

New Dawn Association *Newsletter* April 2014

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.

We have had another interesting, challenging and fruitful year concerning the activities of New Dawn Association.

We made a six week working visit to the "Arise and Shine" Kogony Orphanage and Community project in Kisumu Kenya in January/February 2014. During this visit we were also able to visit and encourage another orphanage project in Molo, Kenya. Since May 2013, Jennie has also made two trips to Kathmandu, Nepal, to follow up the work within the "Little Feet" Children's Home.

"Arise and Shine" Kogony Orphanage and Community Project, Kisumu, Kenya

Our trip to Kenya was extremely rewarding and very busy. One of our ongoing concerns during the last two years has been the prospect of the construction of a new major by-pass road threatening the "Arise and Shine" Orphanage site.

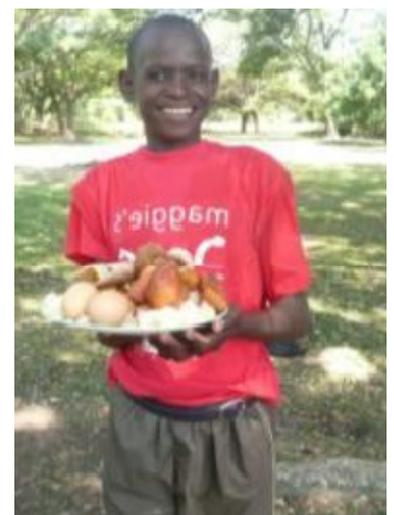
During our visit to the project this year we had meetings with the National Kenyan Highways Authority in Nairobi, the Kisumu Regional Land Surveyor, the project's solicitor and met with the owner of a suitable piece of land which could be reserved for the project. We left Kisumu to return home with the following encouraging news:

- A contractor for the new Kisumu Bypass Road will be appointed by the end of this year and be ready to start the two year road building program by March 2015.
- The "Arise and Shine" Orphanage site will be classified as an institution and therefore qualifies to be resettled and re-built by the authorities.
- Work could start on the resettlement and rebuild of the orphanage anytime after March next year depending on how the appointed contractor plans the work.
- With the assistance of the lawyer and the Kisumu Regional Land Surveyor, we paved the way for the creation and registration of a "Foundation" for the "Arise and Shine" project, under the leadership of Nancy and Jonas, guaranteeing the future of the project in perpetuity.
- We visited land within the present Kogony community with the intention of securing a suitable resettlement plot within the same community. This would enable all the current community programs for the needy people to be preserved and to continue.



Nancy and Jonas

We praise Nancy and Jonas, the project leaders, for being able to remain focussed on their work in keeping the orphanage project and the various community projects running, despite the cloud which has been hanging over the project for the last two years. Our trip also brought them much encouragement.



Edwin enjoys his meal

In addition to the ground work concerning the road issues, we spent a precious and joyful time with the resident children. Many of them had grown so much! We organised a day-out picnic excursion to the lake-side animal park. Jennie also did some craft activities with the children and the gold glitter, specially brought from France, caused great excitement !

We also oversaw all the community programs which are funded by New Dawn. This involved making bush visits to needy widows' homes, meeting with the widows' empowerment groups (a successful initiative set up in 2008), overseeing the desperate widow's monthly food pack distribution, overseeing the weekly porridge program run on the site for 80 needy



Fun at the picnic



Bush visit to needy widow

community children and also the successful nursery school, also run on the site for 40 local impoverished children. Once again we were able to organise a free Medical Camp on the site with doctors, nurses, pharmacy and medication for over 250 local people. Thanks to donated funds, we were able to buy 20 "Solar powered" lamps which were distributed to the 20 members of the "Desperate Widows' Group". They were thrilled with this gift which transforms their daily life. Situated on the equator, the night falls early in Kenya and many of these ladies have just one oil lamp at night in their mud huts in the bush. Around this one lamp all the evening activities take place.

There are so many young, orphaned children living with their grandmothers doing homework every evening and these solar lamps are making a huge difference to these families. Before our departure, Don had the joy of celebrating his 80th birthday (yet again) with all the widows.



Distribution of monthly food packs



Widows receiving solar lamps

We are so grateful that the donations received by New Dawn allowed us to once again meet all the running and education costs of the resident children and maintain the various community programs. However, inflation and taxes continue to soar and also, as more of the children successfully graduate on to the very costly 4-year High School stage of their education (not paid for by the government), this puts an ever-increasing pressure on our fundraising needs.

“Little feet Children’s Home”, Kathmandu Nepal



Jennie visits the "Little Feet" children

Since May 2013 Jennie has returned twice to visit and follow up the work in the newly established “Little Feet Children’s Home”. This orphanage home, run by Pastor Krishna, has now 9 children. While she was there she oversaw the placement of more funds specifically raised for this project. Special clothes lockers were made and other needed items were bought for the home and the children. Jennie was able to take the children on a fun shopping expedition to buy school bags and clothes for each child. We are very happy to be able to be able to continue to encourage and support this small orphanage home in this very impoverished country.



Don with his “Desperate Widow” friends

Butare, Rwanda

Throughout this year, we have been able to continue to support the hugely successful weekly “Feeding/sharing program” hosted by Pastor Paul within his impoverished church community. This small program is also impacting his wider community as food and other necessities are given out where they are most needed. Pastor Paul writes, *“We have seen people’s lives lifted to a new level of hope and joy. Thank you so much.”*



Feeding program Rwanda

We would like to remind you that volunteers are very welcome to visit and help in both the Kenyan and Nepalese projects. If anyone is interested please contact Jennie and Don Waterman. We would also like to mention that it is possible to sponsor the work of New Dawn Association on a monthly basis. Details of how to do this can be found on our web-site (**a-newdawn.org**) or simply contact Jennie and Don.

We close in thanking you all once again for your faithful support and would like to specially mention our co-founders, Rosie and Guy Pernet in Switzerland, fellow directors, Karen and Bryan Lambert in England, Steve McCrea of “Building Bridges” in USA, Edinburgh Direct Aid, Scotland, and the Kerith Group in France. (We would like to mention that no monies from NDA funds are used to pay for our personal travelling and accommodation costs.)

Once again thank you so much, from the bottom of our hearts – none of this would be possible without your continuing generous help. “With so little, so much can be done.”