



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:

November 2006 our first visit to Kenya and the Children of The Boys' and Girls' Brigades of Kerarapon seems such a long time ago now. A hectic schedule of fundraising events and addresses to varied groups have filled the past 6 months with plenty of work to keep all involved with the project very busy indeed. The response from all has been incredible and a source of huge encouragement to all at 51st Bonnyrigg, 5th Livingston, 1st Loanhead and 56th Edinburgh Companies.

In January 2007 the foundations for the first three classrooms were completed. After a short break to allow the rainy season to pass (3 months no less) work has commenced on the walls for these first classes. All the work being carried out by hand, right down to the quarrying of the stone for the walls. Testimony itself to the determination, skill and hard work of the People of Kerarapon.

Foundation work underway December 2006



By cleaning shoes on the streets of Nairobi to raise funds for their dream of a School, the Boys and Girls of the Brigades at Kerarapon struck a distinct chord with us.

To mark 125 years of the Boys' Brigade here in Scotland we were presented a truly wonderful opportunity to take our work out into Gods Wonderful World, and, 'Bring Good News to Young People' well outside of our usual thoughts.

To Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Boys' Brigade here in Scotland there could be nothing more suitable than to provide the opportunity of education and the benefit it brings to young people, where currently there is none.



A major part to the Project is the provision of an accommodation unit to allow disabled Children to attend School from outlying areas. Staying there during the week, returning home to their families at weekends and holidays.

To give you some indication 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 its Children and has worked very hard to ensure legislation protects the rights of all its 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.

From the very beginning we realised they were both in need of help and deserving of every effort we can make to bring it to reality.

'Whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.' *Matthew 25:45*

It Can Be Done, 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 Project Stedfast)