

Hope and Kindness

It has been an exciting year for Hope and Kindness as we continue in our mission to provide the best education and care that we can for the children and help them fulfil God's purpose in their lives.

When Judi was diagnosed with cancer in 2012 a number of our plans had to change. Fortunately our team in Kenya were able to continue pushing our work forwards. Judi was able to come back to Kenya again in July 2013 and has, since then, been back in the thick of it working particularly hard with our primary school teachers. We thank God that Judi's health has been restored and are looking forward to seeing the fruits of her commitment to the primary school children and their teachers.

Our schools have continued to grow in the last twelve months. Our primary school now has 180 pupils and, since January 2014, our secondary school has 50 students. Education is still a significant priority in the lives of our young people and their families. We are privileged to be able to offer our students the opportunity to study in a safe and stimulating environment, with caring teachers. Our church pastors, Dorine and Kennedy have started to play a bigger role in school life this year and we believe that the combination of focusing on God and improving teaching and learning will have a major impact on the students' lives and on our community.

We have very nearly come to the end of our school building program this year. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have, since 2008, been able to add new classrooms to our schools. As I type builders are making the roof trusses for the last two classrooms that we need for our primary school. Having purpose built classrooms has been very encouraging for both our students and their teachers. Our next priorities are to add further resources – computers, a science lab and books for our library.

Over the last twelve months we have added to the number of young people living in our children's home. As we have increased the number of students coming to our secondary school we have found it necessary to provide a home for girls who have to walk a long distance to our school. Many secondary schools have had to build dormitories for girls attending secondary school to give them a better chance of finishing their secondary education. Being a young woman is very tough in our community. Many become mothers too young or become victims in other ways of a very chauvinistic culture and a community that has very few fathers to give a strong Christian role model to young men.

Thanks to the work of Ian and Hilda McMillan, our friends from Scotland, our church has been growing stronger this year. We have a regular attendance of about 50 adults and up to 100 children and young people. Our pastors, Dorine and Kennedy have been working together to create a strong vision and strategy for building up the church members and increasing the impact that the church has in the local community. Fighting against a very 'old testament' culture, where Christian worship and traditional belief systems go hand in hand in people's lives, is a very tough mission field. The church will be responding to Dorine and Kennedy's call to believe that "God is enough" in the coming year(s) and we are praying that this focus on God's all-sufficiency will bring a breakthrough in the church members' faith and the church's outreach.

Judi and Terry have just (January 2014) signed up to become Elim Missionaries and are looking forward to the new opportunities that this stronger link with Elim Missions will bring. We are hoping, in particular, that we will be able to encourage more volunteers to come and work with us. (If you are interested in short-term mission with us or just paying a short visit please let Pastor Robin know).

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Finally our thanks to all at OCC who have encouraged us, prayed for us, provided financial support for both Hope and Kindness and Terry and Judi personally and spread the word about our work. None of what we do would be possible without you.