

'No More Short Cuts'

Written by: Joanne McFarlane
Illustrated by: Jackie Robinson

It was a warm, humid evening in the village. The sun had shone brightly all day and the animals were very tired and thirsty. Thandi's dad rounded up the goats and sheep and brought them to the water hole beside their house. Because the hole was almost dried up from the hot sun, Thandi had to walk to the stream to fetch buckets of water to fill up the water hole for the animals to drink.

The buckets were **small** and the animals were **very** thirsty so Thandi decided to take a short cut through the long grass to speed things up. Mummy and daddy had told Thandi that she was **never** to go into the long grass, and she knew she was doing wrong by going there, but to save time she took the short cut. She was almost at the stream when she heard a rustling noise behind her. She stopped and slowly turned around. Right behind her lay a big black snake. Its head was up in the air and its tongue was going in and out of its mouth very quickly. Thandi froze with fright. Was she to run away quickly or stand completely still??? She was so scared that she started to cry. She now knew why she was not allowed to come into the long grass. She closed her eyes and started to pray:

"Jesus, I am so very scared and I ask you to protect me from this big snake. I promise to listen to my mummy and daddy and I will not disobey them again. Please keep me safe"

Thandi slowly opened her eyes. The snake put down its head and slithered away into the long grass. She collected the water she needed and ... took the long way home. She **never** went through the long grass again.



Responding to the Great Commission and the need of the children of Tanzania, kids4school exists to enable them to fulfill an educational programme, to show them the love of Jesus and with God's grace help them to become responsible and fulfilled Christian adults.

Sammy Wilson MP MLA, and keen biker himself, launches the **kids4school** charity motorcycle rally. The following is the press release – just in case you missed it in the newspapers!

On Monday 4th July 12.00 Sammy Wilson MP MLA launched the official fund raising of Kids4school charity motorcycle event. Kids4School is a local Larne based charity that helps school and feed Children in Africa. The motorcycle charity event is supporting the current trip of volunteers and helping to build a water storage facility at one of the schools.

This event is supported by some of the main motorcycle dealers in Northern Ireland. Some of which will be meeting Sammy Wilson MP MLA on Monday along with the Director of the Charity, Rev. Tom Robinson. Members of the Police Road Safety Team will also be present.

This is a fun Good News Message.

Local Minister and Local Motorcycle dealerships supporting Local charity, while also covering the serious message that motorcyclists are fathers, sisters and sons and people need to be aware on the roads especially in the summer months when more bikes are out and about.



Banners kindly donated by Gordon Barham at Liberty Visual, Dargan Crescent, Belfast

The Rally will leave from Corrs Corner Hotel at 10am on 24th June and will terminate at Portrush 200 miles later. Various stops on the route include Sprucefield, Nutts Corner and Ballymena. It is expected that around 70 bikers will take part. This event has been organised by Mark Shields (husband of Tracy who is a member of the team going to Tanzania in August). The Director of Belfast Crystal Ltd, Kennedy Way Industrial Estate, Belfast has very kindly donated a crystal trophy as the prize for the winning team.



Kilbride Cycle Update

kids4school wish to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in the Kilbride Cyclists annual charity ride. 116 participants took part on the 7th May, 2011, cycling 90 km, 32km or 16 km depending on fitness and desire. The grand total raised was £3000 which was split between kids4school and another local charity. We are extremely grateful to the kindness and generosity of all involved in organising, taking part and supporting this event.

If you or your club would be interested in holding a fundraising event on behalf of kids4school please contact the office on (028) 28 272998 – we would be delighted to help and support any way we can.



We affirm the following commitments to each person that sponsors a child through **kids4school**:

- We commit to honour Jesus Christ in all that we do.
- We commit to directly impact each child's individual development. We've seen over and over again that what happens in the life of a child is much more significant than what happens in the environment that surrounds the child.
- We commit to use money only for the purpose for which it was raised.
- Each **kids4school**-sponsored child has only one sponsor for their education.
- We encourage sponsors to develop meaningful relationships of encouragement with the children they sponsor.
- We commit to encourage children to respond to the gospel, to learn about Jesus and discover a lifelong relationship with God.
- We commit to being financially accountable.

Tom Robinson (Chairperson)

The **August Work & Witness** team are planning to leave Belfast on Tuesday 9th August returning on 23rd August.

The team consists of 5 males and 6 females. There is much excitement growing as we anticipate our work with the children and families in Tanzania. Please pray for travelling mercies and God's blessing as we seek to 'work and witness' in His name. Keep an eye on our facebook and blog pages for up-to-date info while were away.

PROPOSED DATES FOR FUTURE WORK & WITNESS TRIPS

- 1st – 16th October 2011
- 5th – 20th May 2012

Call the office for an application and information pack if you would like to see 'the real Africa' in a life-changing and challenging once in a lifetime experience

Meet kids4school Chairperson of the Board of Trustees – Mrs Gwyneth Easson who, along with her husband Lindsay and their children Catherine and Jack will be team members on the August Work and Witness trip: (9th – 23rd)



Trash Fashion Show



Antrim Baptist Church youth group, IMPACT, held a 'Trash Fashion Show' fundraising event on Friday 27th May, 2011 with all proceeds going to kids4school. They raised £731 which is an amazing amount of money! kids4school wish to thank the young people for all of their dedication and hard work preparing for the fundraiser, and also a huge thank you to all who donated so generously. This money will be invaluable to the projects and people of Tanzania.

Schools Updates

by April Matchett (Projects & Development Officer)

Hombolo Primary School

Hombolo Primary School is situated in the village of Hombolo, although this term can be used loosely as it is nothing more than some shacks which sell Coca-Cola and a market area. It is a busy place in some ways as the locals often cross the school grounds as they travel through the village about their business. The school itself runs around the central area you can see in the picture. It caters for 889 students with 19 teachers shouldering the responsibility. In the class below 144 students in Class 7 are preparing for their exams.



The Headmaster of Hombolo Primary School lives on the school grounds in a small house. The Deputy Headmaster, called Benedict, has a love of English and enjoys teaching the language to the children. He spent a lot of his time translating for us when we visited in April. Hombolo has a total of 14 classrooms and the Work and Witness team that went out refurbished 7 of these. Take a look at the before and after photos:

It is clear that these new, bright, painted classes will have a positive effect on the children and their learning environment.



At present we sponsor 96 children in Hombolo Primary School. Some of these children had the opportunity of meeting their Sponsors in April. Benedict told one sponsor in particular of how bright his sponsored child was and the progression she was making in class. This was very special to hear and a reminder that the little money it takes to send a child to school is making a big difference to someone's life.

Kitelera Primary School

Kitelera Primary School is situated in a very rural area about 45 minutes outside the capital of Tanzania, Dodoma. It is completely different from Hombolo Primary School as it really is in the middle of nowhere. This school has 466 students with 5 teachers to educate them including a lady called Lucy Maganza who is also the headmistress. It is unusual for a lady in Tanzania to be in a position of authority and Lucy has had to work very hard to achieve this and earn respect. She is a fantastic woman with great strength who welcomed the Work and Witness team with open arms and made it her duty to make sure we had everything we needed and more.



At Kitelera Primary School the Work and Witness team painted 5 classrooms, again improving the learning environment for the children. There was also a shortage of toilets at Kitelera with only 4 male/female toilets available for 466 students so some of the more skilled workers took to building a set of toilet blocks which provided 12 new toilets for the school. Below you will see a photo of the completed toilet block:

The visit to Kitelera Primary School provided the opportunity to see a Kids4School Water tank being unveiled. At present drinking water comes from a well situated outside one of the classrooms which holds dirty, unclean water. This tank will collect rain water and store it, providing clean, safe drinking water for the children at the school.



The Work and Witness team also had the opportunity to see the Feeding Program in action. This provides a good breakfast for the children cooked by local people in the grounds of the school. It is because of the generosity of our sponsors that the children do not have to come to school hungry, giving them much needed nutrients that will help them concentrate in school.



At present we sponsor 126 children in Kitelera Primary School – with refurbished classrooms, new toilets and a water tank to provide safe, clean drinking water we are seeing transformed lives and brighter future for our kids4school children.

If you would like to get involved with kids4school and help make a difference please visit our website: www.kids4school.org, email us: info@kids4school.org or telephone: (028) 28 272998

In Tanzania children start primary school when they are seven years old after two years in pre-primary. After seven years children who past the Primary School leaving certificate can start secondary school. Only about 50% of all the children in Tanzania past this exam with poor past rates in English and Mathematics. At secondary school all lessons are taught in English.

In 2002 the Tanzanian government recognising the importance of education to help children break out of the cycle of poverty provided free primary education for all children. Almost 100% of children are now enrolled in school but the level of regular attendance is much lower. The parents still have to pay for uniform, test fees, books and school equipment. In many of the poorer areas families are finding that the cost of sending their children to school is still more than they can afford.

Many teachers are faced with a class of fifty or sixty children and do not have adequate resources. The success rates for the primary leaving certificate

have fallen in recent years and on average the children spend 9.5 years at primary school as they re-sit their examinations.

The Department of Education have acknowledged that there are major differences in the level of pupil performance and these are linked to the teaching environment. Large class sizes, lack of school books, poorly trained teachers and poor maintenance of classrooms all impact on the ability of children to learn.

kids4school have a long term goal of improving the education of the children we support, enabling them to complete their primary school education and continue with secondary school or vocational training. During the team's visit in August we hope to learn more about the education system and explore ways we can support, train and equip the teachers in the five schools in the Hombolo area. Please pray that God will guide the way forward, that we can develop meaningful partnerships with the staff in the schools.

GWYNETH EASSON

Chinese Banquet Fundraiser

On 24th June, 2011, kids4school held a Chinese Banquet at the Ho Wah Cantonese Restaurant in Antrim. Guests were treated to a three course feast of Chinese cuisine with entertainment in the form of a table quiz – a round of questions after each course. The winning table were delighted to receive some chocolate to finish of their dinner with. We want to say a big thank you to everyone involved - the evening was a great success with £1000 being raised for the charity!

Flag Days

We would like to say a big thank you to those who have braved the elements to stand and collect for kids4school during flag days. The following amounts were collected:

Larne - £429.83
Carrickfergus - £336.05
Ballyclare - £208.73

We could really do with more Volunteers for our next one! Please call Audrey and let her know if you'd be willing to help



Kitelera Church

During our time on the Work & Witness Trip to Tanzania in April 2011, we had the privilege of worshipping with the local people on Easter Sunday in Kitelera Church. This was an unforgettable experience and one that touched the hearts of the whole team. The Tanzanians were full of joy in the Lord and praised and worshipped Him openly. It is humbling when we look at what we have and our ingratitude and then look at their situation, yet their hearts are full of thankfulness and love for God. The church building was an experience in itself! It was simply 3 tin walls and a tin roof...



This had a great impact on all of us but particularly on one team member returning home, that he would donate the funds necessary to build a simple church building for the people to worship God in. This is an answer to prayer both for us, but more importantly for the church fellowship at Kitelera. kids4school is planning to take an extra team out this year in October 2011 to facilitate this, and the focus of the team will be on completing the church building. There will also be opportunity for the team to visit the schools and see the work in action. This will be an amazing opportunity and if anyone is interested in going and helping in this vital work for the Lord we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us either via email on info@kids4school.org or alternatively call the office on (028) 2827 2998. God Bless. Jemma Higgins (Projects & Development Officer)