

Abigail NEWS

Autumn 2007

With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

This is the main lesson God has taught me over the past few months. I have to admit that as I wrote the last Newsletter asking for prayers and your help financially to build the Craft Centre at Daylove and the Training Centre at New Hope I really couldn't imagine where all the money was going to come from. O ye of little faith! This is God's work and He always provides what we need beyond our expectations.



The first phases of both the Craft Centre and the Training Centres are now complete and they can be in operation with basic requirements by Christmas.

The most pressing need we have now is for a Manager of the Craft Centre at Daylove – but God will provide the right person, we are sure.

As I read through the prayer points in the last Newsletter I see how God has answered so many of those prayers. We had a wonderful visit in the summer with 12 other fantastic people.

They worked hard, they played hard, they prayed hard. Their ages ranged from 18 – 62 but the team spirit was amazing and all were moved by hearts of deep compassion for the people they met and their focus was totally unselfish, absorbed in finding ways to bring whatever hope and comfort they could. All came home determined to continue the work and most can't wait to go back! Two of the group are seriously praying about God's will for them to go back longer term.

Read on. Let them tell their own stories!



My first impression when I arrived with others at Daylove is that it is a safe haven for the children. Conditions are basic for the children living in the hostel accommodation but this is luxury compared to the conditions of the houses around the neighbourhood. The local housing resembled garden sheds with little sanitation or clean drinking water. I worked on constructing the new craft centre, which will see more economic growth for the parents of Daylove children. Teenagers lead daily lively church devotion services, which underpins their desire to serve God in whatever they do.

It was an amazing experience to visit New Hope Children's Home, which has less facilities than Daylove. They will benefit from a construction of a new training centre as well. New Hope children are fervent Christians like Daylove, who want to succeed in life. The presentations and show put on for the team were very emotional but showed what talents God has given them to help them succeed in whatever they do in the future.

Malcolm

I got to meet my little sponsor girl Grace and it was so overwhelming to be able to build a relationship with her. We couldn't speak the same language so we just made up our own. The teenagers were great and had so many questions about life and growing up. However, it was shocking how little they knew. We had five great sessions with them and learnt some great dance moves too. I had such a great time and enjoyed so much, however there were moments when you couldn't help but cry when you saw the poverty the people lived in. One moment which really brought it home to me was when I looked into one of the class rooms and saw they were playing with all our old rubbish - crisp packets, and even the top of a pineapple. One child later came up to us and asked to buy the foil top off a Philadelphia cheese packet. It was so challenging. Their level of poverty was so high they wanted to use our rubbish as toys. Seeing where they lived was very hard. The old shed in my garden is more waterproof than their homes. I thought I always did pretty well at understanding poverty, giving money to charity and not being materialistic, but going has really opened my eyes to what poverty really is and has changed my outlook on many things. I realise I'm not even close to understanding it to the full extent. Although they are so poor they are still so generous and that I will always remember. Their welcome to us was amazing. They gave us all they could but the most important things they gave were their smiles, their love and an amazing example of their faith in Jesus.

Miriam



Spending just over 2 weeks at Daylove in Kenya has been an experience I'll never forget and was just not long enough. I learnt such a lot from everybody there, both the team and the Kenyans. This experience has really strengthened my trust in God, as I saw Him working every day, answering both our prayers and those of the people we were working with.

I was involved with the Children's Evangelism and with the Bag-making Group, as well as visiting houses and other group activities. They were really encouraging experiences as it was great to see how quickly the children learnt the songs (and dances) and some of the stories, and to see how motivated and conscientious the women were who were making the bags. Although I personally didn't do much bag-making (I left that to Gerry and the ladies' capable hands!) it was great to see their skills develop over such a short period, and the bags were so good we bought nearly all of them at the end!

There were many challenges on this holiday, especially after visiting the homes and seeing just how poor the people were and the conditions they had to live in. But I was doubly challenged by their generosity, and how they shared with us the little they had. I would love to return, as bonds were formed even in such a short space of time, both to try and be of more help there, but also to learn more from them about faith and trust in God.

Laila



- The Daylove children welcomed us warmly with open arms, no questions asked, and from the beginning they melted our hearts. They were ready to receive love and poured out their love to us in the short time we were there, touching us beyond belief. This is a very 'hands on' project and our sadness is that it was not longer and that we have left children behind in conditions that for us are unthinkable. I saw Alan moved to tears on several occasions and for a man who hides his emotions so well this was so revealing. We are both sad that we could not do more.
- Our welcome at New Hope gave us so much hope as we saw God at work in that place. What a thrill it was to receive letters of welcome from the children – again the tears flowed. To see the first markers put in for the new Training Centre was incredible – a place that will bring yet more hope to young people trying so hard to make a living for themselves and to exist in such a tough economy. To share a simple meal with a shepherd was to be touched at first hand by the love of God as that family shared their all with us. A humbling experience.
- For Alan the lack of safety in the building work was both an amusement and a horror. The Kenyan builders seemed to have a disregard for their own safety and used methods which to us were downright dangerous – but what else can they do. No JCB's, no power tools, no lifting gear, no protective clothing, no scaffolding, no ladders – only their own ingenuity and strength and patience beyond measure.
- It was a privilege to work with a small group of young mums making bags and encouraging them in skills that will provide a living. It was incredible to see them blossom as they realised that this was something they could do – it was within their power, with the right motivation, to carry this thing on and make a go of it. To hear them taking on the ideas of working together and building something for the future was so worthwhile – our prayers are that they will continue and that the difficulties of the next few months will not deter them in any way.
- God is at work. At times the sense of hopelessness in the conditions, the sheer poverty, the sense that what can be done is so small – all this can take over and blot out what is really happening. God is working, little by little God is making a difference through Abigail Ministries. Lives are being touched and changed, individuals are beginning to understand that someone cares for them and will not desert them. God's love is touching these people in a very real and practical way.
- God is at work in us too – it has been thrilling to feel and know and be touched by the power of God. Only His strength, Power, Protection – nothing of our own – got us through. And I am so grateful.

Geraldine and Alan

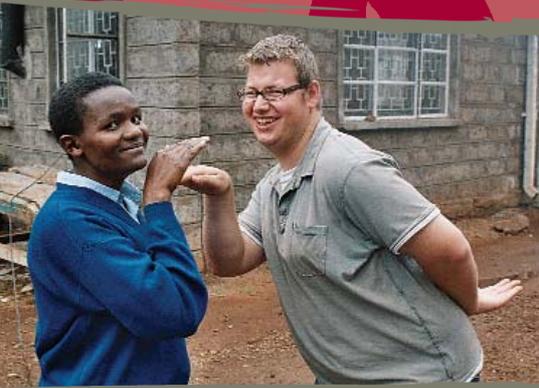
“God works for good to those who love him” (Romans 8v28) was the main messages the Children’s Evangelism Team taught the children at Daylove over five sessions. The younger children loved to learn about Joseph through songs with actions, stories with pictures, quizzes and play. I enjoyed spending time with some of the older boys who were keen to discuss the Bible. I was shocked by the conditions in the village. I was amazed at the transformation to Grace’s house by the building team. The highlight of the trip was our visit to New Hope Children’s Centre, I was moved when each team member received handwritten letters and a silk flower from the older girls. My dreams came true going on safari which was a relaxing time to marvel at God’s creation in the stunning scenery and the variety of animals we saw. But my main memory will be of the people we met with so little, but yet seemed happy and had a strong faith in God. They challenged me to be grateful for what I have and to strengthen my faith in God.

Philip



I had a very interesting trip this year! I really love the people over there but I felt completely inadequate. I really wanted to help them. God showed me that it is only through Him that we can help these people. The work the team did was amazing – many, many people’s lives will improve as a result. Everyone had such an amazing time and it was really special to see. One particular highlight for me was actually seeing the pump I had run 10 miles to raise the money for – all that hard work paid off! Eunice’s family are benefiting so much from having easy access to water and now their ability to earn their own living has greatly increased.

Lindsay



I am so grateful to Abigail Ministries for making the trip possible, for arranging everything that we did while we were in Kenya and for everything that they are continuing to do now we are home. I am thankful for:-

- A**n amazing group of Kids that we were so privileged to meet
- B**uilding work that we took part in – for the Craft centre and at Grace’s house
- I**ncredibly progress with the bag making and those who made it possible
- G**enerosity of the people whom we visited and for the opportunity to meet them
- A** fantastic team of people with a variety of skills and talents
- I**ndividuals who throughout the trip touched our hearts in so many different ways
- L**adies work – for the progress with screen printing and beadwork
- M**agnificent scenery and wildlife on Safari and the break that this gave us
- I**nternal relationships within the team and the support we offered each other
- N**ew Hope – the fantastic work that they do with the orphaned children
- I**nspiration of Roger and Shena and the plans they have for Abigail in the future
- S**taff at Daylove and the hard work that they do all the year round
- T**een talks – that the youth were open and that they learnt from the sessions
- R**elationship with Diana and for the food that she prepared and cooked for us
- I**t’s a knockout and the fun that we had through organising and taking part
- E**ggs – and never having to cook 200+ ever again!
- S**adness of leaving but desire for another visit in the future

Edward

Prayer Points

- ✿ Thanks for the way God is continuing to transform the lives of these needy people
- ✿ Thanks for a fantastic Group visit in August
- ✿ Thanks for the wonderful way each member of the team responded to the challenges God gave them
- ✿ Pray for God’s guidance for each one as to their further ministry in Kenya
- ✿ Thanks for the completion of the first phases of both buildings
- ✿ Pray for funding for the next phases of the building projects
- ✿ Pray for a Manager for the Craft Centre at Daylove
- ✿ Pray for Roger and Shena that they know God’s will for their future in this work

This trip helped me see why I’m trying to do my bit for the people of Dagoretti. I’ve been there before but it still never really sank in. The first time I went, meeting Grace (the little girl I sponsor) was the big thing for me but this time, despite being REALLY pleased to see her again and being so happy to basically re-build her family’s house, it was the big picture that hit me; but not the one I expected. Yes, I know they are poor and needy and financially I can have an impact on some people, but I never thought what many of them would want is just someone to give them attention, someone to shake their hand, ultimately - someone to love them! That hit me hard this time. Saying goodbye to a bunch of children you’ve lived with and loved for two weeks while they are crying over their food because you are leaving, is tough. Some of those kids don’t have the type of family most of us are blessed with. The children at New Hope obviously feel loved by ‘Mum’ (Anne) and ‘Dad’ (Tirus) and I felt the children at Daylove just want that too. To feel loved. Language was never a problem, just sitting with them was enough. Seeing teenagers who WANT to learn was also amazing for me, as so many of the kids I teach here take education for granted. I had a wonderful time with a fantastic team and I’m thankful I have them all close to talk through the memories and experiences. I’ll never forget our time in Kenya 2007 - and I can’t wait to go back!

Beccy

Abigail
MINISTRIES

Abigail Ministries, PO BOX 811, HARROW, HA2 2EG
T 020 8861 1674 F 020 8723 1331

E enquiries@abigailministries.org W www.abigailministries.org

Registered Charity No. 1106824