

New Dawn Association *Newsletter* April 2012

New Dawn Association is an international, humanitarian, non-profit making association, initially working in Sub-Saharan Africa. Inspired by the Gospel, New Dawn Association's aim is to help the most needy, and more specifically, orphans and widows, without race, social or religious discrimination.

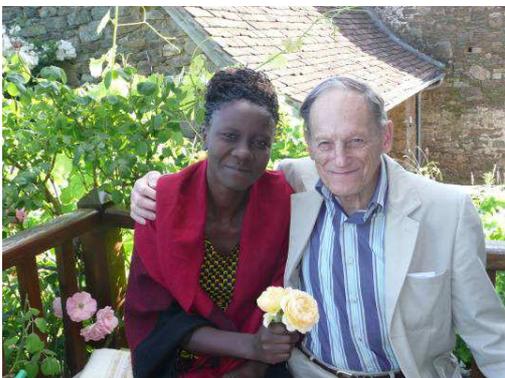
On May 25th 2002 we not only celebrated our wedding but also embarked on our first fundraising project by asking our family and friends, to make donations for an orphan school we wanted to support in Uganda, instead of giving us wedding presents. Today, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of these two landmark events we can look back on 10 wonderful rich years during which we have had the enormous privilege of assisting, and witnessing, the lives of many needy people being transformed.

When we married, ten years ago, it was, for us both, in many ways a "New Dawn" and planting the pink "New Dawn" climbing rose in front of our house marked this new beginning. We did not realise at that time how symbolically important this rose was to be for us. As it vigorously grew and covered the walls of our house it heralded in a life-changing adventure which led to the creation of the "New Dawn Association" (NDA), a platform facilitating "new dawns" in hundreds of orphans, widows and needy people's lives.

As you know, the main thrust of this work has been focused on the establishment and the provision of the monthly running costs of the "Arise and Shine" orphanage and its community projects involving 25 resident orphans and a community of several hundred widows. In recent years we have also been able to assist three other worthy projects in Kathmandu/Nepal, Butare/Rwanda, and Molo/Kenya.



Earlier fundraising day – La Teuliere, France



Nancy & Denis Rutovitz, head of EDA - La Teuliere 2010

All this is happening thanks to the generous donations of people like you, the constant support of our co-founders, Rosie and Guy Pernet in Switzerland, our co-directors Karen and Bryan Lambert who live in England and head-up the English "New Dawn Association", the considerable interest, support and investment of the Scottish charity, Edinburgh Direct Aid (EDA), Steve McCrea of "Building International Bridges" in USA and so many others.

New Web-site. Thanks to the generous provision of French charity "Sa Parole Pour Aujourd'hui", we have launched a new web-site, www.a-newdawn.org donated free of charge, which has just gone on line. Under the heading "Kenya Orphanage and Community" you will find up-to-date information on the activities, education, and photos of all the children and where they are in the education program, the education system, the detailed history of the project and the community work. The "How you can help" section informs you on how you can give donations or sponsor a child or a program. Click on the "Missions" tab and you will find information on the other projects New Dawn Association is supporting. The "Volunteers" pages give reports on people who have visited the projects and explain how you can help in this way. Finally, the "News" section displays present and past newsletters. Please take time to have a look at the new web site as it will give you a more complete understanding concerning the work of New Dawn Charity.



New web-site www.a-newdawn.org

New road threatens orphanage site.

In August 2011 we received devastating news from the "Arise and Shine" orphanage about a new road to the expanding Kisumu Airport which had been mapped to pass right through the community, totally obliterating the "Arise and Shine" orphanage site. The yellow beacons marking this new road were already being placed. The fear and uncertainty sown by this road project is devastating for everybody concerned. Immediately we,



Widows gathering at the orphanage.

and others, took action and have done everything within our power to defend the project and its interests. Because of this extremely worrying situation we felt that a second visit to Kisumu was necessary, (we both had already been for two months in January/February 2011) Jennie went this time for three weeks in November 2011, in order to gather the most accurate information possible on the road situation, meeting the officials concerned and the lawyer and also to support the project leaders and members of the community. Today the future is looking bleak as it appears that the proposed route of the road will be maintained which will necessitate a move for the orphanage onto a new site. The law requires the authorities to purchase a new site and equip it before evicting the orphanage. We are still awaiting a final official statement to confirm the decision to relocate the orphanage. However, this project is not just an orphanage but also involves a thriving community program. To re-create such a project is not evident and we are still praying that an alternative solution may be found to preserve the priceless effort and work which has gone on throughout all these years into establishing such an exemplary project.

Trip to Kenya in Nov/Dec 2011.

The orphanage.

Jennie spent most of her three week stay in Kenya following up all the programs related to the "Arise and Shine" Orphanage and Community Project as well as investigating the impending threat of the new road. The 25 resident children of the orphanage had just started their Christmas/summer holidays when Jennie arrived.



Christmas card workshop

Everyone was healthy and happy to be on holiday as the Kenyan school year is intense. Jennie ran some Christmas card workshops and had some quality time with the children. The lives of the resident orphans are rich. In their free time they have access to the orphanage library on the site, and the Toy-Box which is full of games and toys. The gift of the television set with its DVD player, last Christmas, is greatly appreciated. Many children are learning to make jewellery and also some basic tailoring. They also participate in taking care of the gardens and crops, and the animals in the compound. (Dogs, cat, chickens and goats.) During certain holidays most of the children are encouraged to visit, and stay for a short time, with their remaining extended families, so that a vital link to their homesteads can be maintained, even while growing up at the orphanage. The staff, with Nancy and Jonas, are ever-present, carefully watching over the lives of each of the children. This is no easy task, for many have come from difficult backgrounds and have lived on the streets. It is not rare for some to periodically be tempted back to their old habits and haunts. The leaders require enormous wisdom, patience and love, in order to be able to do this challenging full-time work.

The needs remain great and raging inflation means that the €800 we needed to raise each month in 2007 for the monthly running costs of the "Arise and Shine" project has risen by 50% over the intervening years. This is potentially a daunting task and we thank God that each year sufficient funds have been donated to enable us to cover these costs.



Children greeting Jennie Nov 2011



Jonas and Don buying mattresses

The Community work.



Nursery School prize presentation

10 Empowerment Groups, consisting of over 100 widows, which were set up four years ago, are still running, creating a valuable network of fellowship and assistance, which has transformed this community. These groups of women run their mini-businesses, meet weekly in their homes and on the orphanage site, sharing their burdens and assisting each other financially. New Dawn decided this time to boost the creation of a **new empowerment group** within the community, by helping to buy plastic chairs to create a chair hire business. The group started with 11 chairs and now have 80 chairs to rent and their challenge is to buy another 20 to make a total of 100 chairs to rent.

4 years ago a **“Desperate Widows”** program was also started, in which 20 very needy widows were elected by the community to receive special home-care, a monthly food/necessities pack. Now a hot meal is also served twice a week for those who can come into the orphanage (currently financed by EDA). They meet, eat, and have fellowship making sisal rope as they sit under “the Banda”, a shade area in the compound. Some of these women depend upon these two meals to get them through the week. Jennie made a “home-visit” to 18 of these 20 ladies, sometimes walking several hours in the bush to reach their huts. This is the community “Arise and Shine” is set in and none of us imagined that the orphanage would become such a beacon of hope in the community. We are more and more aware of the fact that *“with a little so much can be done”*. The programs run to assist these 20 widows are changing their lives. The twice-weekly hot meal costs €80 per month to run. The 20 monthly packs cost €170 to maintain. The community children’s monthly “Porridge Program” costs €65 per month.



Desperate widows come in for twice weekly lunch

None of these community projects is excessively expensive to run, yet they are changing the lives of so many people. It is our ardent desire that alongside the monthly running costs of the orphanage, which is the heart of the project, sufficient donations continue to flow into New Dawn so that all these programs may be maintained and even expanded.

In spite of the shadow of the impending road hanging like a dark cloud over the orphanage and the community, all the programs are running as usual, with vigour and enthusiasm.

(We would like to mention that none of our travelling or accommodation costs come from NDA funds.)

The “Arise and Shine” project is not just an orphanage. It is a hub of life, spreading its arms out to help the needs of a desperately needy surrounding community. There are several specific programs instigated and run by the project, to assist the needy community. The **“Porridge Program”** is run twice a week for 100 needy community children who come in to the orphanage for fellowship and a bowl of protein porridge. Jennie arrived in time to participate in the little end-of-the-year fete at **the Nursery School** which is held throughout the year in a classroom on orphanage site. For a minimal fee, community children come in every weekday from 9am to 2pm and also have a mid-morning bowl of porridge.



New Empowerment group chair hire launch



Bush visit with widow Jane

Visit to orphanage project at Molo, Kenya.

Jennie travelled to Kericho about two and a half hours south west from Kisumu, to honour a teaching engagement followed by spending the weekend in Molo visiting and encouraging Pastor Paul Kingori's orphanage and program. We have taken an interest in this worthy orphan project since we met pastor Paul in England in 2009 and New Dawn has been able to help it in a few small ways during the past two years.

Nepal.

During the last 2 and a half years we have had the privilege of assisting pastor Krishna and his wife with their extensive work with the needy people of their country. Nepal is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. Jennie made a third trip to Nepal in June/July 2011 to assist this work and will be returning again in July 2012. Their plans include an expansion of the orphanage program in the coming year and they are particularly concerned about the orphan children in the very remote villages.



Krishna and Pabrita - Nepal

Rwanda.

Since 2011, we have been able to assist Pastor Paul and his wife Annett in kick-starting three small empowerment groups near Butare in their very impoverished community. Also, since February 2012 New Dawn has been supplying funds to support a weekly feeding program running from their community church. Extract from e-mail from Paul in March 2012, *"...not forgetting feeding which is so great and encouraging esp to the HIV/AIDS victims and poor women. Meal weeks goes well, they will eat meat, peas, vegetables, Rice, milk, and other many ingredient foods. As I told you some families will take almost a year without tasting on meat!! So buying meat for them we want them to feel valued and on this program we have not left their children behind and their families here, I mean those few women who have husbands. We give the maize flour and beans to take back home so that their husbands will not feel left out which may cause some conflict in the house."*



Feeding program in Rwanda

Nancy's car accident.

In March, Nancy and four children were involved in a serious car accident, a head-on collision with a small 'bus which was overtaking another vehicle. Miraculously, none of the children were hurt. Nancy lost consciousness and was taken to hospital where she spent a few days recovering from severe shock, pinched nerves in her neck and a deep wound in her knee. The car is a wreck and it is a miracle that Nancy was not hurt more seriously. Today she is progressing well, however, the after-effects of this accident and threat of the new road are weighing heavily upon her and Jonas' shoulders. More than ever we are aware that we need to stand beside this project, to encourage and assist wherever we can.



Nancy recovering in hospital

Another New Dawn for us.

With reluctance we found it necessary to find a more practical house, all on one level, for our next 'season' We sold our house last summer and have just moved across the valley, to a new home, (address and details below). Our first task was to plant another climbing "New Dawn" rose to mark the beginning of another new "New Dawn" for us.

Thank you so much, from the bottom of our hearts – none of this is possible without your continuing generous help.



Planting "New Dawn" at Estal

New Dawn Association in France - Charity registration number: 0462004206 and in UK registration number: 1137292

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