

Hope and Kindness report

Since our last report it has been a very challenging 12 months for Hope and Kindness. Our plans were significantly changed when Judi was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2012 and began treatment that would last for a whole year. During this very challenging period God was very faithful and, despite the inevitable tough times, He brought us through the year stronger and more determined than ever to be kingdom builders in Kenya.

Kenya is a tough place to work in. Kosele is a long way from home (especially when you hear bad news) and it is still heartbreaking to see the struggle for life and livelihood that so many people experience in the community that we work with. The contrast between life in the developed world and living in a developing country is humbling. Judi's illness really brought home to us the miracle of the National Health Service in England and our often casual acceptance of a standard of living that most Kenyans can only dream of.

Putting our trust in God has reminded us how little we achieve in our own strength and how we must be willing to follow His path, whatever we may have planned in good faith. 2012 has been a year of significant growth for our teams in Kenya – in our Primary School and High School, the Church and our Children's Home. The long term aim of Hope and Kindness is to equip and train Kenyan leaders who will make sure that Hope and Kindness continues long into the future. Every good leader in the bible trained a successor to continue God's work and leave a legacy of service to the Kingdom. Our management team stood confidently in the gap when Terry had to return home to care for Judi. Making sure that nearly two hundred children receive a good education, loving care and are fed every day is a tall order. We have been very encouraged by the commitment, courage and determination shown by Mary, Isaiah and Duncan and by the strong team spirit that is growing between them.

Our friends Ian and Hilda McMillan have, once again, been an invaluable support in Kosele over the last twelve months. As a result of their patience, loving kindness and unwavering encouragement our church has grown much stronger. In August 2012 our church was formally adopted into the Elim Gospel Church of Kenya. The national leaders of the church visited Kosele for a week-end during which they ran training sessions for our church leaders and celebrated the adoption of our new pastors Dorine and Kennedy. Ian and Hilda have been a great help to Dorine and Kennedy and were instrumental in extending their ministry to include a ladies' Bible study, men's meetings, Farming God's Way training, Young Mother's group, teaching in our primary school and providing guidance and counseling for the youngsters living in our Children's Home.

The Agriculture College that we started in January 2012 has been expanded to bring it up to High School status and we welcomed new students into Form 1 in January 2013 (the start of the academic year in Kenya). Despite some disruption to learning caused by the Presidential Election at the beginning of this year, both of our schools continue to make good progress. We are looking forward to 2013 as a year of significant growth as we pursue new training initiatives with our teaching staff, develop the young leaders training and discipleship for some of our older children and continue to improve our farming activities.

As we move forward in 2013 we would like to thank all of you who have continued to support us faithfully and generously with finances and prayer. We value your prayers and know that together we can achieve great things for God in Kosele.

Terry and Judy