

kivuli NEWS

EDITION 32 – December 2012 GDG Project J606N Update



Kivuli Project Inc is proud to be a project partner for J606N with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) www.globaldevelopment.org.au



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jambo friends,

Welcome to 2013. I do hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year festivities, and are now all set to plough through 2013 with renewed zest. 2012 was, admittedly, a pretty blessed year for Kivuli despite the many hurdles along the way. We pray that 2013 is even better than 2012. As we start this year, may I challenge all of us to pick up the gauntlet from American President Barack Obama's statement: that it's only when you hook up to something bigger than you that you get to know your full potential. We definitely have a lot going for Kivuli, and none of them is anywhere near what we can refer to as easy. There are going to be some difficult decisions to make, and we have to brace ourselves and also pray for divine guidance. Buoyed by



the Biblical promise that everything, after all is said and done, works for the good of those who trust upon the name of the living God, we have started 2013 at a blistering pace. Here is our update from Kivuli Kenya.

In this month's edition, read about the earthworks and building,

Christmas celebrations, the dairy project, chicken project, school opening and the relocation of Kivuli to the shamba (farm).

Happy and blessed New Year to you all.

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earth works

After much waiting, pushing and praying, we eventually managed to get the County Council to do the earthworks at our proposed building site. The work, which included uprooting some offensive rocks and a little levelling of the road to the farm, took 32 hours. You know what this means? You guessed right: we are ready to build. The site was sufficiently levelled out for construction to begin. Which brings us to the next item: the Bills of Quantities for our building plans. It turns out that the cheapest quote for one double cottage will cost KSH 5.64 million (approx AUD \$50,000). The total for our phase one of the constructions would therefore cost no less than KSH 17m. That's way above our untrained estimates. We are therefore exploring all means of reducing the cost to within our means. We have spoken with a few contractors, and have some good ideas how to overcome this high cost.

christmas and new year

In spite of our having our early Christmas on 24th November, we also celebrated the regular Christmas in style (we love celebrations). One of the items of Kivuli Christmas was a little sharing of the Christmas love with the less fortunate. We spoke to the children that remained here and asked them to think about how we could spread some love to others this Christmas. We decided as a small family to travel to the nearby town of Magutu, which is home to many poor farmers and their families, to put Christmas smiles on over 200 people's faces by sharing whatever God has blessed us with in form of little gifts (sodas, biscuits and some thongs/flip flops to children who did not have shoes). We have an obligation to spread



the love of Christ, don't we? The Kivuli children were filled with such joy and said it was the highlight of their day!

New Year's Eve was low key but full of fun. We introduced the 8 children here to Aussie Damper, and cooked it on sticks over the hot coals in the Kenyan Jiko (stove). Filled with BlueBand (margarine) and Jam, the children thought it was the best.



kivuli gift catalogue

Thank you to everyone who purchased items from our Kivuli Gift Catalogue this Christmas. Thanks to you we will be able to purchase a lot of much needed items (including cows), educate many of our children and for the first time ever, offer computer training courses to unemployed but high school educated people in our local community!

Our Gift Catalogue will be running throughout the year, so please consider it when purchasing birthday and other presents during 2013. All gifts are tax deductible in Australia and the United States.*

We would like to also thank Dan and Kate Hickingbotham for the countless hours they spent setting up and running the Gift Catalogue. You are both a HUGE blessing to Kivuli and we praise the LORD for you both!



rent hike

As we came to the end of 2012, our landlord slapped us with an unprecedented rent hike. After ascertaining that he was charging us much higher than he charges other tenants for similar rooms, the Kenyan Board met and made some difficult but necessary decisions. Rather than stretching the regular finances, the Board made the choice to move to the Kivuli shamba. As a result we are currently constructing temporary accommodation to occupy while the permanent buildings will be constructed gradually. We are therefore procuring building materials and the construction work is already underway. Our new deadline for completion of these structures is 25th January. You know what, we are moving in at the end of this month. Yes, the whole Kivuli family will be on the Kivuli plot this February, so there will be no more paying of house rent. So it will be a lot easier for us to wake up and go work at the shamba, feed the chickens in turns, tend the cows, you see. If you ask me, I will say that the unfair rent hike was a blessing in disguise.

visitors

Christmas was made extra special this year with the return of Uncle Dan "B" and Aunty Kate. For those of you who don't know, Dan and Kate Hickingbotham spent 9 months managing Kivuli in Kenya in 2011 when Dan and Dee Rutherford returned to Australia for the birth of their second daughter, Zoe. Dan and Kate are also on the Board of Directors for Kivuli Project Australia and head up our fundraising group in Melbourne, Marafiki. It is the first time Dan and Kate have been back since they left in September 2011. There certainly was a lot of excitement surrounding their arrival! Dan and Kate will be at Kivuli until mid January.

We also welcomed Jess Suryan and Erin Potter to Kivuli at the beginning of December. Jess and Erin have enjoyed spending time playing with the children here and have even cooked a few meals for those here in our kitchen (firewood stove). The girls will remain in Kenya with us until the beginning of February.



animals

You have already heard that our chickens are doing quite well. That's one of the projects in which we have seen God work. Let's keep praying that it bears the fruits that we anticipated at its inception, as we do whatever it takes to keep everything in good shape. In a bid to replicate the evident success of the poultry project, and in line with our plan for 2012, we started building a cow shed. We also went out in search of suitable dairy cows. Let me report here that the cowshed is ready for use, and we have identified two good cows to inhabit the shed. Soon we shall finalise price negotiations and bring home the animals. We hope to have our own milk by April

2013, and a surplus to earn us a little income. This is another prayer item on our list. I have mentioned here previously that we want Kivuli kids to learn farming skills that can help them after school. We also want Kivuli farm to be a model for neighbouring community.

I am not talking about crops this time. Just know that we have had a taste of beetroot grown on Kivuli farm. And we are harvesting some cabbage this month, in addition to kales and spinach. Something else, we have planted some arrowroot on part of the marshy section of our plot. Plus we have planted over a hundred trees of various types, for fruit, wood and the environment.



for those that pray

Praise God for

- Dan and Kate Hickingbotham!
- The opportunity to share the love of God with the people of Magutu on Christmas Day.
- The Earthworks being completed.

Please pray for

- Quick construction of the temporary buildings at the farm so we have plenty of time to move in by the end of January.
- The two dairy cows we plan to purchase (both which are pregnant).
- The children as they commence the 2013 school year.

to donate

*Gifts to Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) with a preference for this approved aid and development project J606N Kivuli Project are tax deductible. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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Please email kate@kivuliproject.org with your name, address and amount deposited to claim your tax deductible receipt, or for additional payment options.

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www.gdg.org.au/Give2Kivuli



No evangelistic activities are a part of or are funded by the GDG aid and development project. If excess funds are received they may be applied to other approved project activities.