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GOOD JOB, *Esther!*



Esther, our roving reporter, outside a honeymoon suite in the 'bush'

The stories from Madogo in this issue of New Life News are based on firsthand accounts by Esther Dalano. Esther travelled to these two remote communities on behalf of *Barnabas Ministries Africa (BMA)* to see and report on the projects in progress. "People do send regular written reports to the office," she says, "but it's easier to talk face to face".

Esther will be known to some of you, as her parents are Meleckson and Hulda, our Regional Leaders in the coastal area. "Number three of five children", she says. Esther's brother Lemmy is also involved in *BMA's* ministry, reaching out to young people through church-based sports programmes.

The first thing I noticed about Esther is her quiet, observant eyes. But the more I chatted with her, it was her winning smile that captivated me. I'm sure these attributes have helped Esther bring us these special stories.

On her trip, Esther enjoyed learning new things and meeting people from different cultures. "There are people who are in need. The place is so dry, they can't farm. It is a challenge for them."

Esther's talents were first spotted by Clive and Mary Beckenham, *BMA's* Founders and Directors, when she was videotaping a graduation ceremony at *Barnabas Bible and Missions Training Institute (BBMTI)*. She was later drafted to help write an article about the graduation. Esther attended college at the East African School of Media Studies. She has been inspired by TV documentaries and feature stories. She confesses that she loves talking!

Here at *BMA* we are experimenting with sending Esther out to bring you stories that tell of the wonderful things that God is doing with and through your support. Esther has already benefitted from a donated laptop and a donated digital voice recorder, for which she is very grateful.

Jamie McLean

WHAT A RELIEF



Fresh water on tap ... at last!

"What a relief!" exclaimed Amina.

"What a relief indeed!" her friend agreed.

Mr Abdalla, the Mzee wa Kijiji (pronounced 'm-zay wah kee-jee-jee' and meaning 'village headman') of Madogo, told me: "The people would say that this is the God they have been waiting for."

A month ago, these people were still facing the daily nightmare of walking 15 km just to fill one 20 litre jerry can with water. Without a donkey, it's not possible to carry more than one container over that distance, especially in the unforgiving heat of this region. And because there is no life without water, these daily trips had been a way of life for the people of Madogo for years.

So you can imagine their excitement when they heard that a borehole was to be drilled for them – and then their disappointment when the water turned out to be salty (a common problem in this area). The water was still perfectly good for bathing, washing clothes, and even farming (as it was not very saline), but not for drinking.

Immediately that *Barnabas Ministries Africa* heard this, they decided to provide a freshwater tap elsewhere on the same land.

Amina told me that for her community to get fresh water for free is a miracle. In her own words: "We are so grateful for this borehole, built on our doorsteps. The people are saying, 'We have seen God face to face'."

Esther Dalano



Water on our doorstep - what fun!

TEACHER TO TEACHER

I had the enormous privilege of meeting Anne Chege when I visited *New Life Home Trust (NLHT)* in Nairobi. Being a teacher myself, albeit in a private school in Scotland, I was fascinated to hear about education in Kenya, and particularly all that *NLHT* is doing in Ruiru to give young children a wonderful start to their education. Not only does Anne run the school in Ruiru, she also trains teachers in remote rural areas, so they can teach children in church-based schools. Her story is a wonderful example of how 'life can happen when you are making other plans'.

Anne originally trained as a secondary school teacher of Literature,

Swahili and English. In the end, she mostly taught English Literature. But when she traded in her teaching career of 13 years to work with *Barnabas Ministries Africa (BMA)*, she was able to put her knowledge of Swahili to good use. Anne now helps to translate leadership training materials from English to Swahili, and she teaches *Barnabas School of Ministries (BSOM)* in both languages.

In order to run the school in Ruiru, Anne had to learn the ways of much younger children than she was used to. She enjoys working at a school where all the children are treated equally,

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Soccer Saints



From drugs back to school ... via soccer!

The young people in the Coast Province of Kenya have a big problem with drug abuse, fuelled by a lack of jobs and poor education. *Barnabas Ministries Africa (BMA)* is anxious to help them and has come to realise the power of church-based sports ministry to reach them. Originally inspired by a visit from David and Mitch Sanford of Missionary Athletes International, we now have a firmly established sports ministry in Lamu, which is bearing fruit.

At a recent camp in Mpeketoni, hundreds of young men gathered from different churches and also from the Muslim community. Everyone interacted well, forming football (soccer) teams for competition during the day, and then in the evenings, Mitch shared some verses from the Bible, which was awesome.

Six years ago, *New Life Home Trust (NLHT)* started a football team called Future Stars, which now has 25 players. This ministry has dramatically changed the way these young men behave, so that they are now having an impact on the entire community. Today they are seen as role models. So much so that many parents are pushing their sons to get involved.

Meleckson and Hulda Dalano, *NLHT's* Administrators in Lamu, take time to talk to the team members about godly virtues. Thanks to their influence, boys are getting off drugs – and back into school. *BMA* would like to replicate this programme in other churches across the region. This requires us to educate church leaders on the benefits of this type of ministry.

Currently the Lamu team is trusting God for funds to enable them to hire a field for practice and to cover medical expenses. They would also love to have an exchange programme with friends from countries overseas.

Lemmy Dalano

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TEACHER TO TEACHER

regardless of their socio-economic status. Some children's families can pay all or part of the fees, which are modest by Western standards (less than £10 per month for pre-school). However, there are many families who cannot afford even this, nor the school uniform. Most children come to the Ruiru school from within a 2 km radius, the majority on foot, but some by bicycle. Regardless of how they travel or where exactly they come from, when they arrive they all learn together and 'eat lunch at the same table'.

It is widely accepted that early education is vital to a child's development. In Scotland, much is being done to improve early education. In Kenya, Anne is working to improve education for those who might otherwise be forgotten.

She is developing a training programme for rural teachers. Ten out of 18 teachers that Anne recently met had no teaching qualifications. She has started by training them in early child development. Next, she plans to train them on personal management, including stress management. When she explained that each teacher has about 75 children from the ages of 3 to 8, I could fully appreciate the need for a stress management course!

Finally, I was able to share with Anne some donations of school equipment and stationery from my school community in Scotland, and also some teaching tips. I felt mine was quite a meagre offering compared to the daily dedication of this special woman.

Jamie McLean



Anne doesn't look like a woman suffering from stress!

Kisumu Kicks Off



The first ... but definitely not the last!

In August we held the first *Barnabas School of Ministries (BSOM)* in Kisumu.

The school was attended by 29 leaders and aspiring leaders of all ages and from a wide variety of churches, mainly from the Kisumu area, although we had one brother travel all the way from Zanzibar in Tanzania just to take part.

Three subjects were covered over the 5 days:

- ? Leadership - Discovering Your Ministry
- ? Pastoral Care – Understanding People
- ? Theology – The Nature of God

There was a definite hunger for the training and the delegates were positively engaging with the material in the sessions and during the break and meal times.

They responded positively to the challenge to work out the training in their various churches and settings.

Everyone was very happy with the Agape Children's Ministry Centre, where we were well hosted by a team with a wonderful servant heart.

Needless to say, the delegates are all eager for *BSOM* to continue.

A very encouraging start!

Charlie Stockley

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
NEW LIFE HOME TRUST

PO Box 25341, Nairobi 00603, KENYA
Founders-Directors: Clive & Mary Beckenham
+254 (0) 20 386 9514
info@newlifelifehome.org
www.newlifelifehome.org

USA OFFICE

BARNABAS MINISTRIES Africa & NEW LIFE HOMES,
Incorporated

PO Box 16778, Golden, CO 80402-6012, USA
Chairman: Ken Jeffcoat
+1 (0) 425 241 8605

info@newlifelifehome.org
www.newlifelifehome.org

Section 501(c)(3) Registered Non-Profit Organization

EUROPE OFFICE

BARNABAS MINISTRIES Africa & NEW LIFE HOME TRUST

PO Box 2540, Luton, LU3 9DH, UK

Chairman: David Powlson

+44 (0) 1582 654157

bmafrica.nlht@yahoo.co.uk

www.newlifelifehome.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1089334

NORDIC OFFICE

BARNABAS MINISTRIES Africa & NEW LIFE HOME TRUST

Osterlyckan 4, 41597 Göteborg,

SWEDEN Representative: Mark Beckenham

+46 (0) 31 3205913 +46 (0) 70 5769615

mbeckenham@gmail.com

mark.beckenham@smyrna.se