



Dear Friends of Good Hope,

I have just spent a few days in the peace and warmth of Good Hope and want to share some the lovely things that are happening while it is all fresh in my mind. It was a very short but delightful visit. I was met at the Kilimanjaro airport by Josephine and Musa with lots of hugs and smiles all around. We made a quick stop in Moshi to stock up on juice and cookies for the annual Kindergarten graduation scheduled for the next day and then we were off up the mountain, where the greeting was wonderful.



**Moshi Academy students**

The kids are all back from school and are enjoying being home even though they have lots of chores to keep them busy. They have blossomed at school – the younger ones at Moshi Academy and the 5 older kids at Northern Highlands Secondary where they will start Form 2 and 3 when the new school year begins in January. All are all doing well and love school. They all have great ambitions – doctors, engineers, business men, teachers and Rozina is still determined to become a pilot. None of this would ever have been possible without the generosity of so many people over the years. Special thanks to very generous sponsors who are making access to good quality education possible. During the holidays everyone slips right back

into the roles they have developed over the years, boys and girls sharing the load and older kids looking out for younger ones.

Some new faces to introduce: Three-year old twins Joshua and Josiah are enjoying respite care at Good Hope while an adoptive or foster family can be found for them. Their Mum died of AIDS recently and their 80+ year-old grandmother knew that they would need someone to care for them for many years yet. There was great relief when their recent HIV tests were negative as this will make finding a family for them a little easier. They are full of life and a delight to be with. Luckily Grace Dismas, the current, Montessori-trained KG teacher and her year-old daughter Anne live at Good Hope Monday to Friday. Grace is a great help with the boys and good company for Josephine. Idani, a local lad with intellectual difficulties who went through primary school without ever learning to write his name spends his days at Good Hope helping out with chores while the kids are away at school. Josephine has plans to help him learn useful skills to make him more independent.



**Joshua and Josiah**



**Supper at Good Hope**

Days are busy during the holidays but by evening supper brings everyone together. The older girls lead by Witty do most of the cooking and the boys clean up. Then everyone gathers around the table to read, draw, or when possible enjoy the wonders of a laptop. The annual appearance of



**...and after supper everyone gathers around to read, draw or just chat**

the new *Guinness Book of World Records* is always a hit whether it is just looking at all the weird pictures or reading all about them.



**2015 KG Graduates**

Sixteen of this year's forty kindergarten girls and boys are moving on to Standard 1. The teachers at the local primary school are always very pleased to receive GH kids as they are well prepared and ready to learn. I met a few former KG students as I wandered about and was greeted with lovely smiles. Over 300 hundred have passed through our hands and on to primary and now secondary school success.



**Former and current KG students**



**Josephine, Dr. Boniface and Rosemary**

There has been progress getting the health center going. An agreement with Kibosho hospital has facilitated the registration process. A recent change in government leadership has shifted much more focus on services at the local level which holds great promise. The eye clinic initiated and maintained by *Artists for World Peace* in partnership with Kibosho Hospital is very popular with the community. There are plans for that terrific group to return next summer. Currently GP Dr. Boniface Shayo is in residence at the clinic and while his commitment is short-term he is hoping that there will be some way to support a longer stay. As usual, funding is a critical issue.

One of the important resources GH depends on is its maize crop, both for food and for the small income it generates. There is good news on that front. The owner of a field that has been rented for several years offered to sell the property, crediting all rent paid so far towards the final purchase. Josephine decided to sell the van and use part of the proceeds to finalize the deal. She then purchased a much smaller vehicle – a pick-up truck which will also be a source of income as there are always people needing to haul things from place to place. While this means she doesn't get to town (and internet access) as often, she can get a taxi for just a little more than what it formerly cost to fuel the van and doesn't miss all the driving she was doing. Chickens, pigs and proceeds from the maize mill continue to provide a small income which helps offset the fixed operating costs.



**Josephine and the newly-acquired maize shamba**

Clearly life is unfolding as it should at Good Hope. Over the years so many generous people have contributed to making this possible. It is a very special place, a haven for so many children have had nowhere else to go, a family for those who have been there since they were very little and a welcome temporary shelter and retreat for visitors from near and far. It is a welcoming place, a place to which I am always so happy to return as often as I can.

The spirit of Tanzanians in the wake of the election of their new president was wonderful to experience. His recent cancelation of the usual very expensive Uhuru Day celebrations and request to Tanzanians to instead celebrate the day by doing whatever they could to improve their immediate environment is just one of the actions that has made people hopeful for the first time in my memory. It was great to experience people busy sweeping and cleaning up around their communities.

To the many of you who have been part of Good Hope over the years, Asante Sana. You know what an important difference you have made. I hope this very brief update is a reminder that you really are changing the world for the better, one child at a time. Thank you for that.

All very best holiday wishes from everyone at Good Hope. For those of you celebrate Christmas, may this be a time of blessings and joy. Our hope and prayer for 2016 is that peace, health, happiness and success await us all. Have a wonderful new year.

All very best wishes

*Rosemary, Josephine and the Good Hope family*