

kivuli NEWS

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jambo friends,

Welcome to another edition of Kivuli news. This month with the resumption of a new school year, Kivuli too has come back to 'normal'. We had a taste of what this year will be like as we only had 27 children with us for a few days before last year's class 8 children returned! The 'new' Form ones helped us for a few hours each day over January at the new block as we start to prepare the land for building, growing crops etc. Whilst they were working we have been visiting schools to enquire about high school enrolment. More detail about that later.

Our 3 form two boys have resumed classes and Simon, our high school day scholar is now boarding at his school as they have opened a boarding section for boys this year.

We have been encouraged by the local ACK (Anglican Church of Kenya) church that we've been attending, they sent a theological student to talk to the children and they're hoping to start an English service in the near future. We've been having great discussions with the children about their hopes for their future, about the 'cultural tradition' of going to



church here in Kenya and the upcoming election.

We are excited to celebrate another New Year and look forward to seeing what God has in store for Kivuli in 2012!

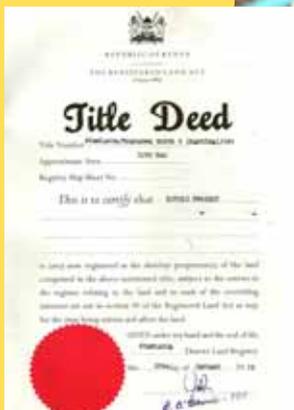
Dan and Dee Rutherford



land update

The final paperwork has been completed for the block and it now officially belongs to Kivuli Project! Praise God! The form 1s, Leigh and some local labourers have been spending time digging a trench to bring piped water to the property. A small area has been prepared to begin planting which can now be done due to our recent water connection.

We have engaged the services of a local architect who is in the process of completing the drawings for the new buildings. Instead of building large dorms for the children, we are planning to build small house-cottages as we want to create small family environments for the children to grow up in. We hope to be able to share the final plans with you in next month's news.



visitors

We said farewell to Dee's parents, Con and Cheryl, after their 3 week visit. Cheryl had brought with her a sewing machine donated kindly by her sister (and Dee's Aunty) Lisa Lunardi, and spent many hours repairing the children's clothes. The sewing machine will also be used to train some of the children to sew. Many of the girls have already expressed an interest in sewing. Another wonderful gift Con and Cheryl brought with them was a new projector and fabric to make a screen (with the help of the sewing machine). The children now have a big screen to watch rather than all cramping around a small laptop. The projector will also come in extremely handy when we hold conferences and meetings at Kivuli. A big 'thank you' to those from Deep Creek Anglican Church who generously donated the funds to purchase it. Whilst here, Cheryl and Con also spent many days painting the inside of the existing building on the new land (much to the surprise of the local Chief who came to visit one day, it was hard for him to comprehend that; A. white people paint, and B. women paint). This building will be used as the Kivuli office block when we finally relocate.

A week after saying goodbye to Cheryl and Con, we welcomed Holly and Leigh Shera-Jones to Kivuli. They have settled in to African life extremely quickly and will be staying for 4 weeks before continuing their travel around Africa and beyond. They have come to know the children very well, spending time playing, talking with them and teaching them. They have also helped at the shamba (new block) and put their many skills to use. One thing they haven't been doing is training for their walk up Mt Kilimanjaro, which they're doing after their Kivuli visit... we wish them all the best with that!



anne is getting behind the wheel!

With the implementation of our new strategic plan, we have started to focus on up-skilling our local staff. Step 1 is to get Anne her driver's licence. Thankfully we have a driving school just 100m from our existing premises so it's very handy. Anne's training consists of 6 lessons a week, both theory and practical, for 4 weeks. At the end of the 4 weeks she will sit her test and hopefully get her licence.

Dan was so excited that Anne had started lessons that he (prematurely) encouraged her to reverse our Nissan van out of its parking place just a few metres. Consequently we had to reconstruct our washing line. Anne told her instructor what had happened and he quite firmly told her she was not to get behind the wheel in any car without him until she'd completed at least 10 practical lessons.... Whoops! Anne can't wait to start driving and has her eyes on the 4WD!

home-based care

We have successfully commenced our home-based care program with three of the Kivuli boys. All three boys are now living at home with their grandparents and are attending the nearby primary schools. Thanks to the Christmas Catalogue we have provided all three families with solar lighting systems so the boys are able to do their homework in the evenings.

Each family is now preparing a business plan for income generating projects (eg. dairy cow) that they would like to work on so they will be able to provide for their families in the future without financial assistance from us. They are extremely excited about this as they feel empowered to escape from the poverty cycle. We look forward to sharing with you more about how the program progresses.

secondary school

We spent a great deal of time this month obtaining high school places for the 12 Class eight children. In Kenya, your primary school performance determines what kind of high school will accept you. It's much like the Australian VCE system, where you are called to universities depending on your final VCE score. Unfortunately, many of the letters of offer don't come until the last hour, meaning they will give you one or two days to prepare and get the children to school. We learnt this the hard way last year and were determined to be organised this year.

We managed to get 7 of our 8 girls into a very good provincial (2nd best category of school) high school just 8km from where we are. Most of the girls fell below their "cut line", however the Principal still agreed to take them. Three of our boys are heading to a public boy's school, just 20 minutes away, and our other girl to the girl's section of the same school. Our final boy is heading to an excellent school in the nearby town of Nyahururu. Praise God for his provision of great local schools for these children to attend!



funny of the month

As we are researching dairy farming we have been given access to a booklet from the Kenyan Department of Agriculture. This book has great information on everything from rabbits to cows, farm by-products to common farm diseases. The section we are most interested in is 'Zero grazing', as the name suggests it's for farms that don't have a huge space for cows to graze. It involves growing and harvesting crops especially for the cows and then storing them in silos. It also allows for good management if there is little rain as it allows for storing of the food for up-to a few years.

This was taken from the Department of Agriculture manual.

'Very often zero grazing has been mistaken by many including very important people for zero feeding. This has been very serious as very elaborate buildings have been put up for cows in form of zero grazing and proper provision has not been done for adequate feeds. As a result many farmers have not managed to get the milk they imagined was associated with zero grazing.'

for those that pray

Praise God for

- Providing high school places for all 12 Class 8 children
- The finalisation of the land transfer into Kivuli's name
- The time we have been able to spend with the Class 8's before they go to high school

Please pray for

- Anne as she learns to drive!
- That our relationship can continue to grow with the local ACK church
- Wisdom for the Kivuli team and provision of people with the right skills as we makes plans for the new land



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