

## June 2016 Koboko KIDS Report

June came sneaking in quietly at Hope Land. Main garden work was wrapped up as initial digging of the last field was completed. It will be planted in beans when the season comes. Onions and sunflowers on the main compound were all weeded and onions covered with bark mulch. Egg plants are doing great. Slashing of the main compound is an on-going challenge as it is all being done by hand.

Tom, Maggie and Julie tried to reach all the areas where our orphans live to inform them of the camp coming up on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup>. The kids are on holiday from school. They told them to come in school uniform and bring either a piece of firewood or a plastic bottle (to be used for a greenhouse).

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> found Tom traveling to Iganga to visit our orphans who are students at Son Shine Christian HS. He took the items some guardians had brought for their children, along with the school fees we had been able to get from the guardians. Maggie also went to Kampala for a day to purchase material for her bridesmaids' dresses, as she is wedding on July 16.

Before he left, Tom managed to bring the two netball poles that had been welded by the same welder who is making the swing set and slide, as well as a tetherball pole. For some reason the slide is not getting done. We are anxious to get these things to Hope Land so the children can enjoy a good playground. Former football players from George Fox University donated the money for these things.

Friday came, and Tom and Maggie were returning on buses all day. Julie was able to do some final contact with orphans in villages about the camp on Saturday, with Maliamungu driving her on the motorbike. We hold this camp just before each school term starts in order to give all the kids a challenge to work hard at their studies, and give them the scholastic materials needed – pen, pencil, exercise books, tooth paste and gel in addition to soap and pads. However, we came to realize there was not a single shilling available for the camp. The May budget was all spent and the June wire had not arrived. As we prayed about what to do, we managed to scrape up money to borrow in order to buy the beans and cassava flour, cooking oil, tomatoes and onions for lunch for 130 people. Then we managed to buy soap, pens and pencils when Maggie returned. The other things will have to wait. David and crew of orphans went for water – two trips to Leiko village in my truck. This our normal source of water now.

Tom and Maggie came very early on Sat. morning. Tom collected every container we have to go for another trip of water to Leiko for the camp. Harriet, Tom's wife was ready to begin preparations for lunch. We always cook the beans late in the day on Friday to be sure they have plenty of time to cook well. All the staff came together to prepare for the message and small groups they would meet with after the lesson. I was led to bring II Chronicles 20 about Jehoshaphat's trust in the Lord when three enemy armies came against his country. It is a challenge to take every problem to God and believe that the battle is His, not ours. We prayed after preparing, then went to gather the orphans who were all enjoying themselves – either playing with balls and the new netball rims, or renewing friendships of those they hadn't seen since they had been together last month. We met outside since there were around 120 kids in addition to staff. The singing was very good, and Tom planned songs that led into the theme of the message. I read the story from the Bible and Mzee David read in Kakawa to interpret. Then we had the kids divide into about six different small groups and we all went to shady places and began asking the kids what hurts them, what things are impossible for them, or that discourages them, what we need to take to the Lord. They were open and honest about their hurts and struggles, and some

were sharing with tears. After the time of sharing, we prayed for all the things shared. We encouraged the children to go to the Lord as often as they needed to for help, encouragement, courage, comfort, etc. Each time we meet we get to know the children better. We had lunch, then gave out the items we had purchased. Some stayed around to play games, other had choir practice with Maggie.

Tom loaded the girls who are taking the tailoring course (who stay at TMI) and some sacks of flour and beans in the van along with his family to take them home after the camp. Just before reaching TMI they had an accident that threw them in the ditch. Tom has written in detail about it, so I won't report more here. But as Maggie was ready to go home after choir practice, right when we got the call about the accident, the motorbike would not start. It seemed there was a problem with the spark plugs. So she jumped into my truck with the rest of us who were going to check on our people in the accident. When they did some searching around the accident, it was discovered that the bag containing the other motorbike keys, the field camera, and some money among other things, was missing. So suddenly we were down to only my truck for transport. We spent the rest of the day moving between the health center and a clinic where the injured people were taken. The staff were very very helpful and cared for every detail that was needed. Only one girl was kept overnight in the hospital for observation after having stitches in her arm. Others had bumps and bruises only. All were saying they were okay. We praised God for protecting all of them from more serious injury.

Tom later managed to get the motorbike running without the key, and we are in the process of getting the lock changed. It seems it must be done in Arua.

## Week 2

Sunday afternoon I was pleasantly surprised by a visit from one of our orphans, Amia, from Dranya. At the beginning of the school holiday Tom and Julie had gone to her home to visit her. But they found she had been chased from home by the stepfather. Actually, all of the mother's children from the previous marriage were chased. We learned that the mom had gone to find the children. The whole three weeks of the holiday we did not find them. But finally, Amia came back and a friend has agreed to let her stay with her near her home. The children had gone to a relative very far away. Shortly after that her mother came to share about the incident with me. She is still very sad, but she knows the Lord loves her and she perseveres through hardship.

The main work project this week was clearing our road from our gate to the main road. Most of the guys worked together on it for two days to clear the grass and bush from the sides, then another day was spent cleaning it all. It really looks great now.

Collins arrived on Wed. morning to work through the finances with Maggie. He also took time to go to the police with Tom to get their decision on the accident. Since it involved no other vehicles or people, and the people in the van had testified the day before about what had happened, the police did not charge Tom with reckless driving. But they had to have some money for reporting, etc. So Collins paid and the police told us to come get the van and take it for repair. So, David came to get my truck to pull the van to a shop. When he backed it out of the carport, the left front tire collapsed. He discovered it was a broken ball joint. Again we praised God for protecting him from having that happen when he was on the highway at a normal speed. David and Dan began investigating what to do to fix the truck, as we needed it to get the van to the shop.

The next day, Thursday, was Hero's Day, a public holiday. Collins traveled back to Jinja on the day bus. David and Dan came to get the ball joint to see if they could find one in Koboko. They were gone for several hours, and when they came back they reported that they had not found the part in Koboko and had gone to Arua on the motorbike – which had the spark plug problem that they had repaired. They came in the afternoon, and began immediately to repair the truck. They had a tray full of screws, washers, bolts, etc. and they worked diligently until 8:15 p.m. to repair it completely. They even tested it out. These two guys worked the entire day which was a holiday for everyone else. I was so proud of them! David, especially, is showing growth in maturity and responsibility.

On Saturday, David from Global Seminary in Wairaka came to install a solar system in the office building. He had most of the things he needed which he brought from Jinja, but David Erechu came to learn from him about solar, etc. and to help. David E. took him to town to look for another panel for my house as well as other things for the office. He told me that my system was not good because the battery and the panel were the same watts. There should be more watts in the panels than in the battery. He did not finish on Sat., so slept in Collins' room. Maliamungu woke me up at 5 am to get the key for the store room, because David wanted to start working! He worked the whole day until around 7:15 p.m. when he went to town to get a good meal and take the night bus back to Jinja. Now we have lights in the office rooms and security lights on the outside. The guards are very happy for that.

### Week 3

This week Tom and Julie began seriously moving to all the homes of our primary children to give the fee structure for the schools. We made a document with all the schools and their total required fees for each term, and we listed the amount K.I.D.S. can pay and what the guardian is responsible to pay.

Other projects are being done on the property – filling in the foundation of the carpentry shop so that when money can be used to finish it, there will be no delay. Also, much soil was dug up in the garden when they built the water cistern, and we are moving that soil to fill in low places and rocky places on the compound so it will be removed from the garden and be useful for leveling ground to make it easier to mow when we get the mower.

On Tuesday, Maggie, David, Dan, and Mzee David all went to the place called Nyambili, where many people hire land to plant crops. It is very fertile land, and if we can get an acre to use for planting, we can help raise funds for our school fees, etc. They found a place where a little more than half an acre was available at a place called Kagoropa, a bit closer than we had anticipated. One of our guardians had helped to make the connection, and she also sent us a young man to go there and dig it. So Tom and Mzee David took him there and made sure he was ok.

On Wednesday we had a *harambe*– a Swahili word for a group of people all working together to accomplish something. Most of the staff and the orphans who are now with us most days worked together to dig a portion of the field outside our fenced compound to prepare it for planting rice. It was a bit hard, though we had had some rain. It was enjoyable to work all together with plenty of chatting and laughing along with the digging. We will have to re-dig it after a few weeks to make it ready for planting the rice.

On Friday I took the night bus to Kampala to pick up my daughter, Heather, and friend Deb Powell, from the airport. They are coming to work with us – Deb for a couple of weeks, and Heather until 24<sup>th</sup> July. They have a sports camp scheduled at Son Shine Christian HS on July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. One of Deb's bags was left in Brussels, but they promised to deliver it when it arrived after a couple of days. We slept in Kampala and took the bus to Koboko the next day.

From the time the ladies arrived it has been raining in Koboko! We had not had steady rains like a normal rainy season, and people who planted their crops early suffered, as many dried up. But it has been raining well for the last week and a half of the month. Our crops are growing well, and we are ready to plant second season crops.

Tom went to some primary schools to see if Deb and Heather could go and hold sports events for the students in the afternoon. The first one was scheduled for Dranya Primary. Most of our staff and the orphans who come every day went to assist Deb and Heather. They were about to begin when a sudden thunder storm came up and it had to be rescheduled for another day. Altogether they went to four schools - Dranya, Ombaci Primary, Padrombu Primary, and Mindrabe Primary. The experience was excellent in many ways. It was a good outreach to the schools, and the children and staff enjoyed it, but it was also eye-opening for our staff to see some of the weaknesses and strengths of the students and administration of the schools. Our orphans and staff also learned to work as a team to organize kids and help run the event. We are very happy with these orphans who are showing a lot of maturity and growth.

We expected Kasim, (the tailor we have worked with to teach our guardians, service our machines, and make school uniforms for our kids) to come on 29<sup>th</sup> to do initial setup and servicing of the three machines we have purchased for the girls who passed the first tailoring course. He was also going to refresh them on making uniform shirts. But an unusual rain storm came during the mid-morning and continued into the afternoon, and he was unable to come. But we expect to get the girls busy making uniforms by the beginning of July. Iba, one of the girls, has traveled with Tom and Julie to different schools to measure our orphans who need uniforms.

Collins came on 29<sup>th</sup> to go over finances with Maggie, and meet with our board members who have knowledge about what is required to begin a primary school in preparation for Seba and Chet's visit. He plans to drive the van down to Jinja if the repairs are completed by Thursday morning. Deb and Heather and I will go with him to be ready for the sports camp at Son Shine on Friday afternoon.

#### Report for the Month of June by the Manager of Construction

1. First of all, I would like to thank Almighty Father for the gift of life He has given to all of us. The month was a nice one because God has given us rain and sunshine where our crops in the garden are just green. I thank God for that wonderful month.
2. This month we have started with cleaning the compound that is slashing (cutting the grass) and cleaning the road from the gate. We have spent some good days on the road. Because it rained a lot, we struggled in a way that if we dig the road after getting tired, we would need to leave it

and need to come back to it tomorrow. Suddenly we had a big rain storm at night, so collecting the rubbish was difficult.

3. I went to fetch water to be poured in the tank so that it will be used by the staff.
4. We had a general camp for many kids. We enjoyed it so much. On that day we had Bible teaching by Jaja from the book of 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 encouraging us to not be afraid of any difficulties that come.
5. We worked on the vehicle. It was having some technical problems as the ball joint had gotten broken. We went to the nearest town in Koboko and we failed to get what we needed from there. So, we went to Arua on a bike one day and finally we got it there. We came back the following day and we worked on it and it is ok now.
6. Then, because the vehicle was dirty again, we headed to take the vehicle to the nearest running water to be washed. We had to remove all of the seats and we washed it properly with Omo (cleaner).
7. We had a visitor from Kampala who is a technician. He came to put up some solar panels and to do some connecting and wiring on the office block. We worked together with him.
8. The third week we started with joined hands to work on digging the garden for rice. It was very nice because all of the staff were there and we enjoyed digging so much.
9. I have been collecting broken bricks to fill the foundation for the carpentry house.
10. We went on a journey to the village called Kalgoropa where we arranged for the garden to be dug so that we can plant our crops in it.
11. I have replanted some of the flowers which were missing in front of the staff house and also have been shaping the ones which have grown up so that it will look nice.
12. I have also been cutting the branches of the trees we have planted around the compound in order to keep them growing straight.
13. We bought the spare part of the basher (weed whacker) which was needed and it worked ok for a while, but it is now broken again.

#### Field Report for the Month of June 2016 from Julie

##### Week One:

We managed to visit 5 homes of orphans this week with the aim of calling them for camp.

We manage to conduct an educational camp this very week and we had a lot of discussions in small groups with around 20 children per group. Not only that, but also we had shared the Word of God from the Bible in the book of 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 which was shared by Camille. We all learned and were encouraged so much, especially on how to remain patiently in pain and when you are hurt. We also learned about trusting and praying to God in times of pain.

The very same week also we managed to give some scholastic materials to our kids like pens, pencils, pads, soap, among other things. We also gave them some food (a meal consisting of...) like 50 kg of cassava flour, 1 bushel of beans, and 1 liter of cooking oil.

##### Week Two:

We thank God for keeping us alive this month because we are really very sorry for what the devil has worked against us. In a way, after we had our general camp with around 250 children, some of them complained of a shortage of food in their learning centers. We managed to give them 50 kg of cassava flour, 1 basin of beans, and 1 liter of cooking oil. Then we came together as a staff to discuss how to help them on transporting this food stuff back to their place. We all agreed that Tom, one of the staff, could carry the girls and their food stuff in the van. Suddenly, on their way to the TMI base where they stay, they got in an accident. It was not so bad and only 2 girls got injured. The van was arrested by the traffic police officers, but the issue was solved and the van was taken for repairs in the garage.

Within the same week, we also managed to give 3 pieces of material for clothes for the girls who are in tailoring school so they could practice sewing clothes.

We also managed to repair the other car in the compound in one day because one of the tires got broken.

Within the week we also managed to treat the girls who got injured in the accident and they are now feeling better and most of them have returned back to their school.

We also received a solar panel this very week which was bought by Collins to reduce the expense on power, which is used for the carrying out of administrative programs and security purposes.

### Week Three:

In this week we managed to visit 25 homes with an aim of counseling the care givers on how to balance time for their children, especially for home activities like fetching water, cooking food, garden work, etc. with studying books to improve the children's performance in school. So we really encouraged the care givers to give enough time for their children to study during the school term.

Under that, we also managed to give information about the payment of school fees for the whole year for the primary schools because we had an agreement with the care givers to share the cost for their child's education. For example, a primary school like Abele pays school fees for a student in P7 for the year at 142,500 shillings. We pay 90,000 per year and 30,000 per term. Then the remaining 52,500 shillings are for the care givers to pay, which is 17,000 per term. And we do this same thing with the rest of the schools according to their school fee structures.

We were so happy for our care givers because most of them were busy on their garden work and preparing it for planting for the month of July. In our discussions and interpretations with our care givers, we were able to find out and notice their demands and their needs. For example, we found out that most of them were in need of bean seeds for planting in early July. We managed to buy 50 kg of bean seeds and distributed to 5 ready and capable care givers for planting in July. We divided the seeds and each care giver was able to get at least 10 kg of bean seeds which can plant a garden.

In this same week we also managed to use strength to dig a ½ acre in a day as a staff, headed by Camille.

We managed to borrow a ¾ of a garden in Kalgoropa which had already been given to us. We are so happy for that and we give thanks to God for the provision. We are able to fund one able bodied man to dig for us in this garden and plant seeds in July. The man told us he is going to finish the garden in two weeks now.

#### Week Four:

We are blessed this week with 2 visitors from America. They are good ladies. We enjoyed so many games with them like relays of running, skipping, ball circles, and jump ropes. We also played dodge ball, clump ball, steal the bacon, four goal football, etc. We managed to visit 4 primary schools in which we shared and enjoyed these games with them.

We also manage to visit 30 schools with the aim of calling our kids for camp which is going to be on July 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. This time we are going to organize it in a different way like for P1-P6. We are starting with them and for P7 and secondary school and some in vocational training, we are going to have their camp on July 9, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. This is because most of our children who are in the candidate classes are too busy with lessons, so we do not want to interrupt with their learning.

Under that, in due course of visiting our orphans at schools, we checked on their health and school uniforms. We found out that most of them had good health and we thanked God for that. Only some of them were lacking a school uniform. One of our tailors who was trained, she is one of our orphans, is going to help us to sew the school uniforms for the rest of the kids who need them.

In this same week we managed to pay school fees for 30 children, mostly those in secondary school, vocational studies, and a few primary schools.

We also managed to check on our children's books to see who they are progressing. We found that most of them were serious and hard working in classwork, assignments, etc.

Under that, we managed to encourage them and guide them on how to study their books. For example, we told them to draw study time tables so as to balance the passing of the subjects they are learning. We encouraged them to read the Bible and to read books and novels to improve their spoken English and their understanding of things.

In our due course of visiting our kids in their different schools, we found most of them were well disciplined according to their school administration management.

Thanks. God bless you. Amen.

#### Farm Reports

We have finished re-digging the garden for planting beans and we shall do harrowing on Saturday when pupils come for the camp. Planting will take place on that very day. We applied drugs on maize tips to prevent them from worms. We have another garden where by to plant rice and we are still working on it. And also there is a garden where we uprooted cassava. We want to use it for planting rice also. All these things are going to take place in July 2016. Kids also have a garden in Kagoropa given by one of the landlords there which is two and a half quarters. Someone is already working in it after finishing. We shall also plant there. On Wednesdays we used to do communion work as a team with all the staff. I transplanted 250 lemon seedlings in the bags. When they grow, we will graft them. I still need to plant more seeds. Sunflowers are sprayed and they are now flowering. The size of the garden is one quarter. And our plan here in Hopeland is that if possible

we wanted to get a very big piece of land that can make us to harvest good quantity of crops. Cassava was sold in our garden for 70,000 shillings. And some are uprooted to be dried and then we shall use some for food and some for sale.

Livestock – five of the goats have produced five young ones, three male ones and two female ones. They have added the number of the goats that we bought. They were eight, plus these five, makes the total thirteen. We have ten chickens and others have started laying eggs. Our goats were also treated by injecting them. We also gave them de-wormer. For the problem of lacking funds to finish the chicken house, we built for them a temporary one for the time being. We also have a pit where to keep the droppings of the goats. We also have a variety of cassava which was planted as a demonstration. They have germinated. We have onions growing well near the compound and the eggplants are now producing young ones.

Thanks – this is the report from the farm manager as general. By, Kenyi David