

**For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**Psalm 100:5**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to new supporters, we hope you will find our newsletter interesting, encouraging, and informative. It seems rather late but Happy New Year to you all.

Since our last newsletter we have continued to support families in Njoro in various ways. We have been extending our support group work and have new faces in our team. It has been a blessed few months and we are thankful to all of you who have supported us financially, making it all possible.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS

We were pleased to be able to give all the families we work with a food parcel at Christmas so they could enjoy a family dinner together and had enough for the next few days. For most, the vegetables and fruit were a 'special treat' as they would not normally be able to afford them. For families living in poverty, their diet is usually ugali, beans and kale. They can not afford fruit or more expensive vegetables and so levels of malnutrition are high.



We provide several families with weekly food while working with them to improve their income and helping them to become self-sufficient through vocational training or assisting them to start small businesses.

## SCHOOLS REOPEN

The government reopened schools in January for all students. We are thankful for those who financially support our work so that we were able to provide uniforms, desk fees and other equipment for those who could not afford it. This meant that every school aged child in the families we work with returned to school.

For one 13yr old boy who became known to us through the Bible Club, it was his first time going to school. His mum is an alcoholic and home life is exceedingly difficult but despite this, he had been keen to attend lessons with a teacher that we had provided last year while schools were closed. Every day, even when he may have slept outside, he would turn up for lessons knowing that education is his way out of poverty and determined to learn. He looked so smart on his first day at school and was extremely excited to be going. Our counsellor sees him every week at school and reports from the teachers say he is doing very well. Please remember him in your prayers.



## DISABILITY SUPPORT GROUP



***The Potter's House team.***

***Left to right: Beatrice, Gladys, Alice, Beth***

The new year brought a new face to the team and we were blessed to be able to welcome Gladys in the role of group facilitator working one day a week. Gladys has personal experience of caring for children with disabilities and has successfully been running the support group in her area, which now has over 50 members.

Gladys role includes identifying those with disabilities in the different areas and bringing them together to start a disability support group. Once started, she will help them to organise themselves, register the group and plan meetings until they are stable. Being part of a registered group not only gives emotional support but allows members to access any government help available that is only given to groups and we can help individuals apply for their disability cards so they can claim government financial support.

The first few weeks were challenging for Gladys as she started in a very rural area where finding people is difficult. However, over the last few weeks word about the new group has got around and last week 27 people turned up! The new members are excited about the group with several saying they had never heard of anything like it before nor had anyone ever come to them with such ideas, so they felt like they, *"have been living like forgotten people"*.

## PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Many of the parents we support had traumatic childhoods and lacked parental guidance while growing up. Now parents themselves, we see history is repeating itself and so each week, during the parent support group meetings, Beatrice has been leading them through a Positive Parenting Course to help them better understand a child's needs and how best to provide a supportive and loving home for their children. We are really encouraged by the impact it has had already. Here are a few quotes from parents when asked if the course had helped them or caused them to change how they parent in any way.

*"We need to learn and know where our child spends the day and with who, as that's when they are introduced to different negative behaviours."*

*"I used to get upset and hit the children but now I wait to cool down before I talk to them."*

*"Don't hit or beat your child who has done something wrong, correct him or her in love."*

*"I learnt about different personalities that children have and the importance of bringing up children while telling them God's word."*

*"If I talk politely to my son, he says the truth unlike before when I used to shout, and he got frightened and would start shaking and lying to me."*

Beating children is an accepted form of punishment in Njoro and so we are thankful that through the parenting course, relationships within the family home are improving and we are making homes safer for children.



### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- *Please pray for the boy who has started school for the first time.*
- *Pray for the Board Members as they meet this month. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they plan future activities and how best to support families.*
- *Pray for Gladys and her work as she seeks to reach out to more people living with disabilities.*
- *We plan to start an afterschool bible club soon, please pray God would provide for this work.*
- *Please pray that all our financial needs would be met so we can continue the work we are doing and support families.*

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