

Be kind to
one another
Eph 4:32

KINDFUND

Prayer Letter September 2021

I am the Lord
who exercises
kindness
Jer 9:24

EDITORIAL

When I started to write this editorial, I was looking out at green fields, light drizzly rain and grey skies. Now, to most, it wouldn't be a big leap from that thought to feel drawn to hotter climate, sunny blue skies and sand. And while, I agree, a little sun is nice, I was thinking of our children at Kindfund running around after school, playing, laughing, telling me to put on a sweater at 5pm with the sun still beaming and a temperature far beyond sweater weather. (In my opinion)!!! I admit this had been a common thought during the last sixteen months, since I returned from Kenya, and as covid 19 has changed the normal run of things in our world and also affected our ability to return to the kids during that time, we have been so blessed to see God at work through it all. We can plan and organise what the children need, but as I was reminded of this week in my daily reading, in Proverbs 21 v 31. *"The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord."* God did make a way through it all, and also for me as I am now back in Kenya with the kids where I belong. And yes, I am still being told to put on a sweater at 5pm with the sun splitting the stones and far too hot!!!

In this prayer letter, you get a little insight of how life has continued for the children and staff, some of the latter have received their covid vaccinations. We can definitely see God's hand at work in it all. Hospital visits, school, family and new additions to our family. We received a blessing in the form of a letter, (*see italics*) from one of our girls, who is now a young adult. And we have the privilege of being able to help eight new children, including three babies, from Northern Kenya. In this, I am reminded again of the awesome privilege we have been given to show them God's love, play our part to secure their future and encourage them to realise their potential.

Gillian



"Pass this please to Ken and Pam and all Kindfund management. I really thank all of you for the support you give me since 2009 when I joined Kindfund, up to this time. You cared for us, paid all our fees, you give us education which is one of the best gift you can offer. I really appreciate and may God continue to bless you and do great things through you all – Nzau, Kende, Silvia, Faith, Conny may Almighty God shower blessings upon you. If it were not for you all we couldn't reach where we are today..... also to Gillian and Jonathan may God bless them. Remember that God is the one who sent you to do his work so you must do it passionately! Greet all Kindfund family. Praying for all of you."

We were delighted and humbled to receive the above message from one of our girls, who has finished secondary school, and now, a lovely young woman, looking ahead to what is next for her. We have so many memories together since she came into our Kindfund family many years ago, including a trip to UK in 2014, and we continue to pray for her and all our children who have reached this stage in their lives, that God will continue to be in all the decisions they make.



Some fun times
with the
children...

Arts and crafts
and games.





The photo shows the arrival of the eight children from Marsabit along with the Sisters of Charity who had been caring for them in the short term and some of Kindfund staff who have welcomed them to our family.

Several children have been referred to us in the past from Marsabit County, and we have been privileged to be able to help. Again, this year, three families (8 children as above) with babies and young children in urgent need of assistance have requested our help. Unfortunately, the assessment of each case was held up by Covid 19, but as soon as it became possible, Raphael travelled from Ndikir to Marsabit to meet the Sisters, families and the children. After discussions and evaluating the situation in conjunction with the Child Officer eight children including three babies (twins – boy and girl at 6 months and a 4-month-old boy), 4 boys – 10, 9, 8 and 6yrs and a girl of 3 years were being considered for a move to Kindfund within the week. Quite an exercise and lots to prepare to receive them well. We were so thankful for your prayerful support for the management and staff

Then, on a Saturday morning early in June, we welcomed the arrival of the party at Ngaremara from Marsabit. Very sad circumstances but received with joy in the name of Jesus.

What a privilege to play our part to secure their future and encourage them to realise their potential.

The staff and other children have been thrilled to receive them. A lot of work and dedication required for which we thank our staff and continue to welcome your continued prayers particularly as some of the children have come with pre-existing health problems.

First reflections from Lea - Arriving in Nairobi and travelling 5 hours North, I had time to really arrive in Kenya with all its impressions! Until I entered the airplane I didn't know if it really would work out because of these times of uncertainty.

After 18 months absence it was amazing to be back in a community that I was so happy to see again. People I have met before, faces that would be welcoming me so much!

Arriving at Ngaremara Kindfund, I immediately felt in a way at home in this special place that is already known to me. Also, I'm glad that I still could identify the kids, that they have not grown too much since I left them last time. After a few days of compulsory isolation, I was ready to meet the kids face to face. It was overwhelming. In a good way but at the same time literally overwhelming as the kids wouldn't stop requesting my attention and besides, I was trying to get used to the quite warm temperature at that time of the year. I couldn't change the fact that I'm only one person. Therefore, I was glad that after 2 days everything settled down a bit, so that I could have good encounters with single kids. Something I enjoy a lot is to improve my Swahili. The kids are the best little teachers one could wish for.

Being on the road in Africa (like a trip to nearby Isiolo) is always an adventure, I love it and at the same time it can get scary. Here is to mention that Gillian is a tough driver keeping calm no matter what!

As I finish this initial report, I am looking forward to travelling North to visit the Kindfund children in the homes at Ndikir and Wamba before returning for a short, few days at Ngaremara to complete the administration required now for flying home to Austria.

Time flies by so fast. I'm here for a total 4 weeks and know already that I'm going to miss the people and the country after this. Thank you for having me Kindfund Family I will write further when I return home.



Lea's first reflections as she arrived back in Kindfund for her second visit. Seeing the welcoming faces she met last time and meeting new ones.

When I wrote about my miracle journey back from Kenya in March 2020, I hadn't anticipated I would not be able to return for sixteen months. It was a very difficult time and certainly a test of patience for me. Just like that journey back to NI in March, God had a plan for this period as well. We learned to adapt in how we managed things by doing it from a distance. The staff grew in this period as well but in it all we were reminded again that nothing we do is possible unless God is in it. I mentioned in the Editorial Proverbs 21 v 31. Equally, Psalm 127 v 1a, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain..."

In July, God opened the door for a return to Kenya. After booking flights, Visa, PCR tests, numerous forms and 7 days isolation in Kenya, I finally arrived back with the kids. It was fabulous, a real homecoming. The kids had grown, it was lovely to hear their stories of the last sixteen months and to meet the new additions to our family for the first time. This was repeated in each of the three homes. It did my heart good.

As you might expect though, there were plenty of challenges as well. Usually, after an absence of a few months, there are lots of things to sort through. So, after sixteen months, yes, it has been extremely busy and at times overwhelming. Thank you all for your prayers for strength and wisdom as we tackled all this. God has been good and answered prayer.

There has been plenty of excitement along the way also. Some planned, some unexpected!! Some car trouble led to interesting encounters as I awaited rescue. Although I am learning some tricks of a mechanic these days, I did manage to lose a whole headlight, break the car key completely in half to name a few! We had a surprise birth in the early arrival of a baby girl one morning in my house. A new experience for me! We praise God all was well. Joshua had an operation on his foot and again we thank God that he is now well again. Dorcas dislocated her thumb. We have had some lovely Sunday afternoon walks with the children and plenty of stories along the way. Including a climb up a mountain, what an adventure. We are still in the dry season and in Wamba there was a real shortage of water. But, yet again we praise and thank God, we have water and at time of writing our tanks are full again as we await the rainy season. The challenge of getting the school back on track with the new term calendar after interruptions due to covid 19. I have been enjoying the fellowships and Sunday morning services with the children. I had missed their singing, fervent prayers and praises to God.

I'll finish for now with the theme for Sunday morning service in Wamba this week. Ephesians 6 v 18, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Gillian



The photo below is of the children wearing the result of their arts and crafts. They painted the masks, the older ones helping the younger ones and then wore them around everywhere all day!



Above is a photo of the kids enjoying a walk to the bridge. The river is dry as the rainy season is not yet upon us so they enjoyed running under the bridge. In one side and out the other.

They stood just long enough for me to take the photo.





I was looking through some photos with the children of the past six years I have been coming to Kenya. Their reactions to pictures of themselves a few years before was comical at times but nice for them to see in pictures the journey our family has been on together.

The photo on the left is from my first trip in July 2015 and the one on the right is September 2021.

It is lovely to see the positive difference six years make. This is Martin and Monica. Two lovely children, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to watch them grow in every way.

But I have to say, Monica is a little heavier this time to carry!

Gillian

Sponsorship

Most of you will have received sponsor reports in the last 9 months. The reports are a little different because of the problems with Covid and some will not have received photographs this time. Those who have not received reports we are working to provide these as soon as possible. Thank you for your faithfulness in partnering with us in this work.

Pamela

We may not have been to Kenya but there has been no shortage of administration and Management work here during the past 18 months as we have kept the wheels turning in Kenya.

We continue to thank God for his abundant provision. At our AGM on 6th September, we reported a small increase in Income despite the ravages of Covid and we give God praise for your faithfulness in supporting this precious work.

God willing, I will be joining Gillian in Kenya on 18th of September for six weeks. There is a very busy schedule of work ahead including a management Seminar on top of all the usual Trustees responsibilities so please pray for wisdom and a humble and gracious spirit

Ken

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the children, that they will know God and His love for them.
- Pray for their health and welfare in all areas.
- Pray for staff as they care for the children and teach them in a family environment with God at the head.
- Pray for the 8 children who joined our family from Marsabit.
- Pray for the children who have become young adults and moved on to the next stage of their lives. That they continue to seek God and look to Him for the future.
- Pray for Lea as she returns to Austria and reflects on her 4 weeks with the children.
- Pray for Ken, Pamela and Gillian as they continue to seek God and His wisdom and strength for where He leads the work.