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Janaury 2022 Newsletter

December/January Birthday Celebrations!

December Birthday's



All of the December babies celebrated their birthdays at a group party on Dec 10th. For many of them it was their first birthday party ever. Carol our cook made banana cake, we sang, made wishes and blew out the candles. The party was sponsored by; Hatfields, Leers and Shobes. For a special treat, a friend of Murunga's bought everybody a small container of Ice-cream. Most of the kids had never tasted Ice-cream. It was a happy time and we all enjoyed the party. Happy birthday to the December babies.

December babies;

1. **Brian Wafula f2 – 12/01/2004**
2. **Jane Nafula f3 - 12/01/2004**
3. **Gorge Wanyonyi f2 – 12/18/2004**
4. **Lucy Kabakhana f3 – 12/12/2005**
5. **Flavian Barasa f2 -- 12/24/2005**
6. **Silica Osore f3 – 12/31/2005**
7. **Mitchelle Misiko f2 - 12/26/2006**
8. **Emmanuel Nyongesa f2 – 12/27/2006**
9. **Lukendo Patience f1 –12/03/2007**
10. **Elizabeth Muyoma f1 – 12/06/2007**



Happy birthday

May you only know...

Joy that makes you share.
Troubles that make you thrive.
Sadness that makes you care.
Hope that makes you dream.
Failure that makes you succeed.
Success that makes you rejoice.
Friends that make you laugh.
Passion that makes you live.
Love that makes you love more.

January 21 was a special night. Students who had a birthday in January plus Mum Marilyn, had a celebration. The evening started with a creative art project and everyone got to make Mum a birthday card. We used paper Crayons, colored pencils, markers, glue, fancy scissors, stencils and tape. They are all hanging on my bedroom door!

Then they had Carol's famous Banana cake and sodas. They sang, wished, and blew out the candles. A good time was had by all! Again a special thanks to Bev and Steve Leer, Monica and Mark Hatfield, and Shobes for sponsoring the party.

January Birthdays

Jamillah Wekesa 4/01 2003
Sharon Wekesa 5/01 2007
David Wamalwa 8/01 2005
Patrick Wanyonyi 16/01 2004
Evans Simiyu F4 17/01 2002
Silas Wanyama 20/01 2004
Brinah Nyongesa 26/01 2004
John Aquilla 29/01 2006
Mum Marilyn 21/01 1951



Typhoid Vaccinations

One of our goals at Living Hope is to help all the students to stay healthy. All of the students got tested and the great news is that we had NO POSITIVES for typhoid. This is great news and God has blessed them once again! All of the Form 1 and form 4 got tested and will get vaccinated on Monday. It lasts for 3 years so they will be protected during high school and mostly during college. We had to hire two lab techs from the local hospital to do the testing.

The kids also got tested for Urine analysis. This is for UTI- urinary tract infections. We had 7 boys and 25 girls test positive! They will start their treatments next week. The lab techs gave a good lesson on how to prevent it and what are the ways it is spread. Mostly the kids get it from each other from sharing everything and poor personal hygiene. We have stepped up our latrine

sanitation and our hand washing. Let's hope that it will cure the problem! A big thanks to our nurse, Catherine Nelima for organizing the whole vaccination program. Thanks also to the donors who helped with the costs of the vaccinations!



Bella Dorm

The school received another blessing from Connie Damon and Jarretown UMC. Out of the money they had raised for the grad dorm, they let us use \$1000 to revamp Bella, one of our form 3 girl's dorm. Our very own Nic Simiyu, a graduate from 2013, brought his construction crew to help us. We tore out the partitions, tore out the mud floor, installed the cement floor, plastered the walls, painted, then we did the Verandah floor and made the whole thing beautiful. When the girls got back from Christmas break, they could not believe that it was the same dorm. It seemed much bigger. They were very happy and loved their new home.

For the last two years, the health department has been asking us to put in cement floors in the dorms. We couldn't put them off any longer. When they come for inspection, I will show them the one dorm that we have done. It turned out beautiful and we are very much appreciating Connie and UMC for their help. In the future, we can use this dorm to house a mission team until we get the grad dorm built. God bless you all abundantly. I hope that you will come and join us and see all the improvements and progress. God has continually blessed us and we thank Him every day.



New poles for fence

We need to put fence all around the bamboo farm. The total cost will be \$2000. Unfortunately cows love Bamboo, so the fence has to be secure. All of our neighbors have cows. It really humbles us when people are so generous and gives us such wonderful blessings. I hope God blesses them abundantly.

New Latrine



The girls of Living Hope have been suffering because they don't have enough latrines. Two weeks ago, they were inspecting the old latrine and realized that it was only there by habit and it was ready to collapse at any moment. It was an emergency! So they got busy and tore it down the next day and started planning for the new one. This left 49 girls with only two latrines during exams; they had to wait in line but they survived and the new latrine should be ready for action by January 4th when they come back from Christmas break. They are putting roof on today and plastering tomorrow, Praise the Lord!



Soft Pit (Hydrant where they get their water)

When it rains it pours! The girls' soft pit was overflowing. . We thought it was just clogged up but when we tore up it was full. We had to get all the water out, put a new top on, and fix the tap and now it's ready. People in America don't appreciate their indoor plumbing.

Girls' Shower



Just like all the people in Kenya, they have too many children and not enough money. The 49 girls wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning and Carol, our matron, has to direct traffic at the shower. It's an outdoor shower with iron sheet walls. They have to carry their own water. It was way too crowded and it was making them late for morning classes. So we expanded the shower and doubled the size. This should help the traffic out there and get everybody to class on time.

God is good all the time and all the time God is good and that is His nature wow!-Marilyn Uhl

Many times we question God, we wonder if He really knows what he is doing! About two years ago, Monica and Mark Hatfield gave us a wonderful donation to use anywhere we needed. We have been tempted to use it several times but we have resisted temptations. Two months ago, our neighbors approached us and wanted to sell their land. It was an acre that bordered our soccer field. We negotiated a good price and bought it. It's a good piece of land with one big problem; there were 100s of stumps all over the land. Some were as big as basket balls and some were big as a Volkswagen. I hired two local, hardworking men to start digging the stumps. They are about half-way done.

The purpose of new land will be to start the bamboo farm. The kind of bamboo that we will grow will be for firewood. We hope to prevent starvation and disaster in the future. Right now firewood is our second biggest expense after food. We are hoping that the Bamboo will be a money making project for the school and help the Community.

1. **New land paid for by the Hatfields,**
 2. **Starts for Bamboo donated by John Kariuki,**
 3. **New fencing donated by Tully Rotary Club,**
 4. **Compost was from the cowman,**
 5. **New equipment (digging bar, wheel barrow, spades) bought by the school**
- God Provides!**





Bee Trip

December 19 Living Hope was invited to John Kariuki's Bee Apiary. He was doing his first honey harvest. All the kids that stayed over the Christmas break went and they all learned so much. Some kids ran from the bees, some kids thought that somebody else should raise bees and some kids got all excited and wanted to have bees of their own and be financially self-sufficient. John taught the students how to raise bees. He said that raising bees was the way out of poverty! All the kids went out to the bee hives and they opened up 30 hives. They harvested 5 buckets of honey, the honey was worth \$1000.

The students had to start late in the afternoon and work until 10 o'clock at night. You can only work the bees when it's calm and dark. Several people got stung but nothing serious.

The kids that did not get to go, will go on January 19th for the next round of harvesting.

Living Hope has a new project of getting some hives to put in the Bamboo farm and start a Bee Garden with flowers. They are in need of three hives at \$80.00 apiece and also in need of some bee suits and some tools to harvest the honey. If you would like to donate to the bee farm please send your donations to Riverton UMC, P.O. Box 23, Riverton, WV. 26814 and ear mark it Bee Garden.





Calendar

Time flies when you are having a good time. We have been so busy with all these projects and Christmas. It's hard to believe that Christmas has come and gone.

The new term will start January 4th and go until March 10th. The form 4s will start their national test on March 11th and end on April 1st. Graduation will be April 2nd. Living Hope is looking for any help to pay for graduation, cap and gowns, printing the diplomas, paying the guest speaker and having a big chicken dinner to celebrate. Pastor Jenny Williams, Avery Methodist Church in Morgantown and her family have helped us out for the last two years. Any help will be appreciated. The expected attendance is around 200 people including graduates students, Guest and parents.

Prayer day

One of the **secrets** of Living Hopes success as a high school is that they put God first and pray for wisdom and guidance. Each year before the form 4s take their test, they have a prayer day for the form 4 candidates. They pray for their health and God provides what they need. They all know that God won't take their test for them but he can help them study the right things and help them remember how to answer questions. Every form 4 invites their parents to come and pray with them and pray for the school, for teachers, for administration and for other students. Prayer is powerful when they all pray together.

Student Sponsorship

We praise the Lord for getting a few students sponsored over the Christmas holidays. There are still **13** more Form 1 students who need sponsorship at Living Hope. There is also several college students whose sponsors have had to drop their sponsorship. If any church or individual would like to take them on please let Sandy Binotto know. One student needs sponsorship by March, and if he doesn't get help he will have to drop out of college.

Reminder for Form 4 Students

If you sponsor a Form 4 student and have not paid for the Computer Class (\$60) and National Test Fees (\$100), please do as soon as possible. They need to have the funds in for graduation is April 2nd. If you have any questions about it please contact LaVonne, the Living Hope Treasurer, her email is: lvhammett@yahoo.com.

2023 Mission Team

Praying and Working on organizing a team to go to Living Hope in early 2023, more information in next newsletter. If interested please contact Sandy Binotto at yashe4jc@hotmail.com



The Annual Grads Meeting

The annual grad meeting was held here at Living Hope High School. 28 grads attended the meeting. Most of them were home for Christmas break and some came from Nairobi and Mombasa to attend the meeting. New officers were elected for this coming year. Several of them had done a good job and were re-elected. The members of the grad group donate 50 shillings each month and they have collected \$552.80. This was to be used for new front gate

which we need for security. Mum put a hold on the gate until we find out what are our most pressing needs are. The grads also spent \$20 to help a student with financial crises.

Other ideas under discussion were to register a group as a society so that we can get a bank account. They talked about the ways to keep everyone on board. For instance, use of Whatsapp group to keep everyone close, mentoring of new grads as they get ready for college. This might include, picking a career, college, planning a budget, college tours, housing, and tips for Godly living.

After the meeting, we all enjoyed a wonderful chicken/beef dinner. We thanked God for loving us and caring for us all. A good time was had by all. It really gave us a chance to catch up on each other's lives and encourage each other to do our best.

With regards,

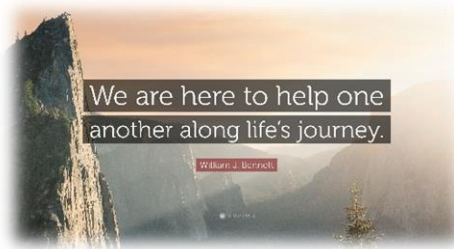
Living Hope High School graduates

Helping One Another

Living Hope is always looking out for their own and those in the community.



Deborah Wanyama a form one student whose mother died is getting help from Living Hope. She is the 6th child in her family and the family is poor and they only live with the father. She was given school supplies and personal effects to ensure that she continues to do well in school.



U.S. Coordinator/ Mission Team Leader and Newsletter

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We once again thank everyone who has sponsored and donated to the Living Hope High School. Without you, there would be no HOPE! God Bless You and We Love You!

