

The Isaiah Trust

Newsletter: January 2005

Reasons to be thankful over the last 12 months

9 former street children start school in Kibos

27 street children funded into work projects

Street Outreach program begun in Kitale, Bondo and Nairobi

5 Foster children gain secondary school places

Three acre farm acquired in Kitale to provide food for project

Slum school funded in Nairobi

Nursery school started in Kibos

Over 200 children attend street programs every week

2 new children placed in Foster Care, Lorinne, 9 and Bryan, 10.

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 34:1

A New Day in School

It was a proud day in Kibos as the latest 9 boys to come from the streets took up their places at the local Primary School. The 9 children came to Kibos from the streets of Kisumu between January and April 2004. They have undergone an intensive program of rehabilitation, leaving behind them the fear and the harshness of the streets for the warm family environment of Kibos. Graduation to school is a wonderful achievement for the boys and has required great personal effort. On their journey, all of the boys have come to know the love of God in their lives and their faith has given them the strength that they have needed to transform their futures.



Into Work and Off the Streets



The Trust works with some of the older street children in Kisumu to try to identify ways to help them into work programs and off the streets. The simple purchase of a bicycle is often enough to help the boys begin a small bicycle taxi business (the main way of getting around in the city and fraught with danger from other taxi's and major holes in the roads!

One such bicycle was given to Washington in the Summer of 2004, pictured here with Sam Ford. Sam, along with Jos Snalem, went out to visit the project and to help with the children in the Summer before starting university. Since receiving his bicycle Washington has been earning a regular income and is actually renting his own room now. He is no longer a street boy and is able to buy food and clothes from what he earns from his taxi service.

Washington recently came to our street outreach program in Kondele to testify to how God has changed his life and how he has left the glue and the streets behind. He urged other boys to follow his example. Washington's testimony moved us all to tears!

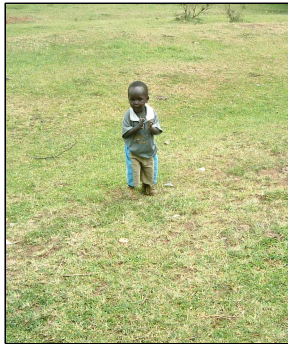
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On the Streets in Kitale

The street outreach program that has been running for three years in Kisumu is now up and running in Kitale. Kitale is a large town three hours drive to the north of Kisumu. It is very fertile and the home of commercial tea production in Kenya. It has many problems with street children, especially as displaced families arrive from the arid northern parts of Kenya



Sudan, and Uganda find their way to the town. Our program in Kitale is run by Vincent and Rose, two teachers with a heart to work with orphaned children. Vincent came to our leaders conference in April and began work on Kitale's streets immediately. This meeting shows over 120 children at an open air meeting. Unusually in Kitale there are a number of girls on the streets, some with children.



We met a boy of 3 years old, the son of a street girl. The child already had a glue bottle, given to him by his mother, a sight to break your heart.

We know that God can do wonderful things in the hearts of children and we pray for a great work in Kitale. In 2005, Vincent and Rose will be moving to a larger house and starting a rehabilitation centre, modelled on Kibos. In addition, Vincent will be running our farm, providing maize for the whole project. It's a great gift to us that he is an agriculture teacher!



Nairobi Slums

The Trust has begun to provide funds for a school project in a Nairobi slum. Mitomba slum is home to over 130 children who are not able to attend mainstream education. The children, aged between 4 and 15 live in makeshift houses, made from tarpaulin and iron sheets. Open sewers run between the buildings. Many of their parents are HIV



positive and the children have little hope. The Trust supports a small school for the children, providing food as well as basic education. The project is in an early stage, but we are sure that these are the children that God calls us to reach out to and help. We remember Isaiah 58, where the bible says that we are to "share our food with the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, when we see the naked to clothe them and not to turn away from our own flesh and blood"

