

# Emmanuel Home Newsletter

## Dec 2023

(formerly Kanyawegi Children's Home)



### Kenya Visit - Bumper Edition!

This is a great opportunity to provide some up-to-date and first-hand reports of our work in Kenya following the Chairman's productive visit there at the beginning of December. This photo is significant as it includes *all* the young people currently being supported by us, together with the Kenyan Team and the visiting UK Team.



**Names:** (from left to right, young people's names underlined)

Nelly, Catherine, Ida, **Jenty Goodyer** (UK guest), Ian Alex, John Lloyd (at back), Kelly, Lilian Akinyi (at back – supports Linda when required), Beryl, **Peter** (UK Chairman), **Sarah Moxham Hendra** (UK Trustee), Maurice (at back), Michael, Alex, **Lydia Gartare** (provides oversight from Nairobi) and **Linda Osewe** (Manager of our work in Kenya)

### Summary of status of each young person:

You may have read the names of some of these young people in previous newsletters and heard something about their stages of progression. As of now the following is the case:

**Catherine** and **Kelly** have finished primary school and are waiting to hear about what options the government offer for their secondary education. **Nelly** and **Michael** will be continuing at their secondary schools from Jan 24. **Ida**, **Maurice** and **Beryl** have completed their secondary education and are waiting to hear what college options might be offered to them. **Ian Alex**



is currently on a Motor Vehicle training programme and starts a new practical placement soon. **Alex** and **John Lloyd** both completed their secondary education in Dec 22. Sadly John Lloyd has not yet identified a suitable way forward, but Alex has made a good start on a Building Technology course – an answer to prayer from one of the prayer pointers in the last newsletter.

## Community 'Get-together' a great success!

The picture on the first page was taken at the first main event of the trip to Kenya – a coming together of the young people, representatives of each of their families (and in some cases siblings too!) and all the Kenyan staff team involved in our work. The setting was simple – the rural traditional mud hut family home of Ernest (a previous security guard at Kanyawegi Children's Home), but the event was more elaborate than the UK Team had expected! Our Kenyan colleagues had arranged for about 40 adults and children to attend and in order not to overload Ernest's family arranged for professional caterers – who also brought a small marquee with them, and seating for everyone. The formal rows of seats were quickly rearranged into a circle – if there were to be speeches (and I anticipated there would be!) we wanted them to be presented in an informal setting!



### Gratitude shown:

Each 'family group' introduced themselves (some with the assistance of Lilian as translator) and then each relative, (followed afterwards by each of our young people) had the opportunity to say something. The relatives all expressed their gratitude to the charity for the support given to their particular young person. Many of them also went on to give thanks to God for his provision. It was very moving to hear directly the stories of the difference made by donors and sponsors over many years.

The young people themselves also were very grateful and many gave thanks to the Lord for his goodness. The picture shows Alex and

Maurice with their aunt (on the right) introducing themselves prior to speaking.



## A Significant Year:

The Chairman introduced the UK Team – in particular mentioning that this was Jenty's first visit to Kenya. (Sarah had visited many times, but not for 12 years). He stated that this is the **20<sup>th</sup> Year** of the UK charity 'Kanyawegi UK'. He gave thanks to the Kenyan Team for organising the event, acknowledged the gratitude of the young people and their relatives and



emphasised how

grateful he is to God for sustaining the work through many ups and downs over the years into the stable and effective work it is today. He reassured everyone of the charity's commitment to 'Finishing Strong' – by seeing the last group of young people through their education and vocational training etc.

The caterers did an excellent job providing a range of traditional Kenyan foods for folk to enjoy. There was plenty of time afterwards to circulate and speak to the young people and/or their relatives and to pray for many of them.

## Christmas Treat:

Each year we try to provide something different for the young people to enjoy at Christmas. This year they had a trip to the cinema – which for many of them would be their first time! Lydia booked everything ahead of time and fortunately the film showing during the week we were there was 'The Marvels' – which went down very well. Whilst the young people were watching that the visiting UK Team visited Kisumu Museum. This was less than 'marvellous' as it was a bit run down, but it had some exhibits of interest and some wild animals outside too. Afterwards we all met up with the young people for a lovely lunch, before needing to say our 'Goodbyes' – as, for the Chairman at least, this was to be his last visit to Kenya.



## Transnational Committee Meeting!

The Chairman thought it would be good to include a 'UK Committee' meeting of the charity whilst the group were in Kisumu, so before Lydia departed to go home to Nairobi this was attempted – using a hired meeting room in the hotel. The meeting was hosted on Zoom by Gill Skinner in the UK (accompanied by Elizabeth Maggs) and Sally Petit (our Treasurer) joined from her home. In Kisumu we had the visiting team of 3 from the UK plus the 3 Kenyans – Linda,



Lydia and Lilian. The timing of the meeting had to be carefully chosen as there is a 3 hour difference in time between the two countries. Initial technical teething problems were overcome and proper introductions made - the meeting turned out to be very productive – with everybody making contributions to the discussion.

Besides sharing our reflections on the visit thus far and speaking about individual young people we support, the committee was able to discuss the future plans for the work of the charity. It was agreed that we will continue to support the current group of young people through their schooling and vocational college training. This means that numbers will diminish over the next few years until all have finished their training by the end of the decade. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Kenyan team who each indicated their willingness to remain involved. Linda, our manager, will be reducing her notional work time from 2 days to 1 day per week from January (to reflect the diminishing numbers to care for), but the charity will enhance her daily rate to compensate for some of the cost of living increases seen in Kenya recently.

## Cherry Brierley Children's Home:

A visit was arranged to this Home to see its vital lunchtime ministry to local children. The Home is no longer a residential base as the government's 'care reforms' have led to many children's homes needing to place their children back with relatives in their home communities.

However, they have continued providing free lunches to about 100 children every day – and this continues through the school holidays. The UK Team purchased drawing pads, coloured crayons, pencil sharpeners and a few sweets and made up 110 packs to give to the children.

The Social Worker at the Home, called Pamela, used to be a House Parent at Kanyawegi Children's Home, and hosted our visit.







It was wonderful seeing the children coming from all directions to enjoy a nutritious meal. Following this they sang a lively song for the visitors before then being presented with their gift packs.



There was also enough time to visit a neighbouring school where the Cherry Brierley Home has supported the refurbishment of classrooms and building of additional classrooms.





## The Older Young People:

We try to keep you updated regarding previous children of Kanyawegi or Emmanuel Home when we have news. We've reported before about Lilian, who has been with us since she was a small child and now acts as backup support for our manager. We now want to congratulate her on her graduation from her Nutrition and Dietetics Diploma.



One of the key objectives Sarah had for her visit to Kenya was to meet up with some of the older girls she and her mother Doreen supported through their post-school education. No specific meeting times had been confirmed before we arrived in Kisumu but during the week Sarah was able to meet up with all 4 girls. On the left – Rachel; below left Carolyne and her husband;



her children; and on the right Doreen and one of her two sons.



*Thank You for all you do to help*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION about the work of the Charity:**

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*Happy Christmas and New Year to all our supporters!*

## New Prayer Pointers

*Please pray...*

- Giving thanks for the successful trip to Kisumu for the UK Team.
- For the children still struggling with ongoing medical conditions.
- For good options to be offered to the school leavers.
- For wisdom about how best to help the young people use their skills and time productively before starting college.