

Abigail NEWS

Spring 2010

SHENA'S VILLAGE



It was a day of great rejoicing and praise. Twelve poverty trapped families living in derelict shacks were allotted a space on the piece of land AM has bought. Although at present it is just a piece of scrub land the hope these destitute people have in the promise of a house being built for them over the next few months was enough for them on the day we dedicated the land. Most of them fell on their knees in tears and in prayer as they stepped for the first time onto their 'OWN' land. One man, Timothy, told us it is the first time in his life he has owned anything. Up to now most of them have lived in crumbling mud huts along the railway line, squatting on land they do not own and under constant threat of eviction. For the first time in their lives they will be secure, each able to cultivate the small shamba they will have adjacent to their house and be able to grow vegetables to feed their children without thinking they may not be there long enough to reap the harvest of the seeds they have sown.



We look forward to the day when our families move into their homes and this wasteland becomes a vibrant community. We expect the great day to be in September!

One Of Our Future Villagers

BETH

Beth stood beaming a huge welcoming smile as we arrived to visit her. The idyllic arch of greenery she stood under gave us no idea as to what lay beyond. Beth lives in a mud hut on the slopes of the railway line.

Some people from a local church had helped her build it. It was probably fairly safe then but that was a long time ago! Years of rainy seasons and trains rushing past a few yards above have rendered it a death trap. She lives there with her granddaughter, also called Beth, who she kept off school for the day when she knew we were going to visit her. Her grandson also stays with her although in a separate hut, and she would have kept him off school also but he was sitting an exam that day.

If her house stays standing until her new one in Shena's Village is built it will be a miracle!! She is very, very grateful for the gift of land given to her and for the promise of a new house there soon.

We took her a present of a suferia, potatoes and unga when we visited her. Having carried the vegetables into her house in the suferia she looked very embarrassed when reminding us as we left we had forgotten to take it with us. She couldn't believe it and had tears in her eyes when we told her the suferia was for her to keep. To Beth, the present of a cooking pot was amazing!

She later sent us this message:

'May God's blessings be with you forever, may God light your paths wherever you pass, may God add you more years as He did to Hezekiah. May your children and grandchildren be called BLESSED'

We still need the money to build Beth's house. Would you like to help us and be instrumental in giving this lovely grandmother a secure, stable home where she and her grandchildren don't have to be afraid of losing their home every time a train passes by!?





RUTH'S STORY

Five years ago four teenage girls were brought to us to ask if we would sponsor a tailoring course for each of them. They were so sullen and uninterested we sent them away telling them we were not going to sponsor them with that ungrateful attitude. A few hours later they crept back, looking very shame-faced, asking our forgiveness and pleading with us to reconsider. They promised to work hard if only we would facilitate them with their tailoring courses. Ruth was the leader and spokesperson for the group.

They didn't all make it through to the end of the course but

Ruth did and we bought her a sewing machine when she completed her training. The last time we heard of Ruth she had managed to get a job working for another tailor some distance from New Hope.

During our visit to New Hope this year, a beautiful, smiling young woman came to visit us who we hardly recognised as Ruth. She told us she has just started up her own business making curtains in Nakuru, one of the larger towns in Kenya. She has a steady boyfriend who she hopes to marry when they have saved enough money.

She came to express her gratitude for what AM has done to help her be who she is to-day. She also told us how thankful she will always be to New Hope who took her in when she was brought there as a destitute little girl by her brother and sister who could not afford to look after her after their parents died.

Ruth's story is just one of the many that gives us and Anne and Tirus so much joy and encouragement to carry on.



Ten Days In The Life Of Charles Kimani

Charles and Margaret are a young couple with two small children, the youngest just a baby.

Friday 19th February 2010

Up to this day Charles suffered severe epilepsy all his life and prone to frequent seizures which made it impossible for him to keep a job other than casual work. This meant he was unable to provide for his family.

Saturday 20th February 2010

Charles and his wife Margaret are given the gift of a shamba in Shena's Village and the promise of a house there in a few months time. Charles is overwhelmed and cannot stop showing us his gratitude. He listens intently to the two messages given that day about the land being a gift from God, the owner of all the earth and about Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Monday 22nd February and Tuesday 23rd February 2010

We get a call from a Pastor on Tuesday to tell us he had visited Charles the previous evening and Charles has accepted Jesus as his Saviour.

Wednesday 24th February 2010

A radiant Charles visits us at New Hope. It is obvious the second he walks in the door he is bursting to tell us his news. He tells us about

the change he already feels in his life. During the past two days he has been aware when he was about to fall down and was able to sit before he actually fell and so not hurt himself. He knows this is God protecting him. He now realises how much God has already been protecting him over the years because sometimes he used to fall down on the busy Highway, yet he has never been hurt. One time the Mungiki (the revolutionary group) tried to get him to join them and they beat him up when he refused. He believes God stopped him then and he believes God has been protecting him because he has a definite plan for his life. Charles now wants to live to serve God.

His clothes are very dirty and he tells us he wants to look for clean clothes so that he can go to church. Roger gives him a pair of new trousers he has never worn and Cecilia gives him two shirts from New Hope. He is delighted. We also give him a Bible which he immediately starts reading.

Sunday 28th February 2010

Charles goes to church, stands up and testifies and is received into Church Fellowship.

We have since heard Charles believes he is healed of his epilepsy as he has had no more seizures.

Another transformed life!!



Seed School...

The children at SEED SCHOOL continue to enchant us with their big eyes and beautiful smiles. The teachers continue to amaze us by their creativity as they struggle on with so little resources. We were delighted to provide more text books when we visited them and the teachers were incredibly grateful for this vital but inadequate gift as it meant children now have one text book between three!! We greatly admire all the staff for their dedication and love for these needy children. A child need only be absent for one day for a member of staff to visit the home to find out

why and what assistance might be needed. A permanent site for the school is a high priority as the temporary buildings they are in are totally unsuitable. We are hoping to help with the building when we visit with a group in April 2011.

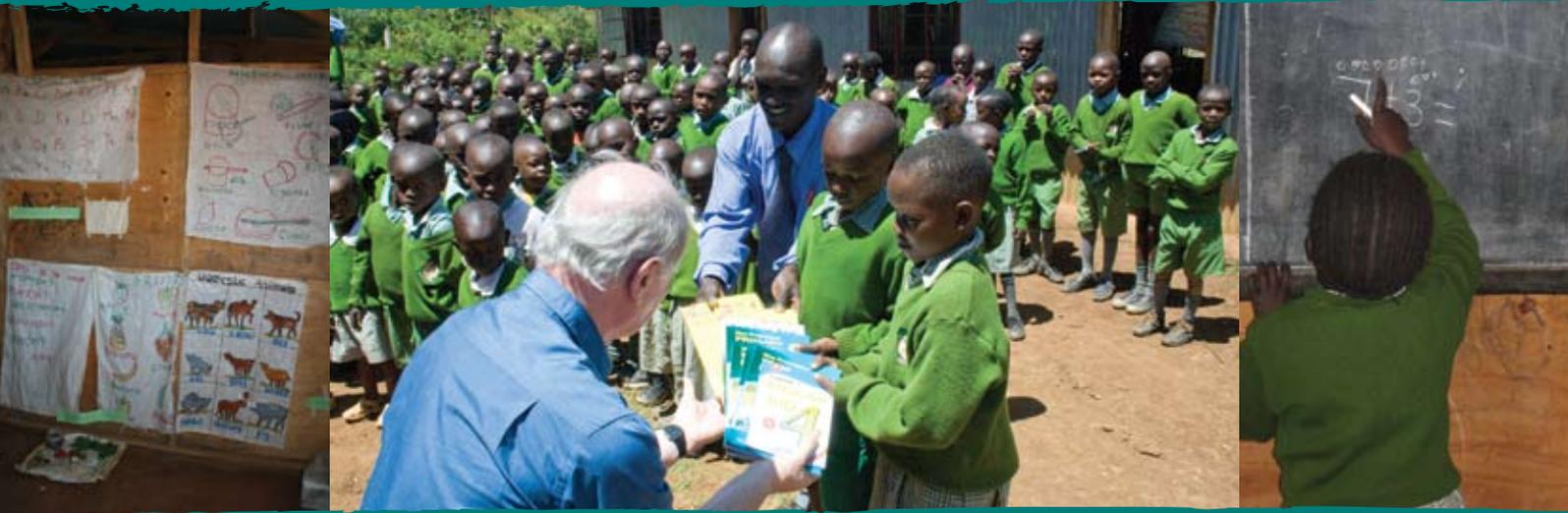
If you would like to help fund this Project please send us a donation, but even better, why not join the team next year and get to know the children personally as you build their new school for them.



Sponsor a needy child at seed school

There are still individual children who need sponsorship. Many of the children at Seed School are orphans or cared for by elderly grandmothers left with the responsibility of bringing them up after their mothers have either died or abandoned them. Many of these grandmothers are unable to work and still desperately need help. Other children have abusive parents or ones who are addicted to drugs or alcohol. Although primary education has been free in Kenya for the past few years it is not compulsory and because some of these

parents are uneducated themselves they do not understand the importance of it for their child. Children are still kept at home to work or sent out to beg rather than be sent to school. If a child is sponsored, however, this gives the school leverage to persuade the parents to send the child to school. Please consider offering a child at Seed School the opportunity of a better life and hope for the future through your sponsorship.



TEAM VISIT APRIL 2011

We are planning to take a Group to visit the SEEDS and REEDS Project in WESTERN KENYA and NEW HOPE CHILDREN'S CENTRE in the SOUTHERN RIFT VALLEY region in April next year. The dates will be from 8th – 25th. Those who have visited with us in the past have had a wonderful and life changing experience. Why not come and find out for yourself? Please fill in the form and send it to us to get more details.

TRANSFORMED LIVES!!

When we met Leah, Susan, Jane and Theresa 18 months ago they were brewing liquor and all desperately unhappy and wanting to change their lives. They felt trapped, however, and could not see a way out. We had a talk with them then and then again last Easter when we visited them once more but we were still not totally convinced of their commitment to change. However, we asked them what other business they would like to do, they told us and we arranged with them that if they raised half the money they needed, we would match it and give them the other half. We waited, we wondered and we prayed for them.

WOW! What a transformation we found when we visited them in February! The ladies have worked SO hard and have totally turned their lives around. They met us with joy, laughter and with huge hugs and thanks. Leah and Susan have opened a small hotel where they welcomed us with great enthusiasm, very happy to be serving us some of their traditional African tea and food. At the front of the hotel they have a small butchery where they are able to sell the meat of a whole cow every two days as well as other meat. We gave them some custom by buying meat for lunch for the children of Seed School – a rare treat for them!



Jane has bought a small piece of land and a nice home for herself and her children and Theresa has opened a small grocery Kiosk. All four are almost deliriously happy because they have been enabled to start new lives, and we with them give thanks to God for His love and mercy to them in making this possible and freeing them from the bondage they had been in for so long. These prodigals have come home!!

Support For Families

Experience has taught us that in some cases sponsoring one child within a family is not the best way forward. The aim of AM, wherever possible, is to help families to become financially secure and independent and for parents to take responsibility for their own children's welfare.

SOME parents have become totally dependent on us for paying their children's High

School fees, and are not making progress towards becoming self-supporting, partly because we have not had sufficient funds to help them take steps to become self-sufficient by enabling them to establish income-generating micro-businesses or land cultivation.

We would like, therefore, to extend our scheme of sponsoring WHOLE families

rather than one individual child within the family. This way actually helps more people both short-term and long-term. AM believes very strongly in establishing FAMILY life and we believe this way of sponsoring will eventually result in more stable, financially secure families and communities in the future.

This scheme would only be for parents we know to be reliable

and hard-working, and who we know live in the conditions they do solely because of where and when they were born!

The average time we have found it takes for parents to manage to progress from poverty to self-sufficiency is 5 years.



RESPONSE FORM

- I would like to sponsor a family for 5 years (£18 per month)
- I would like to sponsor a child at SEED School (£18 per month)
- I would like to donate towards Beth's house in Shená's Village
- I would like to donate towards building the new SEED School
- I would like to give a one off donation to Abigail Ministries
- Please send me details about the Abigail Ministries trip April 2011.

Name _____

Address _____

Please send me a Gift Aid Form _____

Margaret, centre, will be given the McKenya house.
Look out her story next time!



McKENYA Event

The evening was a great success. Many thanks to everybody who attended. For those who missed out on the fun, we had a Scottish banquet with Henny Broth, Haggis, neeps and tatties, and Stovies!! That was the 'Mc' part of the evening. The 'Kenya' part of the evening involved lots of African themed games, crafts and other activities. We all now know how to carry babies on our backs Kenyan style using kangas to cradle them!

We had hoped to raise enough money to build ONE house in Shena's Village but through people's wonderful generosity either

on the night, or through promises, we were amazed to be gifted enough money to build FOUR houses!! On top of that, teams raced to be the first to fill their lotto cards, offering money to buy food parcels, shoes, chickens, seeds, text books etc. etc.

We were overwhelmed when we totalled the money raised.

It was in excess of £7000!!!

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

PS. A reminder. Please send us the money you promised for the house in time for us to start building by July, please. Thank you.

Thank you to ALL our supporters. To those of you who give so generously and to all of you who pray for us so faithfully. We are very encouraged to know we have so many friends who stand with us in this Ministry.