

# Kindfund

Be kind to one another Eph 4:32

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*'All...who were willing brought to the Lord  
freewill offerings for all the work the Lord  
commanded them to do.' Ex.35:29.*

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## Ni wewe, ni wewe Bwana



I love listening to the children singing, the harmonies effortlessly blending together backed by a simple drumbeat. Even the babies, now recognising the song, are attempting a few words while moving to the beat. However, much more than the melodic sound are the words. *Ni wewe, Ni wewe Bwana* is only one song but it captures the aim of Kindfund. This first line "It's you, Jesus" points to what our overall vision for these children is

all about. It's all about Jesus. Everything we do in a practical way - love, feed, clothe, educate and whatever other issues may arise through normal everyday life - is done as a reflection of Jesus' love for them. As James reminds us in chapter 2 v 15-16: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?"

It is not always easy and many situations arise that need to be dealt with. Some of these are the hospital visits. Felix ended up in hospital after breaking his wrist playing football (I was the right person to help from considerable experience) but it was good to be able to encourage him and keep him calm in his pain as one who knew how he was feeling. This was another example of God's provision in everything. The hospital in Wamba is a 10/15 minute walk away, but when we were outside the gate a guy on a motorbike saw him and took him to the hospital at no charge. After an operation to put pins in his wrist, Felix is still in plaster but doing well. There was also Stephen and Saralina who we had to take to hospital in Meru - a CT scan for Stephen and for Saralina to see a specialist. I was let loose to drive on this occasion and although the road is quite dangerous in some places, I have to admit I enjoyed driving around the potholes. Both Stephen and Saralina's treatment is ongoing but God yet again stepped in and they are doing well.

Over the last three months I've had the paintbrush out, I have found myself in places I never expected to be, negotiating with officials I never expected to meet and making decisions I never expected to have to make. I'm even attempting to learn a little Swahili in my old age, although this is a slow process!!! The challenges involved in all this I definitely couldn't do in my own strength, as the song says, "It's you, Jesus". He gives us the strength to face anything that crops up. And it is an awesome privilege that God has trusted me to be a part of His work out in Kenya. You too can join me in this privilege that God has given us and be a part of this work. It doesn't necessarily have to involve a flight to Kenya: God is much bigger than geography. He hears our prayers and sees us helping our brothers and sisters in need, in whatever form that takes. At the end of the day; Ni wewe, Bwana. It's you, Jesus. It really is all about Jesus.

Gillian October 2017



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## Editorial

*That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding peoples' troubles, but waded right in and helped out.*  
Romans 15:3 (MSG)

I believe the verse from Romans describes concisely what Kindfund has been doing this year and that has required us all to work together with the Lord. Fifteen new children this year so far from Marsabit, 240kms to the North to Isiolo, 20 kms South of our HQ at Ngaremarara. Orphans, abandoned children and children escaping abuse. All three of our homes have seen an increase with numbers now approaching 125 children.

The primary school is performing well and a very big thankyou to the NI schools who have provided much needed English and mathematics books, uniforms and other material.

In this prayer letter you can listen to Gillian's heartbeat, join Ken and Pamela on a two-day working safari (trip), learn about dealing with water shortage at Wamba and come up to date with Honey Hill and the plans David & BJ Laroche have for development.

You will gain a new appreciation of the Saviour's words - *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.* Luke 10:2

Thank you for your prayers and material support. Please be encouraged and persevere together with us. *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labour*  
Ecclesiastes 4:9

Ken Dobbin

# Kindfund

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(Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC100121 and in Kenya Society No.26316)

## Prayer Letter October 2017

Working and Witnessing among the pastoralist Turkana, Samburu and Rendille since 2004

## Wrestling with Water shortages



Water water everywhere and not a drop to drink - The rhyme of the Ancient Mariner. When I learnt this line at school I could not have imagined the situation in Northern Kenya - sand and soil blowing everywhere and little water to drink.

In Western Europe, we take water for granted. In North Kenya at our home at Wamba, Samburu, water is a daily concern. With 50+ children and 15 adults on site the manager wages a constant battle with the authorities in the small town to get water. Writing this today at Wamba he tells me, 'it is over a week since we last received water'. Then he could fill one tank with 8,000 litres and another with 5,000 litres (we have three 10,000 litre storage tanks). All taps have been turned off and water distributed in the home by jerrycan to cut consumption. Today the 8,000 litres have gone and only 5,000 remain.

The rains last season were again insufficient. It is sad to look out at dried up trees and vegetation. On Wamba mountain behind our home, the soil once covered by a canopy of trees is now visible two thirds of the way up the mountain. Only at the top is there a sea of green.

We need a long-term water solution at Wamba. One suggestion is greater storage capacity to capture more when it occasionally rains and we want to consider various alternatives for storage - concrete tank, metal tanks and plastic. As a minimum, we probably need storage for 100,000 litres. Based on the cost of a 10,000-litre plastic tank at £540 this represents a spend of around £5,400, plus of course the concrete platform and the plumbing and pumping equipment required.

We need wisdom as we consider the way forward not just at Wamba but also Ndirkir, our most Northerly home where we buy a bowser of water (18,000ltrs) every two months. The long-term solution is our own bore hole if we can confirm water below the ground with a survey. At our headquarters in Ngaremarara we rely on a handpump over a hand-dug well although this will change when we are connected to the electricity supply and we can install an electric pump.

Pray specifically for each of these situations.

Jeremiah 9:24 I am the Lord who exercises kindness  
Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another



# Living with water shortage

Have you experienced water shortage lately? Have you showered and washed your hair with 2 litres of water recently? Have you saved the water from your shower to wash your clothes or boiled the water before putting it through a filter for drinking? That's how it has been in our Wamba Home for the last 7 months.

The next rains are due mid-October - maybe it doesn't seem long to us in Ireland but for the staff and children it's a long time yet. As mentioned above this has been a constant battle for our manager and staff. Nzau, our manager, is constantly phoning the water engineers, calling with the local chief, District Commissioner, MP and anyone else that he thinks might be able to help.

It is a daily prayer request to our Lord. We have gathered together with staff and children to pray. Many times, the Lord has answered our prayers though quite often we have had to wait. Please join with us in prayer for God's wisdom on the way forward and for sufficient rains in the next rainy season.

## Postscript

In the middle of September, we took the decision to proceed at Wamba with the installation of six 10,000 litre tanks and the plumbing required. Before Ken left on 5th October we had the concrete platform in place, had received all the small plumbing and pumping equipment and were waiting for the delivery of the six tanks and larger pipes. We planned to have all operational before the rains due later in October. However, as I write the home has had heavy rain for two days (praise God) and the six tanks and remaining plumbing were delivered yesterday and today. We have missed this first rain but hope to have the storage in place within a few days to collect 90,000 litres over the next 2 months. Pray for Nzau as he does the plumbing and manages the rest of the project.

**Pamela Dobin**



*Constructing the tank platform*

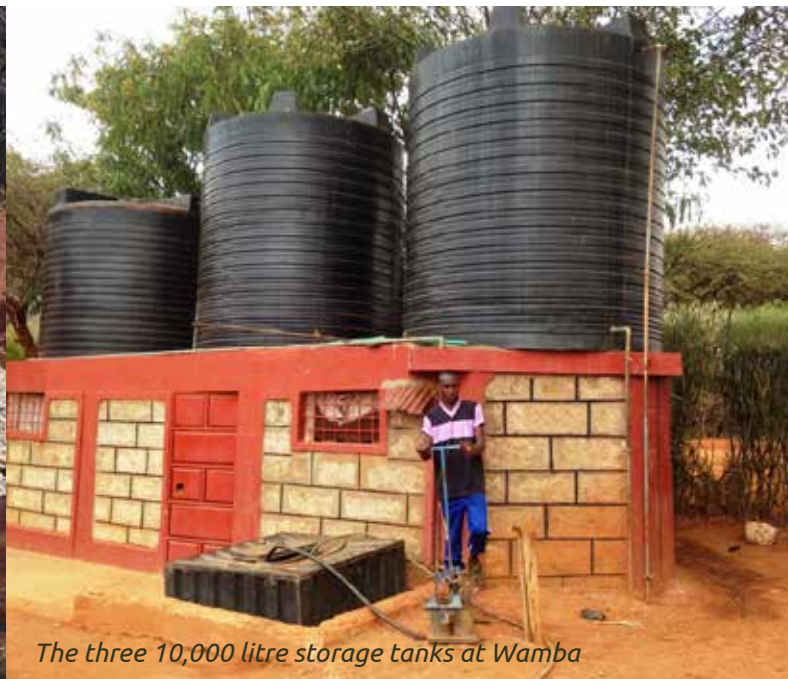
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*Principal with school books from N Ireland*



*Pamela on Safari*



*The three 10,000 litre storage tanks at Wamba*

# Safari in Northern Kenya

Mother Teresa comes immediately to mind when we think of Sisters of Charity. This year she has been gone 20 years, yet her legacy lives on with 6,000 Sisters in most countries around the world.

In late July we were visited at Ngaremara by two Sisters from their home/rescue centre in Marsabit for very young girls who have become pregnant and are waiting for resettlement opportunities. The Sisters had heard of Kindfund and wanted to visit us to see the facilities and enquire if we could take two children whose mother had died. In fact, the senior Sister from Slovakia had phoned me in June in the UK and said she would call when I was in Kenya.

So, on 2nd August Pamela and I set out on a little safari. First stop was with Raphael and Lucy at our Ndikir home 165kms North of Ngaremara and in Marsabit County. The road is now all tarmac except for the last 18kms so we could travel in our 2000 Toyota Reguis and bring some Ngaremara children for a short holiday at Ndikir.

Raphael and Lucy would be pleased to welcome two new children to their recently expanded facilities. Parking under the acacia tree in front of our main building we converted the 8-seater into our 'campervan' for the night and settled down, windows open - 34 degrees. The Ngaremara children had long since integrated themselves with the Ndikir children. The blood red African sun had disappeared behind the distant mountains. The almost full moon cast plenty of light across the sandy ground. We slept soundly till first light shortly after 6am when we were aroused by the wooden bells of a herd of camels passing close by.

After taking time with Raphael and Lucy, we left at 10.30 to drive back to Laisamis and the tarmac before turning North to cover the final 90kms to Marsabit where we had two meetings. But first the drive across the desert and then the climb to Marsabit which sits on top of a huge mound of a mountain with a temperature of only 18 degrees when we arrived at lunchtime - low cloud and strong wind. We checked in to the Pastoral Centre run by the Catholic Mission - excellent accommodation and food but cold shower (the electricity was off on our section of the facility).

After lunch David Laroche called to take us out to Honey Hill farm to see our two disabled children, Roba and Warre and to discuss his Biogas project (see article aside). The children were looking excellent and we were pleased the family had been able to recruit someone to help. The children (aged 14 and 11) are physically and mentally disabled, incontinent and require constant supervision.

Next morning, we visited the Sisters of Charity home and met the two orphaned children - Faith, a 9-year-old girl who was acting mum to Dade, her almost 3 year old brother. We left to do other business in Marsabit and the Sister called the Child Officer to obtain approval to let us take the children to Ndikir. We are known to the Child Department so there was no problem and when we returned just after lunch the two children accompanied us to Ndikir where they received a warm welcome from our children. We left at 4pm for the final 165kms to Ngaremara, arriving just as light faded.



*Faith, a 9-year-old girl who was acting mum to Dade, her almost 3 year old brother.*

## Postscript:

One-week later Simon, our driver mechanic, spoke to the 9-year-old at Ndikir. She was very happy and liked the home and children even better than at Marsabit - her words to him.

A week later still I was back at Ndikir with our young maintenance team (older boys) to install a clothes line and carry out some repairs. Faith and Dade were totally at home.

In September following another visit to the Sisters of Charity at Marsabit we brought two more children to Kindfund. One a 13 year old girl escaping from early marriage we placed at Ndikir.

At the beginning of October, we installed two new wood burning cookers in the home at Ndikir.





## Honey Hill Blessings And Challenges

Kindfund have been helping an American couple David and BJ Laroche establish a small home (Honey Hill) for physically and mentally challenged children at Marsabit in the very North of Kenya. This is an update from them



Greetings from dry and windy Honey Hill Home in Marsabit. This update is long overdue so here goes.

### Blessings

Warre continues to grow stronger and healthier. She still suffers from occasional seizures but, thanks in part to diet, seizures are fewer and less severe than in the past with fewer and shorter lasting side effects. She continues to love the outdoors and takes long walks but returns regularly to "base" for a drink of water, a bite to eat or just to check in. This is in marked contrast to her early walks where they tended to be one way! She even spoke for the first known time several months ago. Fatu was shoveling food in her mouth without paying much attention and suddenly Warre burst out "Abo na lakisa" - roughly translated as "Please just leave me alone!"

Roba is also developing. He has quite a sense of humor and many things amuse him throughout the day. Although bent in half like a little old man, he can walk, usually aided but sometimes not. He also stands often without support. We try daily to work with him on flexibility issues.



Roba and Warre

### Biogas!

We are most thankful for all who contributed to our new (95,000 Kenyan shillings / approx £700) domestic biogas system organized by Kindfund. It was delivered and installed and we are presently mixing the slurry to fill it up. Hopefully within the week there will be free and abundant cooking gas and the expensive gas cylinders will be no more! Moses is being trained on mixing the slurry and is adding this effort to his other duties of hydroponic fodder, garden watering and dog care. Postscript: After teething problems gas is now flowing to the cooker.

### Rachel

Our invaluable caretaker and manager of most things around\* came back! She left us for two weeks while she went to Kiambu to vote but has returned. We all missed her.

\*Rachel's sharp and observant eyes not only keep track of Warre's whereabouts but also the location of wandering camels and lost goats!

### James

We thank God that James's shattered leg continues to heal. It has been possible for him to live at the milk bar where we are selling a small amount of milk daily. This milk bar is an outlet for our own camel milk in addition to assisting various pastoralist women to sell their milk. This is one small income for the home, and we are looking at other ways to increase this. James is able to hobble around with his full leg cast and do the work necessary.

### Fatu and Khadra

Fatu, the young and troubled single mother with a horrendous background of childhood abuse currently living with us, continues to help in the ways that she can and will hopefully learn new ways to be responsible. Khadra, her bright and engaged toddler has gone from being malnourished and not walking to a chubby, happy, active baby girl.

## Challenges

### Drought

The major issue causing serious worrying challenges to the home is the ongoing severe drought around Marsabit mountain. We have had to buy increasingly expensive water for all the needs of the home. The children live on meat and bone stocks with vegetables, and our sheep and goat numbers have dwindled greatly. They also drink camel's milk which has also reduced with decreasing grazing. We are buying concentrated animal feeds and grains for growing hydroponic fodder as well as to keep the animals alive and producing a bit of milk.



### Acorn Tutorials

An opportunity has come up for Roba and Warre to get some individualized therapy and educational input for a week or two in Nairobi at Acorn Tutorials. Eva Nyoike, a renowned special needs educator, is willing to provide guidance on therapy and educational steps for the kids' ongoing home schooling and care. She has offered to have them come for a week or two with Rachel to have them assessed and to train Rachel in what to do back home.

We are praying for favor with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities that they will process the paperwork for the partial tuition coverage and that the funds will be found for the small balance to make this happen and soon.



Mentally and Physically challenged child at Ndirkir - potential for Honey Hill

### More kids

Several other children have come to our attention with desperate needs and issues. We would wish to open our doors to welcome any children that needed us but will need another caretaker and more resources to make that a reality. Appreciate fervent prayers in this regard and that we will be faithful to God in hearing his voice in this.

### Ongoing permaculture farm plans

The Biogas is a major step towards self-sufficiency on this budding permaculture farm. Beehives and expanding the small organic kitchen garden are next. The slurry from the biogas plant makes excellent fertilizer so that will also input to the garden.

We have increased the free-range laying hens to 15 and are hoping that the local chickens will be ready soon to sit on the eggs to hatch more. A vermipost project (wiggly red worms) is also underway, producing wonderful soil and "worm tea" for plants.

It is anticipated that leather processing will follow the installation of beehives. These things will be consumed in the home and will also be valuable items for sale in the future, God willing.

### Footnote by the Kindfund Editor

We would like to be able to help David and BJ to help a few more children with special needs. If you would like to support either with a gift or through our sponsorship scheme please contact us - details on back page of prayer letter

Thanks to all who are praying, giving and advising in this fledgling home.