite the heart wrenching farewells, there is also a real sense that the timing is right. I was reading an email from a friend who introduced us to Edward Owino, when we visited the Soweto slum back in 2010. At the time of writing, she and her family were leaving Kenya and moving to London to work. She wrote, "I am a little apprehensive at present, with so many unknowns, yet the constant is that God loves me, He goes before me and will be beside me. I am in the Master's hands and feel very secure and safe indeed." Wow! I'm so glad I kept this email for her words are just what I needed for such a time as this. They have kept me focused on looking forward to another chapter in our lives with a sense of anticipation and contentment. I don't know what lies ahead, but I am 'at peace' about the move. Both Mark and I will continue to communicate and support the children and the families of New Hope School to the best of our ability and our commitment to our supporters remains firm.

The 'world' brings strife and sorrow, grief and hardship, yet we can experience God's peace this Christmas, when we place ourselves 'in the Master's hands'.

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### Introducing Faith and Mary

These little girls are now living with their grandmother in Soweto, having come from their rural village when their mother was unable to care for them due to ill health. Neither has been to school before, but now they have a sponsor and their future looks bright. (Photo: This is a big day for Faith and Mary coming to school wearing their new school uniforms.)