Emmanuel Home Newsletter

Jan 2021

(formerly ***Kanyawegi Children's Home****)*

New Year…. New Challenges?

The 2020 year never turned out as any of us had anticipated 12 months ago! In the UK many individuals, businesses and services have struggled to keep going, and right now we have entered our third period of national lockdown. Many charities have also struggled as restrictions have limited the scope for fund-raising activities. Thank you again to all the individuals and churches who have continued to support our work over the last year so that we can make a difference to lives in Kenya!

In the July 20 newsletter we reported how during the Kenyan 'lockdown' period (and the children not being in school) we have increased our support to the families looking after Them. This has usually been in the form of food and other essentials and has been appreciated by all. Although in the spring some of the schools had issued work for the children to do at home, this wasn't maintained through the summer. We had also circulated some supplementary school work exercises to the children but we were concerned that the children might be getting out of the 'learning' habit. So, in the autumn Linda arranged for quite a few of them to attend 3 months or so of part time computer/IT classes. Although virtually none of the children have access to computers and the internet in their homes these courses gave the children something to focus on during lockdown and assisted them to learn new skills and develop existing ones that will be of help to them in their learning when they return to school, and in life generally. Two of our children, Nelly and Kelly, said they were so grateful and happy to do this training. Another, Michael, was a fast learner apparently and did very well. His uncle asked our Manager Linda to thank us '100 times' for the good work we are doing in being a blessing to the children.

Video clips from Kenya:

Prior to Christmas we put together a short video presentation for an online church service to update viewers on the work of Kanyawegi UK. This was the first time the orphans and Manager had produced video content for us, and our Treasurer, Sally Petit, added a few introductory remarks.

The 3 minute broadcast was part of Welton Baptist Church's 'GoLive Sunday' service on 13th December available on YouTube – beginning about 2:15 minutes from the start of the service. To view it, please search on **YouTube** for the Welton Baptist service of that date, or copy and paste into your browser search bar, or click on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V56K3ioPnBs&t=104s

The video will also be added to the Kanyawegi website shortly.



Back to School at last:
In this first full week of the new year all the children are starting back at school. The Kenyan Government has produced a new schedule of school terms for the next 2 years that comprises four terms in each calendar year, instead of the usual three. This will enable the children to start now where they left off in 2020 (so, start now doing the 2020 Term 2) and 'catch up' over the next 2 years. No doubt it will be challenging for our children and schools to get back into their normal educational routines, but Linda has worked hard to ensure they have everything they need, and will report later on how the start to term has gone. Please pray that the children quickly settle in to their schools and that those communities are kept safe from the virus.

Update on Millicent:
We are pleased to report that **Millicent** was able to start her Bachelor of Procurement and Logistics Management degree in the autumn. Although we are not needing to support her any more (her fees are being be covered by government grants and by family) we did say we'd give a 'one-off' gift to help her get started. The photo shows Millicent meeting with Lydia (our 'education advisor') in Nairobi when Lydia presented her with a brand new laptop and a small amount of money from us. She was very grateful for this gift and it was no doubt significantly helpful as to begin with her course was launched only online.



Updates on other students:
Kevin4 has been on a 6-month 'attachment' – which is a work placement- as part of his Medical Laboratory Technician course. 2021 will be an exam year for him – and he is due to finish by December.

This month **Lilian** is starting the first of 4 terms on her final Nutrition and Dietetics Diploma year. She is likely to finish at the end of 2022.

Email from Ibrahim:
We haven't had much contact with **Ibrahim** since he started his degree programme (not funded through us) a couple of years ago, but we have helped support him through a monthly 'upkeep' payment that he can use for his living and other expenses. It was great to receive from him this email (and photo below) just before Christmas:



Hello Peter
It's great to hear from you and indeed it's a long time since we last spoke; I hope all is well with you. I am also doing well despite the difficulties brought about by the covid pandemic. Thanks a lot for the support you have continued to provide. I've been trying my level best to abide by the guidelines issued by our health ministry in order to curb the pandemic and so far so good - I've been free of the virus since it started. My movements since we closed school in March has been limited since we are advised to stay indoors if possible to lower the risk of infection, however we were able to continue with our studies online and just recently we went back to school and sat for our end of 3rd year 2nd semester exams from 1st to 12th December. We will be resuming studies again from 4th January in a hybrid mode, (mixture of both online classes and the physical ones). Originally I was to complete my University studies in 2021, however the pandemic may have slightly affected our academic calendar and therefore am not sure if I'll still be able to complete in that timeline. We are yet to receive official communication from the administration which I'll let you know once I receive it. Otherwise God has been great to me and my life; to survive this pandemic since it started up to now is not my doing but his, therefore glory we give to him as we continue praying for the pandemic to come to an end. Thanks again for the support you've been giving me - the upkeep I've been receiving is of great help and all I can say is thank you. May God bless you. I have attached my picture.
*From **Ibrahim***

It's so good to have such feedback from children (now adults!) who have been supported by our charity for many years, and to see just how well some of them are doing. It's also encouraging to know that some of them have maintained a trust and faith in God.

Updates on the younger children:

We currently support 11 children who are at school still – 5 at primary school and 6 at secondary school. We are not accepting any new orphans, so these 11 are the ones we hope to see through to the end of their secondary education, potentially followed by a short period of vocational training. Our Manager has been working hard to coordinate the return to school of all these young people. Sadly one of the girls became pregnant last autumn, but the school have agreed to continue her education and she should be able to complete her 'Form 2' academic year prior to this summer. By then relatives and others should have a plan for how best she can be supported through childbirth and the months

following. As a charity we will be hoping to continue support for her education when and if she is able to return to her studies.

Before Christmas we sent over a little extra money so that each of the children could have something special at Christmas, and some extra for Linda and Lydia too. We greatly appreciate the work of our Manager Linda, and also the support given to by Lydia Gatere from Nairobi. Not only does Lydia 'process' the funds we send over to Kenya each month but she also gives guidance, support and spiritual encouragement.

Pandemic update from Kenya

As this newsletter is prepared the UK is reporting a *daily total* of new Covid cases in the UK of over 60,000, and over 600 deaths daily. Although figures published within Kenya may not be as comprehensive or reliable, the total number of Covid cases since the start of the pandemic is said to be about 97000, with about 2700 deaths. We can praise God that as yet the virus doesn't appear to have spread in quite the same way as in the UK, and that there is hope that at least the Oxford/AstraZenica vaccine will be made available to such countries at cost price.

Prayer Pointers

Please pray...

- For the children and young people as they start back at school/college after many months in lockdown.
- For the Kenyan authorities as they tackle the pandemic. Give thanks that the AstraZeneca vaccine is to be distributed to many developing countries at cost.
- Give thanks for the faithful work for the charity of our Manager, Linda. Please pray she will be able to balance the demands of this work and those of her family and her own new business enterprise.
- Giving thanks for how God has provided us with the funds from individuals and churches to sustain this work.
- That despite the current difficulties our children, young people and adults will still have a real experience of God's love for them.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the work of the Charity: Please contact Pete or Gill Skinner, Carino, Old Gore Lane, Emborough, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 4SJ. Telephone: 01761 232337. Email: peteskinner123@gmail.com

As a result of many of you getting in contact with us about electronic distribution, we are now distributing these newsletters to many supporters by email. *Thank you.*

KANYAWEGI UK
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Treasurer & Secretary: Sally Petit
Sarah Moxham Hendra

(The Committee is also supported by Elizabeth Maggs & Gill Skinner)