

NKUNGA QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY-MARCH 2007

The year begun with great excitement after the festive holiday. Children began school with a lot of enthusiasm to learn. They were promoted to different grades. For beginners it was a new experience to be out of their parents care as they registered to join nursery class. We all thank God for the holiday and the New Year 2007.

School enrolment

The number of Nkunga school enrolment increased from 170 pupils to over 250 children. Classes that had between 10-15 pupils now have 20 pupils and above.

Grade eight examination results

It was time for celebration following the excellent performance of the Nkunga School. The school took the first position out of 48 schools in the division. Six pupils out of thirteen attained 250 marks out of 500 marks and have now joined secondary school. The lead was taken by a girl - Mercy Gaciuki who attained 349 marks with grade of A-, proving that girls are equally good as their counter parts boys.

Scholarship beneficiaries

Jane Nkatha, one of the scholarship beneficiaries graduated from secondary school. She managed a B-grade. Prior to her being supported she almost dropped from school due to the lack of school fees. Jane

currently has volunteered to assist the work in the Nkunga community. She is assisting in bible study as she waits to join a higher learning institution. Jane is always on her knees praying for Highfield Church for the support she received.



Jane Nkatha who finished school through the support of Highfield church.

Abandoned baby- Ken

A baby of about 9 months old was abandoned in a bushy area in Nkunga community by an unknown person. While children were collecting firewood, they found him and carried him to their home where he is living with their mother up to date. FH staff Rosemary managed to visit the child and saw the situation in the family. She later shared the issue with the Kanondone prayer group who were greatly moved. Later, the prayer group organized themselves and carried foodstuffs and clothes and donated some money for the boy's upkeep. They also prayed for the foster parents as they shoulder the burden of taking care of the boy.



Baby Ken was abandoned in Nkunga forest a few months ago.



Naomi Kamwitu opened a business shop through the help of IGAs training offered by FH.

Small business dreams turn true

Naomi Kamwitu is very excited after starting her new shop where she sells food stuffs like flour, sugar, bread etc.

Naomi was able to do this after saving and attaining a loan with Jamii Bora, a local microfinance institution. She made gradual saving of Kshs. 5,000 and was able to get a small loan of Kshs. 10,000. She has been an encouragement to the other members of her group. This move has proved to others that saving through the help of the trainings offered by the FH program is possible.

When the field staff Rosemary visited Naomi, she was quoted saying, "In the next few months, I will have made a great progress. I know that my business will expand and I will soon start selling cereals through the help of God."

Trainings

The beneficiary cluster groups have been trained on the following;

- Bee and beekeeping
- Conditions necessary for beekeeping
- Honey harvesting
- Personal hygiene
- Environmental cleanliness
- Nutrition
- Diseases associated with poor diet e.g. Marasmus
- Balanced diet

Lakeside youth group

The young adults Lake side youth group was founded to address the youth development issues. This was to uplift the moral standards in Nkunga community. The group meets fortnightly. During the quarter, the following topics were discussed;

- Drugs and drug abuse
- Types of drugs
- Signs of drug users
- Why people use drugs
- Effects of drugs
- Stress and stress management

Other activities undertaken together with the group included prayer fellowships and games.

Environmental club

Both the beneficiary parents and the pupils have taken an initiative to improve their environment by increasing forest cover and fruit tree growing. Nursery tree beds were prepared both at the homes and in school. Come the April rains, the seedlings will be ready for transplanting.



Beneficiary families prepare a tree nursery bed.

Sports

Teachers in Nkunga organized for an inter-class competition in football, netball, handball and volley ball. Some of the academically weak pupils excelled so well and their high esteem was built by their excellence. Team work spirit, tolerance, endurance and stamina were good virtues exhibited in their games.



Children play volley ball in Nkunga field during sports time.

Home visit

With the assistance of the the volunteers, over 80% out of the 112 families have been visited and their photos taken and attached to their files.

Bible study

Children Evangelism Fellowship (CEF, an international child evangelism organization) of Kenya has given us 200 copies of the "wonder book" which we use along with the "Footings" core foundational biblical principles for teaching children. The "wonder book" is a simple book to read for children and has illustrations pictures which the children enjoy reading even on their own. It has simple questions, word puzzle and memory verses for children.

Nkunga non-formal centre

A non-formal centre for young boys and girls has been started at Nkunga Methodist church. The parents and leaders have identified children who are unable to proceed to secondary school due to financial constraints in

the past years. The centre currently has 12 students and two teachers. The centre is managed by the community. The students are eager to learn despite the physical and financial constraints.

Marsabit training

The FH work in Nkunga Village is modelled on the principles of the Child Development Programme (CDP). Rosemary and other CDP staff had a chance to meet other colleagues from Nairobi, Marsabit and Sololo for one week training held in Marsabit. The training was coordinated by the CDP International Associate Director Jewel Anita Hendrix. This training was useful in enhancing our program strategy and implementation.

Challenges

- A few children got sick and were treated in Meru General Hospital.
- The school lacks sufficient games equipments and latrines.
- Lack of physical facilities for Nkunga non formal centre.

Prayer requests

- Thank God for good end of year primary education.
- Thank God for Jane's good results and God's provision for her higher learning college
- Pray for baby Ken and give thanks to God for the Kanondone group gesture.
- Thank and pray for Naomi Kamuiru as she manages her new business.

- Pray for Josephine Mbaya who lost her husband Samson Mbaya.
- Thank God for the Child Evangelism Fellowship for their "wonder book" donations.
- Pray for Nkunga non-formal centre as it picks up.