

How it all Began...Our Story!

Edward Owino : Director of New Hope School, Soweto, Kenya.

March, 2025



Photo Top: Children begin school life in 2013.
Below: First classes to be enrolled at New Hope.

We have produced top students.

We have seen students improve academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally overtime, developing confidence and resilience. We now have excellent learning facilities and extra curricular activities like games and sports. We have assemblies, celebrations and events that create a sense of community and pride in their school. Students actively participate in lessons, asking questions and showing enthusiasm for learning. There are opportunities for students to take on leadership roles, such as student council, team captains or peer mentors. Many of our students have completed High school and gone on to take up further studies.

Thank you for everything you've done for us. We are so thankful and humbled.

Countless giving has taken place since 2010. Thousands and thousands of people have been fed several times over. Children have uniforms, many have had rent relief, Pastors have received gifts of bibles, and emergency food relief for their church. What we have achieved in the last 15 years has been truly amazing. Edward and Hellen Owino.

2010 - 2025

We began as a feeding centre due to the hunger that many children in Soweto were facing. This took place every Saturday supported by our church members who were equally poor, bringing rice and beans to cook and give to all the children who attended our bible lessons. At that time we were using a small hall with an iron roof and walls. There was no toilet, no water, no electricity and no windows. Water and electricity were almost one km away. The single hall would be so dusty, stuffy and hot, especially when children filled it. You could hardly breath for the dust in the air once singing and dancing began. Children in our culture love to dance! I look back and I wonder how we survived in that harsh environment but the grace of God covered us and blindfolded our eyes to focus on what we could do at that time which was to feed the children.

The road has been bumpy and windy.

As the number of children increased I noticed that children aged 7-14 years could not read or write. It was then that the Lord stirred my heart to start a school, one which would give quality education to these hungry and illiterate children.

Mark and Janet arrive in Soweto.

My theology teacher, working as a pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship, introduced me to Mark and Janet Thornthwaite at a time when they were visiting the MAF family in 2010. Upon their return to Australia the Lord caused them to remember the needs they saw in Soweto and our partnership began. We started by putting concrete slabs on the floor to eradicate dust and constructing iron sheet rooms. We raised levels of cleanliness, and began hiring trained teachers. We also began providing 'small business loans' which helped many to start small businesses.

God provided and we began building a new school in early 2013.

Eventually we couldn't fit into this space as numbers of children increased and so began the task of finding land to build a larger school. We were able to start building because of Mark and Janet's support, the financial support of their family and friends, their church and by organizing a sponsorship program so that school fees could be paid for those families who had no means of paying for their child's education.

The New Hope School that began with two untrained teachers now has 18 trained teachers plus ancillary staff.

We are raising these children in a Christian environment.

It has enabled them to identify with Christ who transforms and heals broken children and their families.

