



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:

22nd February 2008 and we found ourselves once again guests of this amazing country that is Kenya. Despite the best efforts of Heathrow's Baggage system we made it, albeit a day later than planned. Right up to our departure from the UK news headlines talked of renewed troubles, something that caused not a little angst to the group. From the moment we arrived in Nairobi it became obvious that the BBC and many others had forgotten to tell us of the peace that had remained with the vast majority of Kenyans and which had indeed spread throughout the regions we were to visit. Sad indeed that the return of Peace and political agreement barely made the inner pages of the newspapers that had heralded the end of Kenya's stability, yes there is a great deal for the politicians here to sort out, however, there is also goodwill in abundance and a far greater belief in Gods Will than we may ever find here in the West.



Scott of Africa?

In November the foundations were laid for the Disabled Children's Centre and it was almost beyond belief to find the stonework some 2/3 complete. Modifications had been made to the plans to allow for difficulties experienced with the ground and indeed the actual location for the centre had been revised, moving closer to the School than originally planned. Amazingly the unexpected problems have found solutions that have enhanced the building in almost every way. I am reminded often of the saying that God laughs when men make plans and here perhaps is proof that we are often shown a better way. It is difficult also to convey how important this centre is, the best testimony to that is probably the flood of applications for a place in a centre that is not even completed yet.

The journey that began in November 2006 still has hurdles to pass, the fundraising continues and the need for your donations is greater than ever. Even this early the positive effects of this Project are evident to all, children are already benefiting from an education until recently unattainable to them. Their future prospects and that of their families enhanced beyond our understanding. In a country that has undoubtedly seen hard times of late its future lies with its children and perhaps the new beginning here for these children will bring a new future for all.

It Can Be Done and with your help It Will Be Done.

www.projectstedfast.co.uk

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)



The most memorable moment from this trip will be the sight of the first pupils to attend St Andrews as we peered through the classroom windows. 24 wonderful, excited, happy, keen and interested children locked into their Teachers dialogue. What a sight to behold. The lesson punctuated with singing and playing. The teacher and head teacher smiling brightly and interacting with the children all the time. Remarkable to see when such a short time ago this was just the side of a hill and the school no more than a pipe dream held by the Children of Ololua Boys' and Girls' Brigade.

As much as the day was memorable to all of us, I am sure from the look on the children's faces, as seven European men walked into their class, the day will remain with them for a long time to come. (Fortunately the Swahili for sweets is sweeties so we were on a winner with the kids from the start.)

On this trip we saw much of Kenya and its wildlife as we visited Safari Park and animal Centres, nothing shone quite so brightly as the faces of the Children here at St Andrew's school.

