



# Kisima News

## August 2022

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### HOME AND BACK AGAIN

Kenya has a new president-elect, William Ruto, following the tightly-contested general election on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Because of the history of violence during previous election periods, the government ordered all schools to close a week before the voting day. The process of vote-tallying took six days, forcing the reopening of schools to be postponed twice. But we are glad to report that as of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, the Kisima students have been back in school. This term was only going to be two months long, so the loss of two weeks has only added to the pressure facing the teachers and students in trying to cover the syllabus.

Prior to this disruption, school life was really getting back to normal, with hard work balanced out by extra-curricular activities and special events. For the first time since COVID, the school bus took a group of students out of school, as it transported them to the starting point of a sponsored walk.



This was in aid of the Nyahururu Hospice, and all the students had collected some money while at home.

Even if their friends and relatives could only donate a tiny amount, it all added up, so as a school we were able to make a good contribution to the appeal.

Another event that had not taken place for the past two years was the inter-class athletics competition. Finally it was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July, from 7am till about 5pm, when heavy rain brought the activities to a sudden end, before the final few races had been run. The students showed their talents in long and short distance running, the walking race, javelin, discus, shot put, high jump, long jump and triple jump. There were also some more light-hearted events such as the sack race and the hula hoop competition, where competitors were judged on their creative styles of hula hooping as well as for keeping going for three minutes!



## A FLOCK OF VISITORS

The past few months have also been busy with visitors. In June we were delighted that Kenny and Patricia Ives were able to come and see the school, including the borehole that they had so generously funded. Next came TEFT trustee Richard Walton - he has visited Kisima many times and this time brought his friend Colin for his first visit. Kenny and Patricia and Richard and Colin each had a very helpful session with the students, where they answered a range of questions about their backgrounds, studies, careers and more.

Then in July, we welcomed John Baldwin and Barbara Kolator, who finally made it to Kenya two years after they had planned, as their original trip was cancelled because of the pandemic. They spent five days with us so had time to attend some lessons, visit a student's home and primary school, see the school farm and (in Barbara's case) have a knitting session with a big group of interested students.



As well as spending time with the two students they currently sponsor, they were able to speak to or meet several of their former sponsored students. One is working in human resource management, one is a civil engineer, one is an economics student and one is a mechanical engineering student. It is so encouraging to hear what they are doing and how their lives have been changed through education.

Another of John and Barbara's activities was helping out in the library; cataloguing, covering and labelling a lot of books they had kindly brought for the school.



Kenny and Patricia were also inspired to give a gift of books and now each student has a new Bible and a Swahili hymn book of their own.



We are very thankful to all our visitors for taking the time to come here and for their contributions to school life. Their visits are greatly enjoyed by the students, who always make sure they are given Kisima's traditional musical welcome!



## THANKS, THANKS AND MORE THANKS!

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, Catherine, James and Sarah headed to the UK - our first visit there in almost three years. With only two and a half weeks in the country, we did not travel around as much as on previous visits, but we did manage to meet Kisima supporters in Exmouth and Hayes. We also had a brief stop in Lyme Regis to meet Penelope Roques and her bearded collie, Lintie, and to have some cuddles with Lintie's puppies! She had a litter of ten puppies and Penelope is giving the proceeds from their sale (apart from one that she is keeping) to Kisima. This is now the second time that Penelope has donated a very large sum of money to Kisima in this way, and we are so grateful.



While we were away, there was a week's holiday at Kisima to mark the end of term one. A lot of activity went on in that short break - the tuition block roof was replaced as the iron sheets were in a poor state after eighteen years, and a CCTV system was installed to enhance security. Thank you so much to the churches and individuals whose donations made these developments possible.

Huge thanks also go to John & Sue Newcomb and Mark & Julie Dickens (who have all sponsored students at Kisima and who are members of Christ Church, Chorleywood). After a break of five years, they again got on their bikes and completed a 70 mile (112 km) cycle ride over the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> August.

They cycled along the Kennet and Avon Canal from the market town of Devizes to the ancient city of Bath, and then along an old railway track (now a path for pedestrians and cyclists) to North Bristol, before returning to Devizes. The ride went smoothly (apart from a puncture and a couple of tumbles along the stony canal towpath!) and thanks to many generous sponsors nearly £16,000 has been raised for Kisima - praise the Lord! The team (who visited Kisima in 2018) are pictured in Bath in the photo (from left to right: Mark, Julie, Sue and John).



After nearly ten years of voluntary service to Kisima and TEFT, our UK sponsorship co-ordinator, Lesley Jones, is standing down. She has performed the role admirably and is known to many sponsors and friends alike. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and diligence over these past years and wish her well for the future.



Taking over from Lesley is Richard Chapman, himself a sponsor, and, like Lesley, a member of Christ Church, Chorleywood. We wish Richard every success in undertaking the role. Richard can be contacted on [office@teft.org.uk](mailto:office@teft.org.uk)



• Our last class of Form Fours have received information on their university or college admissions. Some received one of their original choices while others had to make a new selection. Their courses cover a wide range of subjects, from electrical engineering to clinical medicine and from information technology to agriculture. Two students, Rahma and Brian, are going to be studying law and both have been awarded a scholarship from international law firm, DLA Piper, under their Head Start Africa programme. Rahma has also been selected for Equity Bank's leadership programme, because she was the top girl in the whole of Nyandarua County in the KCSE exams. Congratulations to them both!



• Some of these recent former students attended our alumni weekend back in May, along with others from nearly all our previous classes. They shared their experiences with the current students and led group discussions, giving advice about school life, university applications and career choices. They also brought some gifts for the school, including rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil and books for the library. We really appreciate their willingness to give back to the school in these ways.



• Although the general election is over, the situation in the country is still uncertain as the opposition are contesting the outcome and have decided to go the Supreme Court. After this process we will hear if the result is upheld or if a repeat election will be required. Fortunately there has not been violence but tension is high in many areas.

• We are thankful that we are now having a good amount of rain here at Kisima. However, Northern Kenya, like much of the Horn of Africa, is continuing to experience an extreme drought. Disruption to food supplies from Ukraine and Russia has exacerbated the problem, and people are facing severe hunger and malnutrition.

### PRAYER POINTS

#### *Thank God for...*

- The election having been carried out peacefully
- The extra-curricular activities that the students have enjoyed
- All the visitors we have received
- Everyone who gives their time or money to support Kisima
- Our former students who are joining universities and colleges
- An encouraging alumni weekend

#### *Please pray for...*

- The teachers and students as they try and catch up with the lost learning time
- Our former students to adjust to university/college life and to continue to do well in their studies
- The issues around the election result to be solved peacefully and fairly
- Improvement in the desperate situation in the Horn of Africa