



The Boys' Brigade

The Object of The Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.



Project Stedfast:

Well its time again for an update on our Project so here goes:

For those whom this is their first introduction into what we are up to, a short introduction: 2008 will see the 125th anniversary of The Boys' Brigade in Scotland. In order to celebrate this a group of four Companies (5th Livingston, 1st Loanhead, 51st Bonnyrigg and 56th Edinburgh) got together and started looking for a means of not just Celebrating the BB but of giving something from Scotland to the wider BB world. After several dead ends we found ourselves in contact with the Reverend Elaine McKinnon (now minister at Saltcoats) who had just returned from several years mission work in Kenya. She told us of the work of the Boys' and Girls' Brigade Companies in the Parish of Kearapon and their desire to establish a school. This is where our project began. Funds Raised currently stand at £12500.00 and it is with great pleasure I can tell you all that work on the foundations began this month.



In November 2006 a group of four staff, Tom Griffin (5th Livingston), Iain Scouler (Chaplain, West Lothian Battalion), Chris Orman (56th Edinburgh) and myself, Stuart Dalglish (5th Livingston) made the trip to Kenya to meet with the Church officials and the Girls and Boys of their Brigades, and to see first hand the proposed site and plans for the School.

Flying from Edinburgh to Nairobi for a short visit is no mean feat, with some 14 hours spent travelling the 4142 miles to our destination.

On arrival we were greeted 'en mass' as we made our way out of Nairobi Airport, an experience worthy of its own story believe me!

The following few days were packed with meetings and addresses at the Elders Homes and at the Church, (though we did find time to visit the Orphanage for Boys and Girls of the Brigades which is operated by the Chairman of the Church at Kerarapon).

In true Massai tradition we were welcomed to the home of the local Councillor who had prepared a veritable feast for us, two freshly barbequed Goats filling the menu, again an experience worthy of its own special story! From all our meetings and discussions with the Elders the outstanding elements were the sheer determination and hard work put in by all of these people in the face of what can only be described as 'adverse' conditions and 'minimal' funds. It is a credit to all of them the hope and help they already give to the people of Ngong and, just as importantly their desire to provide for and better the lives of the Children and Young Ladies and Young Men of their Parish. And, most importantly to us, their recognition of the Girls' and Boys' Brigades as a corner stone part of that provision.

2nd Year Group of Boys and Girls from the two Brigades.



By cleaning shoes on the streets of Nairobi the Boys and Girls of the Brigades raised sufficient funds (with some help from the Church) to buy some of the surrounding land to build their school on. Unfortunately that is as far as the story went. This method of fundraising in a poor country would require a lifetime effort at shoe cleaning. This is where we chose to step in. Education here at home for our members is a fundamental right, freely available to all. These Children have shown a determination to get that right for themselves and with our help and yours their dream could be a reality. They are a wonderful part of the BB family, in need of our support and most definitely worthy of it!





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On the Sunday we were treated to possibly the most outstanding Church Service I have ever had the privilege to attend. To see so many people packed into a Church giving wholehearted Praise is an incredibly uplifting sight. As the Boys and Girls of the Brigades filed into the Church I gave up counting heads at around 160, it became impossible to keep track of them all, each one immaculate in their uniform and singing loudly and proudly as they made their entrance. After the service we spent as long as possible with the Children there and on learning where each of them had travelled from and indeed where they lived it is even more to their credit and that of their parents just how well turned out each and every one was. Our lads will have to improve their excuses a thousand fold at Inspection on a Company night from here on.

There were many negative images to be seen and photographed on our travels around the region, however whilst they make excellent press when raising money, it is the positives that make our project worthwhile so I have kept these to a minimum. We should be aware they exist, but we should also be aware that it is a fight already being fought. All of the people we met, whom we all now consider friends, were happy in a manner seldom seen in this Country and have as much to show us about living a Christian life as we could ever show them. Something we do have which can help them to build a brighter future is money. The nearby Secondary School has a motto 'It Can Be Done', for our project we have adopted that motto adding 'With Your Help, It Will Be Done.'

There is a great deal more to be written and told of our Project and these wonderful people but it has to start somewhere and I hope it has been of interest to you. Future news will include the thoughts of the Boys and Young men of our Companies along with more details of our visit as this is their project and their link with the children of Kenya.

What can you do?

Where do you come in: easy, we need your help. The project cost is £33,629.00 in pounds sterling, 4,250,000 ksh (Kenya Shillings).

A lot of money for a small group of BB Companies to find.

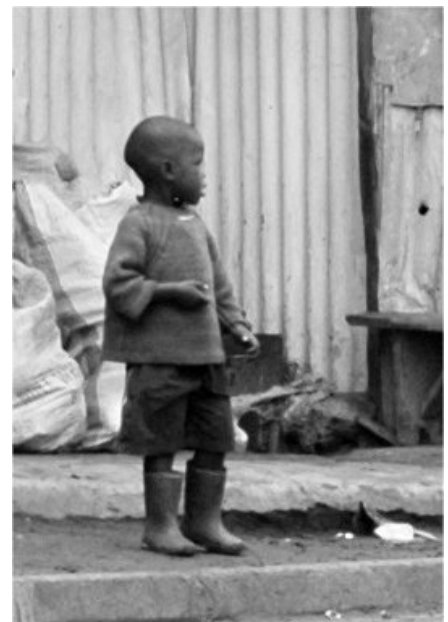
However, when we consider the break down of cost for each part:

Classroom	£5000.00	Staff/Gym Room	£5000.00
Water Tank	£2500.00	Electrical distribution	£2500.00
Filtration	£2500.00	Toilet Blocks	£3000.00

Here is a level of cost which we hope will attract the interest of individuals, Churches, Companies and Groups and harness their desire to be a part of not just a Celebration but a Project that will benefit many generations of Boys and Girls all of whom are members of The Girls Brigade and The Boys' Brigade.

Perhaps you or your group would like to name and sponsor a Classroom or maybe make a donation but consider this:

From the beginning we realised they were both in need of help and deserving of every effort we can make to bring it to reality. And, don't worry in true Blue Peter tradition there are plenty of things to add on if we pass our target!



'Whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.' *Matthew 25:45*

Donations can be made directly to the 5th Livingston, 51st Bonnyrigg or 1st Loanhead Company of The Boys' Brigade. Alternatively you can donate by post to:- The Treasurer, 5th Livingston Company the Boys' Brigade, C/O 125 Bankton Park West, Murieston, Livingston, EH54 9BS.

(if posting please make your donation by cheque only. Cheques should be payable to 5th Livingston Boys' Brigade, Scottish Registered Charity No SC037775, and please clearly mark the back of the cheque 'Steadfast Project').

All donations are very gratefully received.

www.projectstedfast.co.uk