

Abigail NEWS

Spring 2008



THANK YOU for your response

Roger, Shena, Lindsay and Beccy were very disappointed to have to cancel their trip in February due to the rioting that was taking place in Kenya at the time. They were, therefore, unable, to progress with the work they had planned to do then. Sending money a number of times to help the families with their basic living costs, was, however, the highest priority at the time.

We are very grateful to all of you who responded so generously with donations to help us provide emergency aid for our Abigail families and for the many displaced families who moved from

their own worse hit slums into the Daylove area during the crisis period. The money also helped with reinforcing the perimeter fence at Daylove, making the whole compound more secure.

We are thankful all our friends are safe, although still experiencing difficulties because of the unstable economy and increase in living costs. Many of the displaced families have not yet returned to their own areas – in many cases they have no homes to return to!

ZIPPORAH'S STORY



Zipporah is an elderly lady who is one of our most faithful workers in the Soap-Making Project. She doesn't speak any

English, but she is able to tell us by her wonderful, hard-life ravaged, beaming face when she hugs us just how much she appreciates what is being done for her. Over the years we have helped her re-build her house which was nothing more than an empty, dilapidated and very dark shed. It was Zipporah, we hear, who led the prayers at the Service of Thanksgiving to God and for Abigail Ministries which was held at Daylove one Sunday after we sent them money to help during the emergency situation. She asked Daylove to send us this message.

"I had been facing a lot of trying moments during these past few months. My son had an accident and his hospital bill was draining every last penny. The food parcel I received was very timely as I was by then going to bed hungry. Shena and Roger should know that we always remember them in our prayers and that we know they are not obligated to us in any way but are freely obeying God's word in Deut 15:11 '...you shall freely open your hand to your brother, to the needy and poor in the land'."

JOHN'S STORY



John grew up in a fairly happy and stable but very poor home. We first knew him as a young teenager in the Tailoring Class at Daylove. Even then, he stood out as a bright friendly boy with lots of drive. Through sponsorship, we were able to provide him with his Happy Ending Pack which included a sewing machine, material and haberdashery to start him off on his first business. John quickly realised a mobile phone would be of great use to him in finding customers further afield and so with his early wages he bought a phone and also a bike. To supplement his earnings, John started selling eggs and within a relatively short time he was able to buy his own premises. When we saw him last August he was managing to provide quite comfortably for his wife and baby. John's business premises were in Kibera, however, one of the worst hit slums in the recent riots and sadly, one day they were burnt to the ground. John was absolutely devastated. He sent out a plea for help. Knowing how hard he had worked to build up his business, Abigail Ministries immediately responded and then hearing about his plight, his sponsor also responded generously. As a result, John has been able to restart his business in a different location and recently we received this message about him from Eunice at Daylove.

"John says the day he received the first amount to start off a new business was a remarkable one for him. Having worked hard to establish the small business that he saw grow gradually as a result of his unfailing determination and hard work and then wake up one morning and find it burnt to ashes was something he will never forget. With tears running down his cheeks he told the staff at Daylove that he had lost all hope in life. Having moved out of the slum area and taking care of his wife and child, living in a more comfortable house, he could not comprehend the reality that he had to return to living in one single room with his brother. All this changed when the money from AM arrived. His face glowed as the great blessing was explained to him. He has been able to start a new business and he promises to continue to work hard."

SARAH'S STORY



Sarah lived by the edge of a rut on the road which served as a sewage drain. She had to step down into her house because the floor was about 2 feet below ground level. This meant the sewage water sometimes seeped up through her floor and in the rainy season this was

unbearable for her and her family. The house was dirty and smelly. The roof was a mishmash of materials which didn't fit together, so an old oil drum sat permanently on the children's bed to catch the rain as it poured in between the cracks. Some time ago we had promised Sarah we would rebuild her house and she was very excitedly looking forward to the Group going out in August when the work was going to be done. Just before we went we heard that a new hospital was going to be built nearby and major work was being carried out in the road

alongside Sarah's house, making it impossible for us to work there. When we visited her she was absolutely broken-hearted. Her dreams had been shattered. However, one of the young couples on the trip took Sarah's plight to heart and they set about finding a new home for her with the promise that they would take on the responsibility of paying her rent. She is now happily settled in her brand new home and Daylove has sent this message.

"Sarah wants to express her gratitude for the support you are providing by paying her rent. She is now able to provide meals for her family and doesn't have to worry about her rent. This has allowed her to focus on other issues and has made her life much better than before. She adds that she considers herself very fortunate because she was singled out from among many needy mums and offered this lift in life. She says she will remain forever grateful to all of you out there."

Fantastic news from NEW HOPE

We recently received this wonderful email from Anne:

“Go tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere: go shout in the valleys that New Hope has electricity. We do not have suitable words to express our joy but we thank and honour God for the end of a nightmare.

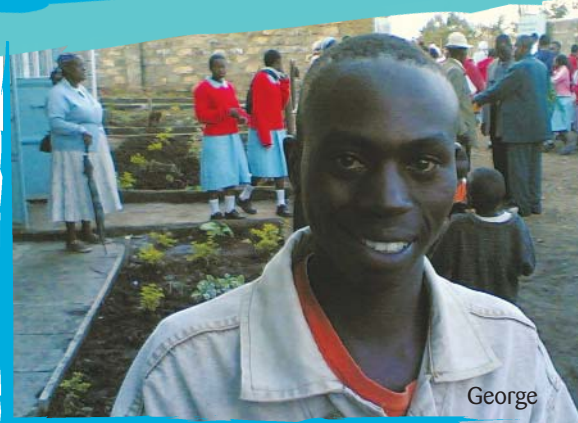
Our Scripture is Deut. 8 v. 2: Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these 40 years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands.”

The poles have been there for at least 2 years. The fees have been paid, but still New Hope didn't have electricity and, therefore, nothing to drive the borehole which could provide desperately needed water. As a result, water still arrived several times daily, drum by drum, on a donkey cart. You can imagine how difficult and expensive it was to provide water for personal washing, cooking, dish washing and clothes washing for 150 children, not to mention general cleaning of the property!! Nevertheless, this is how they have managed at New Hope for the past 2 years because Anne refused to pay the bribe the Government was demanding from her to actually get the electricity connected and switched on. We thank God that her testimony and faithfulness has held firm and she has now been rewarded. At 6.30pm on Friday 11th April, New Hope at last got electricity.

This also means, of course, we have electricity in the TRAINING CENTRE as all the necessary wiring etc was installed during the building process.

THE NEED FOR OTHER SUPPORT CONTINUES TO GROW

The number of children being rescued from dire poverty and abuse and being brought to New Hope continues to rise. Families living in the community around New Hope also need help! We plan to visit them in October.



George



Maureen



Hannah

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are very proud of several of our sponsored children at New Hope who have just graduated from High School with excellent grades. **George, Maureen** and **Carolyn** all plan to go on to University while **Hannah** is hoping to do a **Secretarial Course** and **Lucy** wants to train in **Catering and Accommodation**. WELL DONE TO ALL of them. These are children who have been rescued from extreme poverty and in some cases abuse but through the love and care given at New Hope they now face a bright future. There are many more children at New Hope and in the surrounding area. If you would like to help give another youngster hope, please consider sponsoring either a young child or a teenager.





Would you like to help?

There are still lots of young children to sponsor and at the moment the cost of doing so remains at £15 per month.

Unfortunately, however, because of the rise in costs in Kenya, we have to raise the cost of sponsoring a teenager at High School to £18 per month.

As we haven't been able to visit Kenya since the riots, we cannot be specific about the cost of HOPE and COMFORT items AM usually provides. We just know that prices have rocketed and so we will be very grateful for all general donations you might like to give to help these needy people.

We again want to thank you all for your ongoing encouragement, support, and prayers. We appreciate all of it because without you Abigail Ministries would not be able to do this work.

Craft Centre

The Craft Centre building at Daylove is now complete and the ladies are happily working in their own premises, sewing bags, making bead wall-hangings and tying fabric to make into other items. They are still working with the minimum of equipment but we hope to have the Centre fully equipped and functioning by the end of the year. The Training Centre at New Hope should also be fully equipped and functioning by then.

Prayer Points

- ✦ Thanks that all our families were kept safe during the recent conflict
- ✦ Pray for stability in Kenya
- ✦ Pray for all round better living conditions for the needy people in Kenya
- ✦ Pray that AM might in some way be able to help re-settle some of the displaced families
- ✦ Pray for a Manager for the Craft Centre at Daylove
- ✦ Pray for direction for Roger, Shena, Lindsay and Beccy as they plan their next visit

Abigail
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