



Kanyawegi Newsletter Dec 13

Greetings to all readers of this newsletter, and particularly to sponsors and other supporters!

Many changes, but the Home remains!...

The last few months have been somewhat eventful in the life of Kanyawegi and we will do our best to update you with some of what has been happening. It has been one of the most challenging periods faced in the 15-year history of the Home. We want you to know that the UK Committee continues to work hard to ensure that the children and young people supported by Kanyawegi are given the support, care and education they need to make the most of their lives. Without the regular support of sponsors, and one-off donations we receive, the Home would be unable to continue.

Without regular visitors from the UK going to the Home, it is very difficult to monitor exactly what is going on, or to 'manage' necessary change. This is an issue faced by many small charities supporting work overseas. We rely upon the Kenyan Board to oversee the work on our behalf and upon the staff to fulfil their roles well. In the last newsletter we reported the expansion of the Board with new members and also described the roles which each staff member has. Over recent months there have been a number of events which raised concerns in the UK regarding the effectiveness of the management of the Home and the Board, and this was happening at a time of increasing costs and the continued threat from the road-widening scheme. In addition, various agencies visited the Home (some from the UK) and reported on various aspects of Home life and conditions in the Home. The UK Committee was concerned that standards had slipped and needed reassurance that the money being sent over was being used effectively. In early November the chairman, Peter Skinner, travelled to Kenya again (at no cost to the charity) and some of the outcomes of his one-week visit are reported here.

Under New Management!

The first exciting news to report is that a new manager has been installed at the Home to help sort things out. His name is Roy Samo and he comes from a family that is very involved in work with children. His father, Pastor Ambros, founded a Christian School

on the other side of Kisumu and his brother James (with his wife Alice), works with the street children in Kisumu – rehabilitating them back into normal society. Roy himself has worked in children's homes previously and has excellent experience of successfully bringing about improvements.



The Chairman delivering a gift for the school (from his brother in the UK) to Pastor Ambros and his wife, flanked by the School Headteacher on the right of the picture and Roy Samo on the left (not the little one!)

It was invaluable to have the opportunity to learn from the Samo family about their experiences of residential care for some of the children, and to see how they had built up their school over the years, despite facing many difficulties.

Whilst the chairman was in Kenya, sadly it became necessary for the Board to take disciplinary action against the Home Manager (James 1), ultimately leading to his dismissal. It would be inappropriate to go into detail here – suffice to say that there were serious concerns over the manager's performance. Having recently completed a few years as a local councillor, the good news was that Roy was available to make an immediate start as 'cover manager' and the chairman (on his last day at the Home) had the privilege of introducing Roy to the staff and children at the Home and begin some important work with him straight away.

Roy Samo and some of the kids from his father's school:



Roy is proving to be a capable young man who has already had a positive impact upon the Home. He is driven by a strong Christian faith, a concern for the children and young people, and a personal commitment to Kanyawegi to help solve some of the issues faced – for a few months at least.

The Autumn Statement...

Whilst our own Chancellor has been able to report positive signs that growth is returning to our economy in the UK and set out his plans for the future, Roy has been focusing on establishing firmer financial procedures and plans for the Home. Unfortunately the former manager (and Board) had allowed the robust financial tracking system previously in place to be bypassed and weakened.

Roy has done some excellent work in identifying clearly and in some detail exactly what the priorities are for the Home. The demands for financial support are high and in particular there is a need for significant additional funds in January and February 2014. These will be used to cover the school fees at the start of a new academic year, to help cover the costs of replacement bedding etc. for the children and essential repairs around the Home. Roy's 'autumn statement' sets out a new budget for 2014, and we will do all we can to ensure the funds are raised to continue supporting this important work.

Road to nowhere?

It is now one year since the Home was given notice that, due to the widening scheme for the road that passes the Home, a portion of the Home would have to be demolished to make way for the road. In the last newsletter we were able to say a little about the progress of the court case in relation to this. This case has been delayed on several occasions and the next hearing is scheduled for 17th December 2013.

In the meantime, there has been some news with regard to the road reserve which strengthens the Home's case for compensation. It has been made clear by a court-appointed surveyor who measured up the site, that the Kenya Highways Authority is actually wanting to *move* the road towards the Home *and* widen it and thus is wanting to take land beyond the confines of their own road reserve. The chairman met with the advocate whilst in Kisumu and heard that he thought we had a strong case and would receive some compensation. The advocate explained that the 'Land Courts' that deal with these cases are relatively new – (established by the new Kenyan Constitution) and in his view the one in Kisumu is dysfunctional!

The road works themselves have progressed but not extended much more towards the Home. Most of the activity appears to be at the Kisumu end where some large bridges are being constructed. The picture below

shows the huge size of the holes being dug for bridge foundations near Kisumu!



The UK Committee is still considering the various options available with regard to the future of the Home. It is likely that at some stage the work will have to move from the current site. For those of you who believe God can guide in these matters - please pray that we all have wisdom in relation to this.

Improvements to the Home:

One of the agencies reporting on the Home was the District Children's Department. The Home now comes under a newly-formed district and the chairman made sure he met with the new District Children's Officer who oversaw a recent review of the Home. Whilst there were a number of things he raised which need addressing, he was also very helpful in advising about the best way forward. He recommended a fairly straightforward way for renewing the Home's registration and this should be taking place soon. He recognised that it would be inappropriate to spend huge amounts upon a building that may have to be demolished in time, but he provided a clear focus for what must be done.

Shortly after the review took place the Children's Office insisted that the over-18s moved out from the 'Boy's House' in the adjoining compound. They felt it inappropriate that the over 18s were having excessively free access to the main Home where the younger children stay. The over 18s have been moved out to other places to stay, but still receive support from the Home.

KANYAWEGI UK

Registered Charity No. 1106296

UK Committee (The Trustees):

Chairman: Peter Skinner

Treasurer: Sally Petit

Sponsor Coordinator: Doreen Moxham
and.. Sarah Moxham

(also supported by Elizabeth Maggs & Gill Skinner)

There are many more photos from the chairman's visit on the **Kanyawegi website** under 'New Photos'. We again want to thank one of our supporters – Richard Portsmouth – for creating and managing this website for the charity. Please make sure you have a look at it if you haven't already done so, and let your friends and family know too. Here is the address: www.kanyawegi-uk.org/index.aspx



The website is a fantastic source of information about the Home and the charity. There is also a Facebook page – so have a look at that too!

There are new and specific needs identified on the website amongst the chairman's photos and you will also find on the website details of other ways you can support the charity – including through ebay.

ebay Whenever you buy or sell something you can make a donation to Kanyawegi UK – and we are grateful to those who have done this in the last year.

Our young people are High Achievers:

It has been great to hear of the successful achievements of some of the Kanyawegi young people in the last few months. Brian, who was one of the first to go to university, has graduated with a 1st class degree!



Carolyn has also graduated recently with a 2:1 (pictured on left).

We congratulate these and others for all they have achieved.

Many are doing well at school or college.

What about...THE CHILDREN?

In previous newsletters this section has covered subjects such as the work of the Kenyan Board, the UK Committee (the trustees of Kanyawegi UK), the Home's Budget, Fundraising and the staff. Here we look at the children in the Home:

All the children and young people connected to the Home are orphans. Numbers staying at Kanyawegi have reduced considerably over recent years as more of them reach an age where they attend boarding schools, colleges or universities. They are totally reliant upon the money sent over by Kanyawegi UK each month – which comes in from both regular and one-off giving from individuals, churches and other organisations.

The chairman was pleased to be able to take over 2 large suitcases of clothes, games and crafts for the children when he visited in November and the picture below shows the girls eagerly sorting through them and sharing out the clothes:



They also had great fun with bubbles and modelling balloons, which they were experiencing for the first time!



The Home is a place where these children and young people can be cared for and supported through education to become productive and positive members of Kenyan society. Along the way they can also learn about the truths of the Bible and principles of Christian living. Please encourage friends to consider how they might give regularly to support the work of Kanyawegi Children's Home, and transform the lives of these children and young people.

KANYAWEGI UK
Standing Order

To the Managerp.l.c.

Address

Please pay the account of Kanyawegi U.K. at:
Barclays Bank, 37 Milsom Street, Bath BA1 1DW
Sort Code 20-05-06 Account No. 93390446

The sum of £.....

In words:

On the(day) of(month)(year)

and thereafter on the same day of each month until further notice.

Please debit my Account No.

Sort Code:

In the name of

Signed:

Print name:

Date:



Gift Aid Declaration

Send to Kanyawegi UK, Mayfair House, 21
Ashgrove, Peasedown St John, Bath. BA2 8EB:

I want Kanyawegi UK to treat all donations I make
as gift aided donations until otherwise notified.

Signed:

Date:

Full Name:

Address:

Kindly remember to notify Kanyawegi UK if you no longer
pay an amount of income tax or Capital Gains tax equal
to the tax on your donations

MONEY £ MATTERS

Back to Basics: For new readers who need to know the basic facts, here are a few of the important ones:

DID YOU KNOW....?

- The minimum cost of keeping a child in the Home (and providing their primary education) is now about **£45 per month**, but this can be covered by gifts from several donors.
- As the children grow up the monthly cost rises to **£60** for those at secondary boarding school, and **£90+** if they are at college/university.
- There are **around 40 children and young people** in the Home or at college, supported chiefly by gifts from individual sponsors or churches.

Want to know more?

Let us know the sort of things you'd like covered in future newsletters and/or forward your questions to us. We will do all we can to keep you informed.

Contacts:

Sponsors/donations: Doreen Moxham (01761 437256) or timmoxham@aol.com

Friends of Kanyawegi: Ronnie Coomes (01761 418973)

General enquiries: Peter Skinner (01761 417014) or prskinner@tiscali.co.uk

Website:

www.kanyawegi-uk.org/index.aspx



We do it for them!

Please use the form on the left if you wish to make a donation and/or become a regular sponsor. If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aid, as the charity benefits greatly from reclaiming the tax.

Thank you.