

## From destitution to dignity



Abigail Ministries enabled a few more women to start micro-businesses. Catherine is now selling second hand shoes in a nearby market. Anne has added bead work to the tie and dye work she does with the Group. Sophia is selling charcoal and kerosene from a roadside stall. Milkah, an ex-happy ending girl who is now a mother has added embroidery work to her dress-making skills. Gladys chose a different route and is now training to become a hairdresser.

Veronica has always been one of our most motivated mums. Unlike most, she received some education as a girl until her father could no longer pay her school fees. Veronica is determined her 3 children will have a full education. She has made a wonderful success of the micro-business Abigail Ministries enabled her to set up, selling cooked and raw sweet potatoes. From her profits she has piece by piece bought the materials to build a lovely home for her family which is tastefully adorned

with net curtains. She is very house-proud and hard working and we are thrilled that she is now virtually self-sufficient.

When asked what would help her most, Soap-group mum Helen told us her husband Joseph pulled a cart, transporting goods through the streets of Nairobi. The cart belonged to someone else, however, to whom Joseph had to pass over most of his hard earned money. If only he owned his own cart then all the money earned would be his to buy food for his family and pay the rent for the tiny hut he and Helen share with their two children. Lindsay and Nicodemus, the carpentry teacher, went up to Nairobi with Helen

to meet Joseph and bought him his own brand new cart. The couple were both overcome with joy and gratitude. Joseph is now making good money and hopes to soon be able to afford to buy a second cart and employ someone else.

Beth is an old friend by now. We first knew her as an apparently frail old lady whose only means of income was from selling firewood she collected in the forest and brought back in bundles tied to her back. Frequently unable to get to the forest and therefore with no income to pay her rent she was eventually evicted from her iron-sheet hut and moved in to a mud hut with her three grandchildren. Last year we built her a chicken hut and gave her some chickens. She built up a good business selling eggs, so much so that she used her own initiative and started making rope as an alternative means of income in case her chickens died. We wanted to reward her hard work and perseverance so gave her money to buy the material in bulk for the rope thus lowering her costs and increasing productivity. Beth now has a big smile on her face, walks with a spring in her step and looks 20 years younger.

One of the greatest encouragements Roger, Shena and Lindsay had on their visit in February was to feel confident that a few of the 'mums' we have been working with for a few years are now self-sufficient.

### God's mercy is boundless!

Continually we are witnessing that He can do immeasurably more than all we ask or can imagine as we see Him pouring out His love and compassion on the widows, the orphans and the generally destitute. It is such a privilege and cause to give thanks and praise to Him as each time we visit our friends we see them stand taller and their smiles get bigger as their hopes grow for a brighter future.



Net curtains add a touch of elegance to Veronicah's iron hut.

# Our thanks to YOU

Again, many thanks to all our fellow workers, sponsors, regular donors, fund raisers and prayer partners. God has given us different roles to play but He has touched all our hearts to be part of this work called Abigail Ministries, reaching out to help the poor people of Kenya and giving them hope for the future.

## Prayer Points

- ✿ Praise and thanks to God for His wonderful work and provision.
- ✿ For mums with micro-businesses trying for the first time to budget and manage money.
- ✿ For the development of the Soap and Tie and Dye Groups and for resources to establish workshops.
- ✿ For all the sponsored children and teenagers at Schools, Colleges and on Apprenticeship Courses.
- ✿ For wise use of the land.
- ✿ For people to catch Abigail Ministries' vision and work alongside us in the UK.
- ✿ For one or two trustworthy Kenyans to work for Abigail Ministries full time in Kenya.
- ✿ For God's guidance into the future and to know His will for Abigail Ministries.
- ✿ For Roger and Shená's visit to Kenya in the autumn and for wisdom in planning a group visit with Abigail Ministries next year.



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## Ways you can become a fellow-worker with Abigail Ministries:

- ✿ Commit to praying regularly for a particular mum and her family
- ✿ Sponsor a child
- ✿ Become a regular donor
- ✿ Donate a food parcel (£10)
- ✿ Provide money for a micro-business (£75)
- ✿ Sponsor a new roof (£100)
- ✿ Give a one-off donation
- ✿ Organise a fund-raising event
- ✿ Sponsor a charity run

If you would like to get more involved with the work of Abigail Ministries, just fill in your details and the way in which you would like to be involved and return the slip to the address above.

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|-------------------|
| Name:             |
| Address:          |
| Postcode:         |
| Telephone Number: |
| Email Address:    |
| Involvement:      |

Thank you!