

# Emmanuel Home Newsletter

## September 2019

(formerly Kanyawegi Children's Home)



## Fresh Start – Strong Finish

September sees the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term of the Kenyan school year. It's not usual for children to change schools at this stage but several of ours have done! (- more on 'why?' later). They are shown here with their guardians - all standing behind the school Director's wife who is welcoming them to the Elite Academy School in Kisumu.



Below are five of the same children a little later, proudly showing off their new school uniforms.

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The Elite Academy is a good quality boarding Primary School and has kindly agreed to absorb some of our children into their school following significant changes to our work over the last three months. For these children it will mean improved standards of care and education. They all went through an 'initial assessment' during August that enables the staff in their new school to tailor the support given to the needs of each child.



**Recent Review of work:** In May of this year the Chairman Peter Skinner travelled to Kisumu in part to review the work of Emmanuel Home but also seeking to get some clarity regarding the future direction. For two days early on in his visit he was accompanied by Lydia Gartere (an 'overseer' of our work out there) undertaking unannounced visits to virtually all the schools attended by our children. This was a good opportunity to meet with the children, their class teachers and managers in the schools, and in some cases with the children's guardians. (The picture on the left shows Idda Daisy with her grandmother with whom she lives and was visiting the school for a 'Parents Open Day' at the time). The idea of the visits being unannounced was so that things wouldn't be especially 'staged' by anyone beforehand (which can happen if it's known that sponsors are arriving). Peter and Lydia were both very impressed by the care and support given by

some of the teachers (one who had a class of 82 and no teaching assistants!), but also discovered instances where some of the children's needs were not being met adequately. Action was taken prior to the end of May to address most of these issues, as sufficient funds had already been provided by our charity to meet the needs.

During the school visits Lydia was brilliant at putting the children at ease and communicating well with staff (and, of course, translating for Peter if required!). On the right is Ian Alex with his class teacher – who demonstrated a very good level of care for him and concern about his home situation too (he lived with an aunt).



Peter also had meetings with the young adults who had been going through training or were still at college. On the left is Beatrice who had completed a Diploma in Hair and Beauty. She had managed to get work in a Kisumu salon and was enjoying it, but revealed that her real ambition is to open up her own salon. Peter explored with her the implications of

this in terms of potential competition, set-up costs, marketing etc. She had a good understanding of the considerable challenge facing her if she is ever to achieve her dream. She had already started saving money towards this project.

Another of our young people who is doing really well in her vocational training is Lilian (yes one 'l'), who is currently doing a Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics and ended up top of her class after her first year. When she's finishes her Diploma level she hopes to obtain a placement with an NGO managing the nutrition of children.

Peter was also pleased to meet Duncan (who was featured in our last newsletter) who graduated with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class degree last December, and



Josiah – another completer.

Duncan (on the left) is currently working as an Environmental Officer.

Josiah, (in the pink shirt) achieved a Diploma in Medical Lab Science and has been practising at the Grandmed Hospital in



Kisumu since January. It was encouraging for Peter to

meet all these (and other) young people who for many years have been supported by Kanyawegi UK and are making something of their lives. Each and every one of them expressed their sincere

gratitude to sponsors and donors who have faithfully provided the resources for their care and education. They were also grateful to God for helping them through to this stage.

**Change Required:** Along with many positives seen during the review in May some concerns were also identified. There was evidence of some financial irregularities and of some children not receiving the standard of care that we expect. With the support of the UK Committee Peter implemented several significant changes whilst still in Kisumu, including establishing a more secure route for the money, terminating the tenancy of the building in Riat (since it is no longer required) and making personnel changes. After Peter's return to the UK in mid-June the partnership with Rehema ceased and responsibility for the children was divided between ourselves and Rehema. Seven of those children who have strong connections with Rehema (e.g. some relatives in that charity) are now under the care of that organisation. The rest of the children and young people remain under our care, and 6 have been enrolled at the boarding school mentioned earlier as this is the best option for them. Throughout all this the Manager of our work, Linda Joan, has proved her trustworthiness and reliability and we are grateful to God for her faithfulness and deep love and care for our children.

**Fresh Start:** The significant challenges faced 3 months ago have in fact worked out for the good, we believe. The new 'route' for the money is working well and the financial records we receive are robust. We no longer need to be paying for a building because all the children and young people we support have relatives they can stay with during term time (or just in the holidays if they are at boarding school or college). This is in line with the Kenyan Government's desire to avoid orphans getting 'institutionalised' and they prefer for them to be cared for within their home communities. Since the personnel changes our Manager has been better able to ensure that all the children receive what they need. As shown on the first page there is a group who have just started at a good quality primary school, where they'll benefit from good care and being with friends in a school with a Christian ethos, and not having to travel to school every day.

Of the 14 in total we care for, these are the numbers we have in the different education stages:

**Primary: 8      Secondary: 3      Vocational Training: 1      Higher Education: 2**

We have no intention of adding to these numbers as we believe it is right to just support these individuals through to the end of their education.

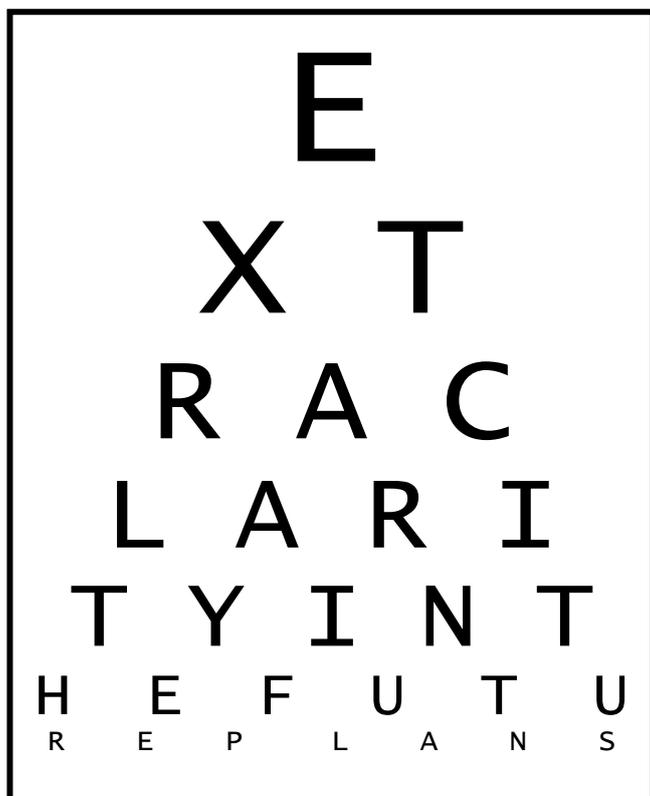
**Finishing Strong:** This is where this heading from the first page has particular relevance. The UK Committee has been seeking God's will about how to manage a gradual decline in numbers of children (as each completes his or her education). Some of the uncertainties we have faced over recent months are now largely out of the picture and we are in a much better position to ensure a stable and strong future for our work.

We are so grateful for every single donation made to our work and now are reassured that all gifts are used as intended and that all the children and young people are benefitting more since the 'Fresh Start' in June.



On the left is a picture of Maurice and Michael – 2 primary school children with huge potential. We welcome any new supporters who would like to join with us in our commitment to these two and other children like them to give them opportunities to thrive and a real hope for the future.

# 2020 VISION



So what will 2020 hold for us? We are actively making preparations for the 2020 academic year that begins in January, but also are developing the 'VISION' for the coming years too so that there can be a strong and successful finish to our work.

Eye test cards aren't always easy to read; the one above says '**EXTRA CLARITY IN THE FUTURE PLANS**' and that's what we are thanking God for as we move on from now.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION about the work of the Charity:** Please contact Gill or Peter Skinner, Carino, Old Gore Lane, Emborough, Radstock, Somerset. BA3 4SJ.

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## Prayer Pointers



*Please pray...*

- Giving thanks for how God has helped us through a challenging phase this summer and has enabled positive change to be implemented.
- For all the children and young people, but particularly those who have recently moved school, that they will progress well.
- For the Chairman, Peter Skinner, as he visits Kisumu again from 3rd – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct this year.
- Giving thanks for the individuals and churches that regularly support the work.
- That through the charity's work children, young people and adults will know how great God is, and how great was the sacrifice he gave in his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## KANYAWEGI UK

**Registered Charity No. 1106296**

**UK Committee (The Trustees):**

**Chairman:** Peter Skinner (01761 232337) or [peteskinner123@gmail.com](mailto:peteskinner123@gmail.com)

**Treasurer & Secretary:** Sally Petit  
Sarah Moxham

(The Committee is also supported by Elizabeth Maggs & Gill Skinner)

**Remember – the website!** The website is a fantastic source of information about the Home and the charity was moved to a new 'platform', and has a new 'address'. Our thanks to Richard Portsmouth. New content will be added soon.  
<https://www.kanyawegi-uk.org/>

Note the Facebook page address:  
<https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelHomeKanyawegiUK>

Please contact us 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, and we can send you a form. Thank you.