

## Lighting Up LAMU



*Some of Lamu's little lights*

Because of poverty and stigmatism, most children born HIV Positive on the Islamic Lamu Island are neglected and left to die in the corner of a room. But here at New Life Home Trust, these children are welcomed, cared for and loved. We have 50 such children in our care just now.

While they are with us, the boys and girls receive quality education, medical care and coaching, encouraging them to continue growing and learning. All our teachers are fully trained, qualified and committed to the children's growth. As a result, our education programme has received praise from within and outside the Island.

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Through the New Life feeding programme, we have helped to improve the health standards of these most vulnerable children. With a nutritious diet and proper medication, the children visibly grow in strength and vitality.

Earlier this year, we temporarily lost one of our teachers to illness (now fully recovered), but were delighted that the older girls, who had undergone training, came and volunteered in her absence. We continued to register girls and were able to help one young girl who had been forced to marry an older man. We worked with the area Chief to rescue the girl from the

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marriage. In these ways, our programme is bringing hope to this community.

In early February, a positive ruling was reached on a case that New Life in Lamu had been very closely involved with. An 8 year old girl was repeatedly raped by a 22 year old man and the effects of this injustice were felt very hard throughout the community. New Life was praised for its determination to bring light into the darkness.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these vulnerable children. We thank you for your prayers and support.

*Meleckson & Hulda Dalano*

## GONE To Her Forever Home



*Baby Angela*

We were all deeply saddened by the sudden death of little Angela who went to be with Jesus after a short illness on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011.

Angela was a delightful and sociable little girl who was nearly 3 years old. She had Down's Syndrome and brought lots of fun and laughter to our home here in Kisumu. She would greet us all with her cheerful smile, 'high five' and wonderful range of babbling sounds with a few words thrown in.

Angela attended our 'Little Explorers' group which consisted of toddlers with special needs and normal developing children. Despite her difficulties, Angela

## COMINGS & GOINGS IN KISUMU

Currently we have 41 babies here at New Life Home Trust - Kisumu. Thanks to an increase in the number of adoptions across all our homes, we have released many children before they reach 3 years of age!

Our special needs unit has undergone great improvement. The classroom and sensory room have been a real success. The children have been given wonderful opportunities to participate in creative activities such as painting.

Every day we witness miracles through these children. Jennifer has been diagnosed as cortically blind, but is now able to see toys and crawl towards them. At a young age, Wycliffe could hardly move. Now he is a very cheerful boy with a great sense of humour, a real fighter and survivor. His strength and his special walking frame have allowed him to move about.

We have increased our staff in the special needs unit to cope with the challenges of growing children. We have employed two male workers, who work in separate shifts to help in lifting our "big boys". We are excited to employ an assistant teacher who has been mentored by our special needs teacher, Bev Stockley. The whole team continues to be

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loved singing and would join in with the actions as well as any of the children in the group. Her favourite song was 'If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands'. She certainly was a happy little girl who brought much joy to us here.

We have a story that we read to our children here when other children leave us to be adopted. It has a part in it which says:

"We are sad to say 'Bye, Bye' but we are happy that [child's name] has gone to live in a new home."

We too are happy in the knowledge that Angela has gone to live in her forever home in heaven.

*Prisca Ondeché & Bev Stockley*

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## COMINGS & GOINGS IN KISUMU

dedicated, hardworking, patient and committed. We are hoping to build a new unit especially designed for these growing children.

Thanks to donations from Amani Children's Foundation, John Ondече was able to travel to the United States for a three week fundraising trip. John was hosted in Ohio, North Carolina, Indiana and Pennsylvania at various universities, schools and churches. Spending time at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Messiah College in Pennsylvania (to name just two), John was able to meet with faculty, staff and students who are supporters and admirers of New Life Home's work.

Back in Kisumu, we continue to face challenges that do not seem to have easy solutions. The price of goods has skyrocketed in the last few months. We have to make difficult, cost-cutting decisions on a daily basis to keep pace with the increases.

In the near future, we are hoping to have enough funds to purchase and install a generator. So that we have a more reliable supply of water, we have a lingering need for a borehole. One of our other hopes for the future is for a pick-up truck, because our 2003 vehicle needs costly repairs and we are no longer able to maintain it.

We have high hopes for the future and we celebrate the achievements we have made this year so far!

*John & Prisca Ondече*

# Feeling The **PINCH**



*Give us this day our daily bread*

The 2nd term of the year began in May with 109 children all keen to learn and make their parents proud. We look back over 17 years to when we started and realize God has brought us a long way in this journey in serving Ruiru's needy children. Yet we still have our challenges...

Keeping the 109 children fed during the last two and half months has been a challenge because of the severe drought and famine wreaking havoc in northern Kenya and across the Horn of Africa.

Everywhere in the country, food prices are rising.

When school opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> May this year, the food prices were relatively low. But by this month, prices had soared by 50% and were increasing weekly. We have had to reduce the amount of food and modify the menu in order to keep within our budget.

Everybody is feeling the pinch when it comes to feeding families – not to mention the high cost of living! With the August holiday beginning, one wonders what will happen to some of the children in our school who depend solely on the meals we provide at *NLA, Ruiru*. This is the fate of most Kenyan children from poor families.

It looks like we will continue to struggle with this challenge for some time. The newspapers are reporting that the drought is likely to worsen in the coming years because of climate change. Nevertheless, we are diligently and creatively working to provide food for Ruiru's impoverished children.

We sincerely appreciate the support of our donors who help us to keep the feeding programme going, and we pray that it continues for the sake of the needy children.

May God richly bless you.

*Peter & Anne Chege*

# Best School Trip EVER



*Braeside pupils and their teacher*

Recently New Life Home Trust – Kilimani hosted some of its most eager volunteers ever, a group of 8 and 9 year olds from Braeside School. The kids had a blast and, at the same time, were also a great help to us! Here's what a couple of them had to say after the event:

"My trip to the New Life Children's Home was very fun. The babies were so cute.

The first thing we were told was a story about the home. The second thing, we went to the toddlers. They were very playful. Every time when I went to get a puzzle, they did the correct things.

When we finished, we went to the laundry. Yasin and I were doing hard work. The first thing we did was to hang clothes and put them in the basket. When we finished, we went to fold the towels and clothes, then we were given a second basket to fold.

There was a machine which squeezes the water from the clothes.

We wore hats and looked very funny on them and Mr. Ndirangu took a photo. Yasin put his finger in the machine and I squeezed his finger".

*Elias Japhet (9)*

"When I got to New Life Children's Home, I was so excited because I wanted to see the new babies.

The first thing we did was to separate into four groups. I was in Miss Joan's group.

The first place we went to was the babies that crawl. I was carrying a baby and she was a girl. She was very, very cute. When I was playing with the babies, they were crying and it was so fun. When it was my time to go, a baby was crying for me.

Then we went to the toddlers who were 1–2 years old. I was carrying a baby boy. He was very thin and light. I was playing with them. Then a baby boy spat the soap of the bubbles. The assistant wiped the soap. At the end I was feeding the baby.

The last place we went to was the laundry. The laundry was boring. We were supposed to pair up the socks and it was difficult to do it.

And then time was up. It was my best trip ever and it was so good to meet the small children".

*Rabia Khan (8)*

## ADOPTIONS 'R' US

How quickly time has flown by!

We are already halfway through a productive, yet challenging, year here at New Life Home Trust – Nakuru. We are grateful that the Lord has sustained us and we are confident that He will never leave us, nor forsake us.

The entire Nakuru team is doing well. We delight in our work with all the children here. This is good news, because with 15 children in our Bethel Home and 15 more in the main Nakuru home, there is much work to be done!

So far this year we have rejoiced with five of our boys that have been adopted. Four boys have gone to international families and one has found a home with a local family.

The cost of living has soared in the past few months, which makes us very grateful for the continued support of all our donors. It is because of their kindness and God's that we have survived!

Blessings!

*George Wanjala*

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  
Acting 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  
mbeckenham@gmail.com  
www.newlifelifehome.blogspot.com