

NKUNGA 3rd QUARTERLY REPORT 2009

Introduction

The quarter has been very successful and has been characterized with many activities. Parents, churches, children and the community at large have been involved in different activities - some quite challenging. However we are thankful to God for what we have been able to accomplish especially during the UK Work Team visit.



Water shortage

As a result of the rain failure experienced in the last two seasons, the community is going through serious water shortage. Lake Nkunga which has been a source of water for the community is slowly drying up. Parents and children are now taking much longer time to queue for water. Herds of cattle, flocks of goats, sheep and camels from the neighbouring communities are also coming in huge numbers and thus a great scramble for water is experienced. Members of the visiting work team had an experience of carrying water on their backs from the lake to the school. This was something that has never been done by men in African society and amazed the women greatly.



Chris carries a 20 litres jerrican of water

School parent meeting/chiefs baraza

During the quarter we had a very successful parent's meeting/chiefs baraza. 300 parents from the location were in attendance. Other leaders in attendance were the area policing managers and developmental chair person. Topics discussed included:

- Provision of lunch to the starving pupils in Nkunga school
- Youth at work (kazi kwa vijana) under the ministry of roads which intends to hire the local youth to repair the roads
- Improvement of education at primary and secondary school
- Elimination of drug use in the area which has caused many deaths through HIV/AIDS/STIs and has orphaned children in the community.



Local chief addresses the parents

Expected Results

- Striking hunger issue was addressed and leaders promised to appeal for food from the government.
- Parents promised to contribute some beans and pay the cook.
- Parents agreed in one voice to hand over to the authorities any person who brews or sells local brew.
- Young people are eagerly looking forward to the opportunity of working for their community and earning something from it.

Food Relief Donation

Hunger is looming not only in Nkunga but in many parts of Kenya. During the previous leaders meeting an appeal for relief food was made. We are happy to report that the government through the local leaders has supplied 10 bags of maize to the school. We are thankful for the good gesture.



Area councillor hands over 10 bags of relief food to school head

The parents have contributed beans, onions cooking oil and have employed a cook. It's a great joy to see the children eat in school hence reduction of absenteeism.

Spiritual development

During the quarter 249 pupils attended a four day camp in St Matthews Church. Grades 4-8 were taught separately from Nursery to grade 3. The camp was facilitated by

children's Pastors, Doctors and a professional Counsellor



Pupils enjoy reading book of Hope during the camp

The theme of the camp was derived from **Revelation 21:5, "Look I am making everything new."** The pupils were asked to re-examine their lives and break the old cords that have entangled them and start off anew because God's desire is to mend broken walls: spiritually, socially, intellectually, emotionally and physically.

Nkunga children face many challenges including rampant immorality, brewing and drinking local brews, low self esteem, poverty, idleness, ignorance among other negative cultural practices. It is our hope that the lessons learnt during the camp will help the children deal with these challenges in a positive and godly manner.

The Nursery – grade 3 pupils were taught about obedience from the book of Jonah who chose to run away after God had sent him to Nineveh.

They drew, painted and enjoyed a puppetry show. These lessons were very enjoyable to the children and it is our prayer that they will remember them and apply them in their daily life.

With the coming of 11 members from Highfield Church, the 248 pupils at Nkunga Primary School were taken through the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector. These lessons were

presented in a very clear manner using big picture books that the children enjoyed very much. They also enjoyed the drama that came with it and this has become a point of discussion among the children during their breaks and when someone is found doing the wrong thing.



Work team participates in a Bible study lesson

PASTORS TRAINING / FILM SHOW

During the team's visit, 30 local pastors and leaders were taken through a three day conference that highlighted the life of Jesus and his accomplishments. They also watched the Jesus film on the same. The emphasis was on the work and challenges Jesus went through while here on the earth. He had great love for mankind regardless of the colour, background, language or status. The pastors were encouraged to know that God loves them unconditionally and irrespective of their circumstances and it is important for them to know that and live as such. The pastors also had a session on the gift of the Holy Spirit and many people enjoyed learning that the gift of speaking in tongues is not for a select few but for every individual who believes in Christ. The pastors came away from this training highly motivated and challenged and extremely thankful to Highfield Church for taking the time to teach them such deep truths.

The pupils also had a chance to enjoy the film which was in Kimeru, the local

language of the people in Nkunga. This was a first for many of the children and they were amazed to see that Jesus speaks their language.



The team during one of the pastor's lessons

Classrooms Renovations

The community was filled with much life and activity during the time that the team was around. The work team and parents were involved in renovating two classrooms. The classrooms were in very bad condition since the floors were earthen raising a lot of dust; the walls had cracks and had no windows hence threatening the pupils' health and performance. The team did a great job getting involved in the construction and by the time they had left, the classrooms were near completion. It is good to see the classrooms now improved and the school is very grateful for the contribution.



Work team empties water to the drums

Home Visits

During the quarter 65 homes have been visited. The parents are

struggling to keep their children well in the face of the food and water problem. The work team came face to face with the problems that the parents experience as they too went on home visits and got to meet some of the members of the community. They encouraged and prayed with them and this was received with much gratitude.

New Pullovers

Most of the pupils have had very worn out pullovers. The work team generously gave 248 brand new pullovers to all the children in the school. The pullovers were received with much joy and will keep them warm and smart during the rainy season.

Slides and Swing

One component of CDP is the physical growth of children. Other than the games and athletics that senior (grade 4-8) pupils participate in, the nursery pupils can now enjoy facilities like swings and slides that have been provided by CDP programme



Fixing of a swing and slide

Death of the goat

It is very unfortunate to report the death of the other Toggenberg which the recent work team visited and were impressed with. Due to the lack of animal feeds, Daniel, the goat keeper fed the goat with avocado leaves unaware of the consequences. Unfortunately the goat blotted and died almost immediately. The vet doctor confirmed this cause of death.

Prayer Requests

- Thank God for the work team and many activities accomplished during their visit.
- Continue to pray for adequate rain
- Thank God for the feeding programme.

CHALLENGE

- Lack of rains have been the greatest challenge
- Absenteeism of pupils from school – they accompany their parents to look for food