



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:

It is now just over four years since our first visit to meet with the people of Oloolua Kenya. Our first venture into what was completely unknown territory took place in November 2006. The purpose of the visit quite simply to ensure that we were dealing with the right people for such a venture and to answer any doubts or concerns we had and finalise plans for the building of St Andrews School. The trip was a resounding success in every way possible.

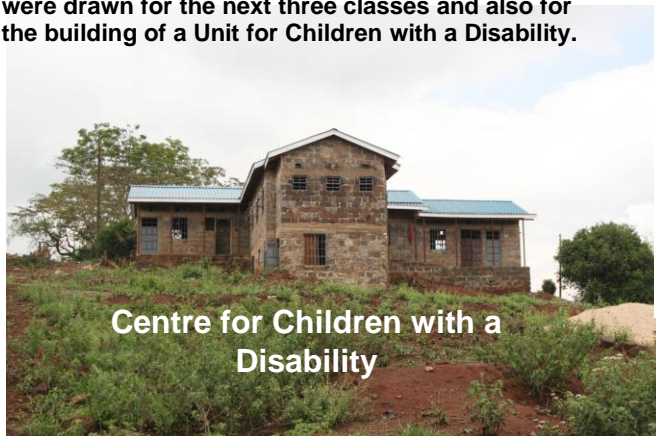
We experienced the most sincere and heartfelt hospitality I have ever come across leaving my colleagues and I deeply humbled.

Our Target here at home was to raise £33,629.00 to facilitate the building of three classrooms with electrical distribution, toilet facility and water sanitation. A heady task by anyone's standards. Our target to achieve this was October 2008 to coincide with Founders day during the 125 Anniversary of The Boys Brigade. We reached our target in March 2007, the first pupils taking to the School in January 2008. We then and made the decision to press on. Plans were drawn for the next three classes and also for the building of a Unit for Children with a Disability.



To Date we have completed the build of six classrooms, all now operational. Toilet Facilities, Dining Facilities and Kitchen and Water Filtration Unit. The Unit for children with Disabilities is now built and work presses on to get this hugely important part of the Project kitted out and operational. The target for handover to the School Board is February 14th 2011. Much of the completion work and decoration will be carried out by the Project Stedfast Group visiting Oloolua this February and this along with the Landscaping of the children's play area is our sole focus for fundraising efforts. The original fund target has been surpassed more than threefold, a huge testimony to the hard work and dedication of all involved in this Project.

Funds to complete the kitting out of the Disabled Children's unit are a distinct priority for us at this time. If we consider the plight of many Children in Kenya in their fight against poverty, it is not rocket science to calculate how much greater the struggle for a child with a disability. Once operational it will become one of only three such dedicated facilities in Kenya that we are aware of.



To give us all a reminder of the importance of this simple part of the Project, difficult to comprehend when we live in a Country that has recognised its responsibility to all of its Children, and, has worked very hard to ensure legislation protects the rights of all Children. I have included an excerpt from the original proposal document received from The Boys' Brigade at Kerarapon:

"Life for a disabled person is very hard, difficult and expensive, especially in Africa. Here disability is associated with a curse or bad omen that befalls a community or family. Some even think that to have a disabled Child is shameful and a punishment for a wrong done to an ancestor. For this reason most Communities would not wish to make the plight of their disabled Children public. They therefore confine them secretly indoors never to see the light of day. Thus subjecting them to live lives in extreme poverty, frustration, discrimination, stigmatization and denial."

This was written by Mr Richard Lenana, Church Elder, local Councillor, and representative of the Disabled of the Eastern Region of Kenya. During our visit to Kenya we spent some considerable time with Mr Lenana (himself disabled having suffered polio as a Child), who is responsible for seeking out disabled Children and assisting them into education wherever possible. Mr Lenana will be instrumental in not just seeking out these often hidden children, but in convincing their parents/guardians to allow them the opportunity of life that education can bring.



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)



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.



In recent months here at home many of us have had it tough, whether a result of the financial breakdowns or indeed the harsh winter weather. It is difficult to imagine how many in Kenya were affected by the financial meltdown, prices for some essential goods soaring by 4 and 500 % with high redundancies as overseas companies drew back. They may not have had the snow, but they have had prolonged drought to contend with.

For Project Steffast the recent weather has been our biggest difficulty, in the run up to Christmas 2010 the cancellation of fund raising activities, whether BB or Church, due to the snow and ice has been devastating. The team has a considerable battle from now until February to put the funds in place to buy the materials our group require to carry out their work.



As a project the journey has been tremendous, as have been the achievements. The original vision has been doubled and trebled in size and scope. We have during our visits taken clothing, books and other aid that can quite literally be measured in tons, that's old imperial ones! We have not only built the School and provided support to the Girls' and Boys' Brigade of Ololua, we have given much needed clothing to the Orphan Girls at Soila. Provided basic provisions (soap, toothbrushes, washing powder, toothpaste etc. along with the odd biscuit) to the orphan Girls living at Kadjiado boarding School.

Our visit in February will see all of the above along with the provision of training to Staff of the Boys' and Girls' Brigade in the region.

As the capital project nears its end we need your help more than ever. The work we have done to date is by any standard quite exceptional, however I am always reminded of the age old saying, you are only as good as your last job!

For the Project the completion of kitting the Unit for Children with Disabilities, the provision of a safe playground environment and the completion of a small library facility and eventually a computer suite will be our last major work on the main Project. (I am sure we will find many ways in the future to support and Further the work we have started through Project Steffast.)



Our young people here have thrown themselves into the work over the past four years; they have shown immense dedication and resolve to their task. During their visit in February 2009 the group, of those lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit and work directly with St Andrews School truly had a life changing experience. One which will benefit them and others around them for a lifetime to come.

In February 2011 a second group of young people from Livingston, Bonnyrigg and Loanhead will make the same journey to Christian Brothers and Sister 4500 miles away. They will change peoples lives there for the good and for generations to come. They too will have the opportunity of a life changing experience and will surprise themselves at what they have achieved and can achieve.

There is still work to be done and funds still to be found, we have started something both unique and special. Some of our own young people will experience this first hand in February 2011 and will no doubt return with their own tales to tell. No matter what we manage to raise before our Project completes it will continue to enhance and develop life for so many children. For now, simply put, we still need your support with money. In the beginning we said that to use the words of Bob Geldof in his live aid broadcast would be unsuitable on behalf of such wonderful, humble, Christian people, however the sentiment is the same we need your help to make it happen.

'It Can Be Done' and with your help 'It Will Be Done'

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)