Emmanuel Home Newsletter
Jul 2024

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

Mid – Year Update

In this edition of the newsletter we will report on the latest news regarding the remaining young people we support. As many of you will know, we have 10 young people 'on our books' at the moment – all old enough to be at secondary school or college. Thank you to all our readers who pray for our work and firstly we will tell you how the prayer points in the last newsletter have been answered:

- **Update on children struggling with medical conditions:** Ida suffers from Lupus and a few months ago was quite poorly at times. However, her condition has stabilised a bit, she's more mobile and hoping to join college in September. Catherine's apparent need for a specialist diet at boarding school was discussed at a visit to her school's 'parents day', and she now believes she can cope with what the school provides. Otherwise most of the young people are quite well at the moment.
- **Update on options offered** (by the Education Department) **for school leavers:** The three 2023 school finishers have been offered college places, but it's not yet clear which path they will choose. The previous two school leavers from 2022 are now both engaged in productive activity (see more details later in this newsletter).
- **Update on pre-college activities:** There is always a few months gap between young people finishing secondary school and starting college. We were keen for the 3 school leavers from 2023 to make the most of this time. Following the discussions held with the team during the visit to Kisumu in December it was agreed that Ida and Beryl would be provided with funds to set up mini businesses (with the assistance of relatives) and we are hoping to receive brief reports from them about their 'enterprises'. Maurice, on the other hand, wished to learn to drive – so we have been funding that training. If he successfully passes his test he'll have that important skill to offer when he seeks employment.



Update on Linda – our Manager: *(pictured on the right with her eldest son Fulgence)*

Linda's husband passed away unexpectedly early in 2023 and this presented a number of challenges for her for several months.

We supported Linda through her difficult times through prayer, practical advice and some financial assistance (including a small gift to enable her son Fulgence to take part in a short computer course - that he has now successfully completed prior to going to college). We have encouraged Linda to pursue measures that will potentially boost her income. She has now prepared a building on her home compound for renting out, sold her husband's old car, changed her approach to her own chicken business and also obtained some additional part time work to supplement the income she has from 1 day a week (on average) she does for us. We continue to pray that the Lord will sustain and guide her in the coming months.

Update on the school leavers:

In the July newsletter last year we showed pictures of the younger children we support. In this newsletter we can update you on all those who have left secondary school.



Ian Alex: Ian Alex is secondary school age but was struggling so much with his academic studies that he was transferred to a practical Motor Vehicle course at a college. He made a really good start on this, doing well in classes and in practical work at a garage in the holidays – all of which was encouraging. Sadly, after completing just a week of his official 'attachment' (a 3 month practical placement at a different garage) he stopped attending and was deflected by a part-time bar job and unhelpful friendships – thus putting at risk his college place.

He has been given a 'second chance' by the college and will have to re-do the attachment this summer holiday. We have made it plain to him that unless he re-commits himself to his studies we will be unable to continue our funding of his education. His regular 'upkeep' funds are channelled to him through an aunt, giving some protection over how they are used. Please pray that Ian Alex will properly re-engage with his training that previously had been going so well.



Alex *(on left)*: Alex, on the other hand, is one of our oldest young people and is doing well on his Building Technology Diploma and enjoying the course – currently completing a practical placement. He has already completed two semesters of college-based work, but we have yet to receive the report from either. We're hoping that the first semester report will come through soon and give us a better understanding of how he's progressing.



John Lloyd *(on right)***:** He finished school at the same time as Alex (Dec 2022) but has taken a very long time to determine what he wants to do. As a result of some 'pressure' from his uncle, John Lloyd has just started a Diploma in Tourism Management at Zetech University in Nairobi. We will take a keen interest in his progress as our support for

2nd year fees for the young people is conditional on them putting in significant effort in their first year.



Maurice: He is Alex's younger brother. He and the two girls below completed secondary school in Dec 2023. He expressed a desire to learn to drive in the months prior to starting college training and this we were keen to support. He began the driving theory part of the course earlier this year but then couldn't progress to the practical until his National ID had been processed. This has now happened, so he's continuing with the driving. He's been undecided about what course to do afterwards, so please pray he chooses wisely and makes the necessary applications in a timely fashion.



Ida: This able young lady had a series of health issues towards the end of her time in secondary school and since then has been diagnosed with Lupus, which has significantly impacted upon what she's been able to do in recent months. However, we praise God that the symptoms have eased (as mentioned before) and she currently expresses confidence about going to college in September to study Fashion Design. The college is well aware of her condition and is putting in place appropriate support arrangements and flexibilities to enable Ida to continue on the course. We are hoping that she will be able to live fairly close to one of her cousins who will also be able to offer support.

Since leaving school we provided funds for Ida to start a 'mini-business' based around cosmetics and nail work – to use her time productively before starting college. We await a report from her about how that went.

Beryl: Beryl is a single mum who has been very keen to do teacher training. However, her performance at secondary school probably means she doesn't have the right level of academic ability for this career path. Our team in Kenya will be discussing with Beryl the best course of action to proceed.



Beryl also had some financial support from us to start a 'mini-business' (selling second hand clothes), with assistance from relatives – including some who accommodated her at their home in Nairobi so that Beryl could set up a street stall nearby and sell her wares. The hope is that being able to learn some of the skills of running a simple business will have encouraged the development of self-confidence and given her new skills to use in future. We look forward to hearing more from her about how it went.

Please Pray: We know that each of these young people are loved by God and that he wants the best for them. They, like the rest of us, sometimes make mistakes in life but can always turn back to the better way. We would ask you to pray that in this period of transition from dependence to adult independence they will make the most of opportunities available to them and steer clear of unhelpful influences and behaviour.



The charity's 20th Birthday!

In October this year **Kanyawegi UK** (the registered charity) will have been operating for two decades! Over that time at least 150 children and young people have been helped. Whether you are one of the original supporters or have joined us along the way we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. We have faced many struggles in the past but have also been blessed by seeing the difference your support has made in the lives of needy children and young people in Kenya. The Lord has blessed us with relative stability in our operations over the last 5 years in particular. We invite you to continue with us on this journey and to trust Him to help us navigate the next 5 years or so as the final group of young people one by one complete their time with us and leave our programme. *(Cake picture from TracyH at https://cakesdecor.com/TracyH)*

New Prayer Pointers

Please pray...

- For Ian Alex and John Lloyd to engage properly with their studies.
- For the young people at boarding school to learn effectively.
- That those starting college this autumn settle in well and work hard.
- For stability and positive change in Kenya following damage from floods, recent social unrest in Nairobi and political turmoil.

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

Information about the **charity's finances** can be seen on the Charity Commission website: https://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information Choose the 'Start Now' search button and enter **Kanyawegi UK** or the charity number **116296** and you'll be taken to our charity information.