

How to Help: Pray, Sponsor, Share...

For more information visit our website www.kindfund.com

To arrange for a speaker or to discuss your interest please contact one of the following:

Ken & Pamela Dobbin
Kesh, Co. Fermanagh.
Tel: 028 6863 2459; 078 0289 4380 (m)
+254 723 944 534 (Kenya)

Maurice Lee, Kesh. Tel: 07843 805233

Jonathan & Keira Dobbin
Bangor, Co Down. Tel: 077 3817 8250 (m)

North Down Prayer Group
Anne Glenn Bangor. Tel: 07793 883 825 (m)

Daphne Lucas/Catherine McCutcheon
Antrim/Templepatrick. Tel: 028 9082 5737

Ros Bell
Lisburn. Tel: 078 7955 2091 (m)

John Steen
Lisburn. Tel: 07423 453348 (m)

Sally Thompson
Magheramason. Tel: 028 7184 1730

Andrew Black
Armagh Tel: 07746 409064 (m)

Gary Moore
Blairgowrie, Scotland. Tel: 077 7168 2842 (m)

Georgia Miller
Wiltshire. Tel: 07469250326 (m)

Gerda Schaaphuizen
Netherlands. Tel: 00316 1003 7868

USA support (Tax Deductable)
www.worldoutreach.org/donations type Kindfund
Tel: (770)-424-1545

Children's Home and Primary School at Ndikir

This summer we are in a position to further develop the Kindfund work in Northern Kenya on four fronts, thanks to your generosity:

the expansion of Kindfund Children's Home in Ndikir, Marsabit County, to 50 beds

the expansion of the Kindfund School at Ndikir as a public school, catering for all the children of the village

the provision of a solar pump and water storage tanks to an existing borehole at Ndikir to provide secure water to the projects

the improvement of educational facilities for all Kindfund children by establishing a primary school for the children at Wamba and Ngaremara.

The new facilities will raise the number of beds for orphan children in Kindfund's three homes from 125 to 170.

Below The classroom at Ndikir Rendille



Summer Bible Camp at Ngaremara

Anne Glenn, for the second year, has prayerfully brought together a team from Northern Ireland to run the Bible Camp at Ngaremara during the second week in August. The theme this year is Serengeti Trek. Please hold the team and the children in your prayers.

Editorial

2 Timothy 3:14

But as for you, continue in what you have learned, and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. (NIV)

At a time when many of our children are moving on to further education and work, the above scripture reminds us of our hope for them and the vision for Kindfund. All our work is underpinned by the desire for the children to know God through his son Jesus Christ and to grow up to serve and witness to him as his ambassadors. You can read more about the older children in this issue.

The work advances on all fronts as we journey with God. 2016 was barely 2 weeks old when our first baby of the year arrived from Samburu. Robert has written to give you more insight into the culture of the Samburu.

A number of occurrences in 2016 have surprised us as we have witnessed God at work in our circumstances.

In Kenya the threat of expulsion from one area was transformed into a warm reaffirmation of our relationship. Since returning to N Ireland in early March, two things troubled me as we planned our return in June. Our main off-road vehicle had broken down just before we left and was in need of a complete engine overhaul; and the Kenya Revenue Authority had seemingly failed to complete our registration request. These issues would have been very time-consuming on our return in June. To our surprise both issues were resolved in May without our intervention. What an inspiration to be "surprised by God".

Ken Dobbin

UPDATE

Encouraging Outcomes – Update on teenagers

John's eyes danced, his face beamed and his body exuded enthusiasm as he described what he had learned in the last few days. He had just spent a week in our Ngaremara Children's Home working with Simon our young mechanic.

John, the middle of three children, has been with us since 2006, originally on our orphan feeding programme, and then in our Wamba home with his sisters when it opened in 2008. Sadly, his older sister passed away last year at the age of 20 from a childhood illness. But what was in store for John? He did not seem to have much going for him and had become quite introspective. He struggled at primary school and didn't do well enough to progress to secondary school. He has also suffered from a health problem since birth.

We began to engage him in jobs around the home and grounds as we considered his future. In January John was one of seven teenagers Ken took to look at courses available at Kainjai Polytechnic, Meru. John began to liven up and took to the idea of the mechanic's course. In preparation he had been helping Simon, another of our boys, now our mechanic, who had taken time to explain to him the basics of the car diesel engine and let him read his notes from his own time at college, where he had come top mechanic. John arrived back at Wamba a different young man, excited at the prospect of training.

John has since completed his first term at Kainjai where he came second in a class of 32. Bernard, another of our boys from the Ngaremara home, came first. Saiya, who is learning tailoring, and Ambrose, carpentry, have also completed their first term. Four academically weaker students having such an opportunity has encouraged others.

Right: Pamela with Gemima and John



Below: Kindfund teens visit Polytechnic





Samburu Women

Baby Rescue

Recently, while attending Sunday worship in a Samburu village, I was struck once again by the sad reality that there were no men, young or old, in attendance! Where are the men and why don't they come to church with the women and children?

One reason is because they are out tending to their animals; cattle, sheep, goats, and camels. Another reason is their desire to preserve their traditions. Many Samburu men, both young and old, see Christianity as the "white man's religion" and a threat to their traditions and way of life. To them, to be a Christian is to stop being Samburu.

Daily life for Samburu women is tough. They live in small houses framed with sticks and lined with skins, cardboard and tin, in desert-like conditions. Samburu women shoulder responsibility for most of the domestic chores, including tending to the children, fetching water, washing clothes, cooking, cleaning, collecting firewood, and building their homes. They are also the victims of various forms of harmful traditional practices, including forced early childhood marriage, FGM (circumcision), and "beading", in which a very young girl is given beads by a moran (warrior) as a symbol of their "engagement" for sexual purposes only - a tradition which frequently leads to cruel, forced abortions or to abandoned newborn babies.

As an outsider observing their world, I see how tough life is for the Samburu, especially the women. I think about the physical and emotional pain they must suffer due to harmful traditional practices and wonder if this is why they are more drawn to Jesus Christ and the Gospel than the men.

So often when life is hard and appears to be hopeless, God lovingly draws us to Himself, giving us hope and peace. Jesus says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

I praise God for my Samburu sisters. Please pray with me for the men, the warriors and the elders, that they too will become followers of Jesus Christ, the God of hope and peace. Then, perhaps, there would no longer be a need to rescue babies!

Robert Wills



Third Baby Rescued in last 6 months

Robert arrived at Ngaremaria mid-January 2016 with a baby boy, Jonathan Alan, born on 1st January at Oldonyiro. He joins Joy and Diana who arrived with us in November.

News



Christmas

Pamela and Ken had lots of fun with the Kindfund children at Christmas. How refreshing to have children who got so much from so little and whose enthusiasm for the indoor games of yesterday left us amazed.



National Schools Scholarship

Three of our girls came in the top five at Ngaremaria Primary final KPCE exams. The first two have won scholarships to national schools. Four other children who sat the KCPE in November have gone to our local secondary schools. We have kept the remaining two boys at our homes for work experience with a view to sending them to Polytechnic next year after they have had opportunity to mature.

This year we have also sent Damaris, who has always expressed a desire to be a missionary, to a discipleship course at YWAM Athi River, and Helen to a short computer course, after which she will join a game lodge in the Matthews Range for further training and work experience. Both these girls have just finished KCSE after four years at Secondary School.

Government Certificate for Kindfund Rendille Primary

In April we received the Government Certificate for our school which serves the children of Ndirkir, Rendille. The school is now public with government support but we will remain sponsors to help with developments. The county government has already installed solar lighting in our classroom.



Amazing Kindfund Lisburn – M&S staff charity gift £32,000

Ken and Pamela, on behalf of Kindfund, accepted a very generous donation from Lisburn Marks and Spencer staff. The cheque was presented at Sprucefield on Tuesday 26th April 2016 by M&S managers Patrice and Stephen.

The fundraising was triggered by the Kindfund children's visit in September/October 2014. As a result of Stephen's drive and enthusiasm, staff at Sprucefield took Kindfund as their charity for 2015. Over the 18 months they were assisted at the various fundraising events by the Kindfund Lisburn team under John Steen, a member of the Kindfund Board.

Kindfund

AGM

The AGM of Kindfund will be held at Belfast Bible College at 7pm on Wed 1st June 2016. Open invitation to all supporters to attend.

Be kind to one another Eph 4:32



Education : Radical Action

This is Glory and Moses sitting on the bonnet of our pick-up. Glory has just moved up to P2 (class 2) at primary school, crammed with 109 other children on too few desks and with just one teacher.

How could she possibly thrive in this situation? This was our Glory - our first baby at Wamba. All our input into her life to date was in danger of being negated. As we reflected this year on the reality of public primary education in N Kenya, for Glory and our other 57 children in the primary system, we began to appreciate why a number of our moderate ability children were beginning to show signs of delinquent behaviour.

We already had tutors helping with studies at night, although with a 5.30am start the kids were exhausted by evening. We had also supported two local primary schools with a classroom assistant but this was just a drop in the bucket. We had to do something radical and quickly.

Last October we sent four of our P7 girls (two from Ngaremaria) to a private school in Wamba. The teachers had been on strike for four weeks and we could not leave these girls to the mercy of the system as they are due to sit their end-of-primary school exam in October 2016. By February this year, the change in these girls could be seen clearly and, within a month, their term exam results had shown a 25% improvement. However, it was their disposition, self-esteem, deportment and ability to hold a conversation in English which impressed us and contrasted with our other kids, some of whom were starting to play truant.

On 9th April, the Kindfund Board wholeheartedly agreed that a private school was the answer. The classrooms could be used as accommodation, and the only running costs to consider were teachers, books, furniture and computers etc. So, from the beginning of the second term in May, we have been operating a two-campus private school: classes 1 to 4 at Wamba and 5 to 7 at Ngaremaria. (We have not disrupted the four girls in Std 8, keeping them at the independent private school in Wamba). The children are boarding during term-time - the younger ones at Ngaremaria moved to Wamba and the older from Wamba to Ngaremaria. Our Wamba and Ngaremaria homes are 85 kms apart (two and a half hours journey time).

We were fortunate to recruit a young qualified teacher to manage the school, and four secondary school leavers awaiting entry to teacher training. This gives us a pupil to teacher ratio of 11:1. Each teacher will be responsible for two very small classes sharing a large classroom.

We need your prayers and your help to make a success of this. If you are prompted in any way to help please get in touch. We have a newly qualified teacher from N Ireland going out in June for three weeks, and several teachers who had previously visited Kindfund in Kenya have expressed an interest in helping. Whether you are a teacher or not, please hold this in your prayer and consider if you would like to help financially.