

Newsletter

*Harambee
For Kenya*



No 35 Apr '14

Back from our latest trip to the projects and it has been time to reflect on how things are progressing. We had a very good time of fellowship with the trustees and a lot of fun with the children in our care. The weather was pretty good too although the long rains did come early so we had quite a few downpours in the late afternoon/early evening on most days, together with amazing thunder storms. The evening sky would light up with Gods natural laser show.....amazing! One day was quite exciting for the boys though. We had a hail storm - yes you read it correctly. It lasted for about half an hour and I kid you not, the hail was 1cm in diameter. It is



not unusual to get hail in a tropical storm but not that big - well at least we have not seen it like that in Kenya before.

The boys were very surprised at how cold the hail was and asked if it was this cold in the UK. Of course we said it was colder when the snow came, but it makes you think how things can change so quickly generally. One minute there is beautiful hot sunshine and within 30 mins. the clouds have loomed over us, the heavens open and the thunder and lightning arrive. Often it all reverts back to

beautiful sunshine and sunsets within an hour and the air is fresh once more.

Well enough of my meanderings. We do appreciate all of your support in kind and prayers. We now have more boys to consider as the second project has started. Fantastic! I hear you all say

Our Thanks go to the following for their Support.

4th Horsham Scouts
Lindfield Cubs Lewisham District Scouts
Hastings Scouts
Hertfordshire District Cubs
Ashdown Park Hotel
Mary Wilding Liz Walters
Rob & Jan Kendall

And all our regular supporters

But it does bring difficulties with funding. So if you can seriously consider about helping us in one way or another we would gratefully appreciate you contacting us. Doing a boot fair, getting a school your child is in to raise funds, a sponsored event or just £2 per month by standing order can go a really long way. These children look upon all of us, you included, as a gift from God to look after them and be their family. So do consider what you or your friends could do to help us now and in the future. Without you H4K is nothing. Thank you.

Trustees:- Roger Dann (Chairman), Lesley Dann, Patricia Musgrave, Jackie Cooper, Mike Wilding, Ben Vince. 21 Cuckmere Rise, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8PG 01435

Project News Nyakoe

Nyakoe has changed in the last month as Jared has moved on to pastures new, Denilson has taken on the role as foster carer with his wife, Lydia and baby son, Joe, living on site. He has really settled into the role and is doing a good job with the boys. We have also appointed a part time Social Worker called Juliet who has immediately settled

in to the role and almost very quickly recognised some of the boys traits which is great - they won't be able to run rings round her that's for sure!

We were given some money to buy all the boys new school shoes which was fantastic. So we took them to town in their Scout Uniforms. They are proud to wear their uniform and visibly hold their heads high because they know that people do not look at them as street children when they walk up the road. In fact the man in the shoe shop could not believe they had been street boys. We point it out to some people as we can then say "that shoes that you should not judge street boys" which all too often Kenyans do. Yet street boys have to be quite bright and "with it" to be able to survive.

After the trip to the shoe shop, they carried their shoes down the road for their next treat. They had ice-cream. This is not usual for most Kenyans so there was silence as they ate it and they were not quite sure what to make of it. But afterwards they said they enjoyed it.....

Do You remember that last time we told you about Samuel being chosen to play for the Harambee All Stars, under 17 team. Well, while we were in Kenya he went, along with Vincent, to play for the school football team in the national Primary Schools competition. Firstly we did not get a note home from school to say what was going on but we soon changed that. Jackie asked for a letter and we were told that they were going to be away for two weeks if they won each game or would come home after they were knocked out. Two weeks and three days passed and we had not heard anything. A bit of a concern when you consider these boys could survive on the street so you can imagine what we were thinking had happened. So Lesley phoned the head teacher to find out what had happened and ask where were our boys? The Head told us that they had won all their games and had gone to Kisumu (only 3 ½ hours drive away!! They had got through to the final having won the county matches and they were to play in Kisumu. It would have been nice to have been told!!!! We would not have experienced this in the UK!

Anyway, the upshot is that Samuel's name was in both the Standard and Daily Nation (national papers) because he had scored two goals in the semi-final. After he got home it took him about 4 days to tell us what happened in the final because he was upset! Oh dear we thought! Perhaps they lost? But no! They won the final and he was upset because he had not been picked to play in Brazil with the national team, his disappointment being heightened because the Swedes have still not sorted out about getting the team to play out there. He's quite a patient lad, but is frustrated about this at the moment. Sad really, but that is life!





The boys had never been into the shoe shop before which when we think about it is understandable but because we take it for granted we so easily forget. They were so well behaved.

The boys, Jackie and Bill also broke the record for the most people in a Matatu!!!! 32!!!! including the driver - unbelievable!

Jackie makes a note of their shoe sizes.

We had an addition to our numbers while we were there. Robert was left at the project 3 days before we arrived. He had been found alone in the market and we were told the authorities were finding his family so that he could be returned or sent to an orphanage, He is 7yrs old. Three weeks later he was still with us and as his behaviour was so bad Denilson asked if he could take him "home". We knew the town he came from so Denilson took him to track down his family. His mother was found with his 6yr old brother and 2 1/2yr old sister. He went off with clothes and plympsols and we were quite relieved as he was jolly hard work! Even the boys were struggling Bill jokingly said "How long before he comes back?" To which we all said "you're joking?" THREE DAYS later the boys came running into the house saying "Robert is back. He's at the gate and wants to come in". He was a mess with no clothes but a filthy tee-shirt and shorts and no shoes! He said he had been sent back by his mum so we took him back that day.....40 mins drive!



Enjoying their ice cream

We didn't find his mum but someone took us to where he lived - a mud hut with a tin roof and unfinished walls. The door was padlocked and his little sister was alone, his brother was nowhere to be seen and neither was his mother. We were told his stepfather was drinking down the road. We took him back to the van (a neighbour cared for his sister) and his stepfather came to see us. He was drunk and incapable so we had no choice than to take Robert to the safe house for safety and that if he could come and get him when he was sober, We told the police to cover ourselves and Robert was still at the house when we left, His behaviour has improved and we heard have heard that he has now started school. and his behaviour has improved.



Meru

At last the project is open and even more exciting is the fact that we have boys in the house and we have met them. Just

before we left Nyakoe we felt it would be a good idea to take two of our boys to Meru as they would be able to tell them what it is like to live in the safe house and what they can expect if they choose to stay there and follow the rules. We chose to take Carlos and Hendrick as they are real advocates for what we are doing and are both very good with the lads. We were proved right.

Hendrick took over showing the boys how to make their beds which made us laugh as he was doing all the actions Jackie had done to show them how to do it. Both the boys were really good at teaching the boys how to play with the games too. It was a joy to see. They both stayed at the house for two nights too which was great as that gave them a chance to tell them what life is like as a Harambee boy. They also taught them the prayer the boys say after grace at mealtimes. "Thank you God that we are Harambee boys!"

Carlos was really helpful too in translating the boys stories of why they were living on the street. All the boys were sad to see them leave too but we have suggested that during every school holiday it would be good for two of our Nyakoe lads to go to Meru to spend some time with them. Carlos and Hendrick liked that idea and they may have to separate so that they can take turns to go with one other boy to give others a chance to help out. Watch this space!



Carlos and Hendrick with the initial 5 boys in the house and Dennis who is looking after them. Right- Carlos takes them through their paces with twister.



Right- the boys are being shown how to play some of the games.



Above - Carlos helps to get the history of the boys



On our way to Meru from Nyakoe the Carlos and Hendrick had an exciting time as they had to stay the night in a hotel where they were thrilled to be able to have hot showers in their room. They were so thrilled and the next day they were full of it. We then stopped off at Nyeri and visited BP's grave. This is a real pilgrimage for scouts from all over the world and the Kenyan Scouts love to have the chance to go there. Carlos and Hendrick were very proud to have gone there, Don't they look smart?

Mt Kenya was in cloud on this day but when we returned four days later the mountain was clear, The lads were so thrilled to see it. Many Kenyans never do!



Another thing they loved was crossing the equator. They even watched how the water spins in the opposite direction when north of the equator to what they are used to living south of the equator. After all this they said that their trip had been "amazing" and "wonderful".

It is lovely to be able to let the boys experience new things. It is not always possible but when it is we all get very excited for them and they really bless us with their joy and enthusiasm.



Meet Ayub or in english, Jacob, He is one of the new boys at the project. He is 10yrs old and was kicked out of the home when his parents split up and dad turned to alcohol. Ayub begged & collected scrap to sell to get food while he lived on the street. He slept in boxes or sacks under market

stalls. He was on the street for 2 years. Ayub has just been taken to the doctors because he had bad eyes. We found out that he was going blind due to serious lack of vitamin C which was probably due to a very bad diet. He is now eating well and has medicine to help. The doctor said that had he not been seen when he did, he would have gone blind,



Next time we will introduce you to the other children in the Meru safe house and there will be more news on the new project as a whole.



Robin is a cheery soul and really looking forward to going to school. He 10yrs old and ran away after his mother threatened him with a knife and was on the street for two years. He begged for food and water from Hotels and slept in the parking area of the local bus company.

Gallery

