

28/02/2011

Dear friends,

I thank God for the chance to visit Kenya last week and to see our ongoing projects. It has been clear for some time that one of the Jengana leaders needed to do a follow up visit to the projects in which we are involved. However we did not realise the impact such a visit would have on our understanding of what the Lord is doing and what He requires us to do as we minister His love to all.

On the day of my arrival I decided to visit one of the subsistence farmers that we support. In the past we helped educate Njoroge's children for about two years, last year we put our thoughts together to work out the most effective way to help him to help himself and others. We bought him one dairy cow and a little machine for cutting dry grass into small pieces. It was with great delight to find that not only has he flourished in rearing the cows but that his family is well catered for with daily needs met and the children's school fees all paid up to date. His faith grows stronger in God being his provider - every day for him is a day to work hard and use every resource afforded to him to make a positive difference for his family and others.

On the same day, I met up with Phillip Magomere. This was yet another delightful moment to meet someone who by God's help through the donations given by different people, we have educated through secondary school. As he awaits his final results, it is with great expectation and hope for a better future for himself and his family. Currently, he is one of two young people sponsored to attend the Word of Life short term Bible school. This is a introductory Biblical training that is designed to help young people leaving secondary school education with a guide into adulthood with Christ at the centre.

My second day in Kenya was spent in Kibera slums. I started by visiting Chemi-chemi ya Uzima clinic (dew drops of wholeness) where I witnessed the normal day to day attendance of the clinic. The clinic is also a centre where groups of women from the slums meet to pray and encourage each other through their struggles. They also share ideas to make life better, e.g. Ideas on small scale businesses in the slums. Jengana has been prominent in the work of that clinic by providing funds to subsidise the treatment of people in the local slum area, especially children. We have also provided a dental chair and other small hospital equipment to support the work of Nairobi Baptist in Kibera slums.

I took time to walk down into the slums to meet the children who are sponsored through



*In Kibera with some of the Children sponsored by through jengana*

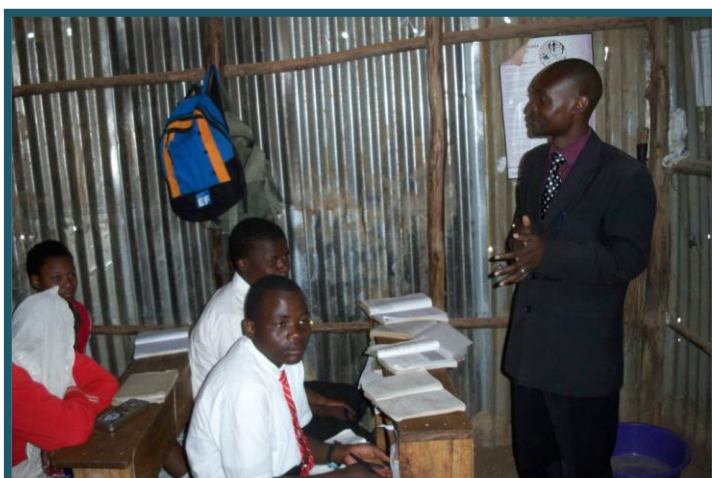
Jengana. As I waited in the headmaster's 'office', I took time to read about past success of this school situated in the heart of the slum. To my pleasant surprise, this school with untrained teachers helps the primary school pupils achieve the same and in many cases better grades than the popular private schools. They have managed to get pupils into very good secondary schools where the pupils can map out a better future for themselves through education. The pupils sponsored through Jengana stand a very big chance to make it out of the vicious cycle of poverty by the training they get from this school. It was with great joy that I met the sponsored pupils and rejoiced to see so much positive change on their lives.

Whilst in my visit to Kibera I also got a chance to visit a very young family. My visit there was regarding schooling for a young boy called Hassan. He is a 15 year old boy who has AIDS but who is on Anti Retroviral medicine. Since both his parents are dead, he is looked after by his only relative, his 23 year old brother who is living with his girlfriend and child. I managed to organise uniform and school for Hassan and I trust that he will have a successful time in school and that his health will keep getting better.



*The two Hassam Brothers and Fransuer in their Kibera*

My next point was at the Maono (vision) secondary school. I had heard about how good their work was from Jengana ladies' team last year. As I sat in their office and went over



Dickson, the principle and director of maono secondary school in one of their classes.

their financial, academic and other records of the school regarding their slum existence, it was clear to me why the ladies' team was very impressed. The director of the school spoke very simply but very convincingly about his vision for the poor teen agers in Kibera and how proper education given within the Christian ethos was the best chance those teen agers had. The books provided by the ladies team were a great resource to them and I eagerly await their O level national results. It is mind boggling how

such a school, in such poor surroundings, with poor resources and pupils coming from very poor and disturbed backgrounds, is able to produce well rounded pupils and great

academic results. Currently their girls' rugby team is second in the country. Such success is a reminder to the pupils in that school that the poverty they were born into is not a permanent life statement for them but a starting point to whatever life they fashion for themselves. Our part is to keep reaching out and providing visible Christian help as the Lord provides. Our prayer is that we will get more sponsors to help more pupils enjoy this privilege of being cared for and educated by people who are giving all they can for their betterment.

The next day I spent organising the papers for our registration in Kenya as an NGO. It was a long day culminating in meeting at Ben's house to sign the last paper work for the registration that has taken us more than 3 years. I pray that now that the papers are at the registration office, all will go smoothly to allow us to operate much more easily in Kenya.

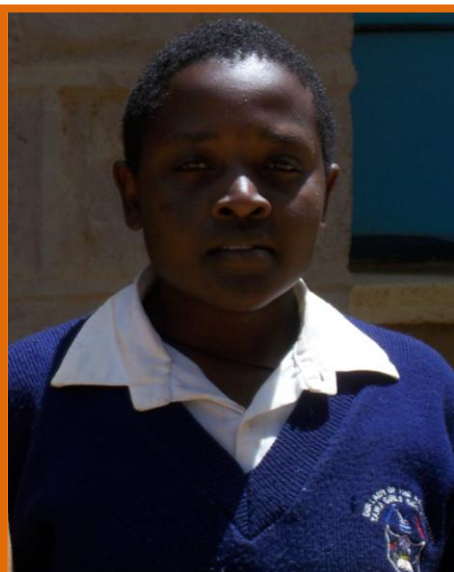
The next day I travelled to Machakos technical school to pay the final school fees for Caroline who we have sponsored through college from the beginning. She has a great testimony of how the Lord has provided for her over the years and how well she has performed in the college. We trust that the Lord will keep opening doors for her.



Caroline on her last year at college

My next visit was to Our Lady of Assumption girls' secondary school. For the last three years we have sponsored one of the girls who is an orphan. I got very glowing reports of her development over the years and we trust that as she comes to the end of her studies in secondary school, that she will do very well and secure a place in university or local colleges. Our discussion with the

Sister/nun heading the school led to sponsoring another orphan through the school and we trust that she will also excel.



Katungwa, one more year of secondary school

The next day I spent my time in Mukuru slums. My intention here was to specifically observe how the money provided for the feeding program is used at the slum school. I am in no doubt that this is a needful area of reaching out to the poor children as well as sharing the Love of God with the people in the slums. Due to the provision of the morning porridge and extension of the school, there are more children attending the school and receiving both education and some food to keep them going for the day.

As I walked through the slum and met people that we have worked with in the past, I came across Ayub, a young boy who spends most of his day in streets because his father is very sick and his mother recently died. He begged for a chance to go to school and I responded by registering him at a local boarding school. I believe this was a God given opportunity to help that Muslim boy and I pray that both he and his father will see the indiscriminate love of Christ shared with them. I hope his schooling is a great success.

Ayub and his dad: Ayub just enrolled to secondary school



One of the best moments I had in Kenya was meeting with the two pastors in the church that Kim attends. This is a church just at the boundary of the Mukuru slum. We talked at length about how to make our support more sustainable in nature and reach more people. The meeting culminated in prayer and we trust that both Kim and all his staff will know of the Lord's hand in their work.

The rest of my time was spent in visiting Ben's place (Tumaini Street children Rehabilitation Centre,) then back to Word of life and finally back to the standard Chartered bank to finalise our account registration.

This report is not exhaustive due to the nature and varied extent of the visit; please feel free to contact me for further information on the visit. God bless you.

Till the trumpet sounds,

Fransuer Mukula

Jengana.