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For the first time in years the whole family was at home: Steve, Irene & Abeid. Grace, Everline, Ayugi, Angela

We prayed for fewer 'adventures' on this trip but it seemed they followed us instead. Just 24 hours after we landed, Nairobi Airport International terminal suffered a devastating fire. All credit to KAA who organised the ensuing chaos better than a normal day!

It was an excellent trip but tinged with more than a little sadness. One of our Form 4 students died the weekend we arrived and we attended his funeral on the Saturday. It was so emotional to view Macarthy's body, the fifth of his parents' seven children to die but the one with promise of university. The home compound was packed with hundreds of mourners and his schoolfriends carried his coffin round to the grave behind the small mud house amidst much weeping and wailing.

In Kisumu we did our usual banking and buying, again chemistry and biology equipment for the High School. Thankyou Loreto 6th Form Chemistry Dept.



The goat projects are going particularly well. We now have 32. The original seven have all had at least one kid, some had twins. The handing on of the kids to poor families is closely monitored by Eliakim, one of the church elders.



We also visited Renish in her home over the stream. She's the little girl who had a brain tumour removed. She is needing more treatment in Kampala which we have had funding for and a supporter had sent her some clothes which she was excited about.

Renish's tiny home



Education

Our high school is working hard to improve exam results. Seven of last year's Form 4 will be going to university or Teacher Training College next month on full Hope Beyond Form 4 scholarships. We are trying to encourage students to apply for Village Polytechnics where they can learn a trade. This is much cheaper for us to fund.



We spent some time discussing the Connecting Classroom initiative sponsored by the British Council and hope to obtain funding for reciprocal visits by two teachers, Diana from the High School and Preston from the Primary.

We did some tweaking of the plans for the dining room and explained the concept of a picnic table! Kolweny Kingsway Primary is looking fantastic and is often mistaken for a private school.

The contractor eventually finished flattening the football pitch at school but left it 'furrowed'. He spent a good deal of his quoted time widening the paths so that he could get the machine there. The silver

lining is that it's much easier to drive up the 5 Km from the road now. The students were going to bring in hoes this week and stand in a row and flatten it themselves. If that's done well we said we would buy the grass seed otherwise it's less than useless as a pitch. It's so frustrating sometimes.

Form 4 usually go on a field trip to Nakuru Park in October. For most it's their first trip away from the community. This year there was no funding so the students would be leaving after 10 years of education without even going on a bus! Oh dear – executive decision to fund the trip just this once. The total cost for 44 students is £700 – if anyone would like to contribute to that, please feel free. The students need a break; they are worked Saturdays and Sundays and through the so-called holidays.

As it was summer holidays we were visited by several of our university students. They are such lovely young men and women and we're very proud of them.



We handed out the usual pencils and pens –thankyou individuals and Just Pens - and toothbrushes. This year students at Kingsway, Cheadle, had made drawstring bags for the pupils at the primary school -they were over the moon.

We also handed over more pairs of pumps to the pupils at **Kadie**, our poorest feeder primary – we need more in larger sizes please. Doreen, the headteacher gave us a chicken and huge bunch of bananas. The

biggest success is the knickers!! One primary headteacher reported parents wanting to register their girls simply so they could get free knickers! Keep them coming – ages 4-18.



At **Oogo Primary School** we handed out more lego for the pre-school and were given another chicken. This one escaped in the vehicle – they're quite a job to get hold of.





Also at Oogo, Steve and our builder, Kennedy, sorted out how to support the subsidising classroom built by the government.



We paid a visit to the local metalworker who is building a playground for Oogo preschool. He's making such a good job of about 7 different swings, rides, seesaw, roundabout and using him spreads the money around the local community.

Water

We had a visit from a delegation from one of our feeder primaries one afternoon. They wanted to thank us for the latrines we had built but we discovered we hadn't built them a tank so they are next on the list. That leaves only two more and all our ten feeder primaries will have large concrete tanks and gutters for water harvesting. We also promoted filters whilst they were with us so Joseph will have to start up the business again. We have asked him to select another 18 poor families to have a filter donated and we are putting one in **Oriang dispensary**, near Kadie Primary School and one in our dispensary. The idea is for women to exchange a bucket of dirty water for a bucket of filtered water for just a few pence. A bucket of drinking water should last several days as river water can be used for washing etc..

Health



We have had a series of health workers since Edwin left the dispensary and that has led to a lack of confidence in the facility. At present we have a health practitioner/nurse for two days a week paid for by another charity, a volunteer and a lady who is counselling and going round the community 'sensitising and mobilising' – their words. It seems to be working. The volunteer is Ayugi's daughter, **Irene**, who has just finished her university studies in nursing. She needs two years' experience in the community before she can consider further studies so we have offered her the full time paid post and are hoping she will start on September 1st. She should let us know this week.

We took out with us the usual thousands of paracetamol, ibuprofen, aspirin and cocodamol capsules/tablets, useful prescription medication, bandages, plasters, small instruments, syringes, spectacles and the requested laxatives and multivitamins and germolene. We again gave toothbrushes and medicines to Kennedy the dentist, and this time to Everline, the nurse at Oriang dispensary, mentioned earlier.

Angela had a long and interesting question/answer session with Form 1 girls at Kolweny Kingsway High School when she handed out Mooncups (re-usable sanitary protection). They were delighted to receive them and the accompanying pair of knickers. Girls' health is a vital issue and not often dealt with..

Small Businesses

The sewing business we set up to make washable sanitary pads has had difficulty getting off the ground because people won't pay the asking price but add a pair of knickers into the equation and they will pay double so. As I said before, keep them coming please!

Karowley The mating toads were at it again but infinitely preferable to bats in the roof. The eccentric plumbing has finally got the better of us. Nothing at all works now except to leak everywhere. We shall have to invest in a new bathroom and plumbing system if we are to maintain sanity. Skylark plumbing will be our first port of call in October. Two teenagers from our church are coming with us in October. They will both help in classrooms but they will also paint games onto the concrete block at the side of the preschool room. David will be reinstating touch rugby, pitch permitting, and Sarah is going to take along her violin –that will be such a novelty.



This trip we flew Turkish Airlines as their summer prices were approximately half those of KLM and they also allow extra baggage. The flying times are a bit awkward – 3.45 a.m. back from Nairobi – but otherwise they were excellent, on time and all luggage intact. We spent four wonderful days in Istanbul en route home. It was exhausting but fascinating. We'll quite possibly do it again sometime. We can recommend a lovely little family hotel 400 mtrs from the sights with sea view balcony if you're interested.

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