

When the heart cannot say no

One very wet and cold (for Kenya) night at about 2100hrs a young small boy, Maxwell, 10 yrs, was found outside our gate. My mind said 'we cannot afford to take another child, just not enough money, but my heart said we can't just leave him there, even if subsequently we find we cannot discharge him.' Sure as eggs are eggs that's exactly what happened. The next day we found a very sick mother, no income and living in the most extreme poverty. Maxwell remains with us. Pictured on the right he is a very bright young man who I feel should go far in life.



Thanks and Need

- I am so thankful to God and to all of you for your continued support and for the way we have survived, thus far, through some very, very difficult financial times. I am thankful for some increased sponsorship but needless to say we need more especially if the work is to develop and not just 'tread water'.
- We need to 'tap into' sponsorship within Kenya itself and this is one of the issues the Board there is working on.
- We desperately need a replacement vehicle; the lack of one out there not only made life very difficult for me but restricted, or made very difficult, rural home visits. An ideal replacement vehicle would be a 4 wheel drive wagon, cost second hand approx £8000.
- We still have a few youngsters hoping to go on to Uni or college but cannot do so for lack of funds.

Thank you all again for all your love, care and support.

Terry

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Uhuru Ministries – Email Update – Sept 2009

Apologies

I need to apologise to those of you who did not receive the June Update – although maybe you're thinking thank goodness for that. It was circulated towards the end of my last spell in the UK at a time when we were on the point of changing our Internet Service Provider to BT. I won't go into that story other than to say it was nowhere near as straightforward as we had been led to believe and were without the internet for almost three weeks.



Bore Hole

Thanks to a very generous gift from a Sponsor we have been able to make much needed repair to our main bore hole including digging it down a further 10ft to a depth of 70ft. The bottom has also been cleaned out and 40 concrete culverts made to line the sides of the hole, some sections had collapsed near the bottom. (Picture on the left is of some of the culverts with Antonio sitting on

one). The actual operation in lowering these was really alarming to watch.

After each culvert was lowered, one of the fundhi's (workmen) would virtually jump down the hole clinging to the rope – it looked extremely precarious (picture right). On my return to the UK, the plumbing and wiring work was almost complete and just awaiting fitting of a new submersible pump. The water appears to be clean and if once tested it proves to be okay, should save us approx £35 per month and be more reliable than buying water in from outside. We do have a well, approx 21ft deep, which has always given water even in times of drought, but the quality is only good enough for general washing, not for drinking or cooking with.



Three Score and Ten

This month sees me (Terry) reach a certain 'milestone' in my life. I am very thankful to God for the life He has given me. The birthday, to me, is not that special in the sense that life does not suddenly change; it is just the wearing away that progresses! However, I guess it is a time for some reflection, to give thanks for all the opportunity and privilege to serve many wonderful youngsters in Kenya, but with a question mark over just how much longer I can continue living this somewhat dichotomous life style of living in two places many miles apart.

NGO Board Kenya

I am very pleased to report that we have increased, with three new members, the Board size to seven. We now have a female Chair and a female Vice Chair which is progressive for Kenya.

I am hopeful that this revitalised Board, with a very professional membership, will become much more active in overseeing the Home and in the work more generally. Up until last year I had been spending approx two thirds of my time in Kenya; this past year I reduced that to half, and from next year I intend to reduce my time in Kenya still further and this is where we really do need the Board out there to take a more proactive role.

Generally

....things are not bad. During August the Home at Mamboleo (which in Kiswahili means 'news of today') was very quiet for three weeks with almost all the boys on leave at their home areas during the school holiday. They returned on Sat 5th Sept with most restarting the school third term on the 7th. This is clearly a very important term for them, some taking final secondary or primary schooling exams, and all taking end term exams which determine progression to the next class. It is quite common in Kenya for children who 'fail' the end year exam to have to repeat the same class again the following year; they call this re-winding.

I moved out of the Home in August staying at a nice mid range hotel in town. There were many reasons for me making this move, something that I should have done months, if not years, ago. I am enjoying the relative space, peace and quiet but do miss the boys. I guess both they and I have found this change difficult but I am sure we will get used to it; and in any case I am in the Home most days of the week.

The hotel is some 20 mins from the Home, I used Tuk Tuk (3 wheeler glorified motor cycle taxi – very common now in Kenya just like in India). Rubber Croc slippers in Kenya are also called tuk tuks. The cost of the hotel room, plus transport added quite an amount to my expenditure; I will see if I can find some alternative and less expensive arrangement. With regards to the Vitara, our vehicle, having been off the road for some ten months, just three days prior to my return to UK a scrap steering box spare was

located, and parts from this used to refit the original steering box thus getting it back on to the road. Anyway, all considered better late than never.

Clergy

It was very lovely to receive a visit by the 'clergy' in August which was led by the Rev Phil White. Phil and his team of five from the UK were accompanied by two Kenyan Anglican priests. Such visits are great, hopefully both for the visitors as well as all of us in the Home.

+ two Volunteers

For approx 6 weeks we had a young German volunteer with us plus a young man, Alex Fawdry, from our home town of Hexham. Sadly Alex was only with us for a few days. Alex had been doing a longer spell with another agency in Rwanda.

Kenya

Politically the coalition government is holding up but unsurprisingly wrangles and power struggles continue. A nationwide census has just been taken, even me 'counted'. Some people have criticised the fact that they were required to state their tribal background. Sadly tribal issues continue to be a thorn in the flesh of the nation. Another current issue is water. Along with several East African countries Kenya is experiencing a prolonged and very severe drought with many rivers drying up and even the main Lakes, e.g. Nakuru, Naivasha showing significant falls in level. The whole country is on 'power rationing' with two day blocks of twelve hour power cuts, though being Kenya they do not always occur on the days or hours stated. There are already signs of tribal clashes over water rights. The whole situation exacerbated by the fact that large swathes of forest land are being cut down by illegal squatters. Land also appears to have been given away by extremely high-ranking government figures for political favour, patronage etc. This has had a devastating effect on water catchment areas.

Prejudice

(Dictionary def: unreasonable dislike) Maybe it was prejudice when on seeing the Jetlink Airline plane I was to board to Nairobi with its drooping wings and thinking that looks very Russian, reinforced onboard to find out the plane was on lease from Albanian Airlines. Actually inside it was very comfortable and the flight was perfect.