

Good Hope Update December 2018

Dear Friends of Good Hope,

I have just returned from a wonderful week at Good Hope and want to share some of the highlights with you. Unfortunately the younger kids were all still at boarding school but that gave me lots of time to spend with Jackline, Bahati and Witness who have just completed Form 4 and Riziki and Salvatore who had finished their Form 2 and 3 exams and of course with my dear friend Josephine.



I was delighted to spend time with Musa, the first Good Hope college student. He started at the *College of African Wildlife Management* in the fall. Unfortunately classes were still in session and wouldn't break up until after I had to leave so he couldn't be home but we met in Moshi and I also had a brief visit to the college during the week. It has a very impressive campus complex on the other side of Moshi, about the same distance up Kilimanjaro as Good Hope. It serves all of East Africa and draws students from elsewhere in Africa and the world and will open great doors for Musa once he finishes. He explored many possibilities after completing Form 4 last year and has I think selected an ideal place to continue his learning in terms of his own interests and strengths and as well as potential employment possibilities. He is really enjoying his new life and doing well. It was lovely to see him standing tall, clearly no longer a school boy.



Future engineer

This year's Form 4 leavers are all expecting to qualify for Form 5 and ultimately go on to university. Witness sees engineering in her future, Bahati, our passionate IT and photography guy is aiming for some computer related field, and Jackline has her sights firmly set on law. Since Form 5 doesn't start until June all three are planning to take short courses after Christmas at VETA – *the Ministry of Education Vocational Education and Training Authority*, to explore new ideas and expand their horizons. In the interim all were spending their



Future lawyer

mornings working hard, the girls helping with little ones and the boys looking after the chickens, keeping with the farming (and doing their younger kids the week after I left and visit by a favourite fairy godmother, Peace would bring special joy to all, games and a magical three-day beach Ocean. It was easy to see from the wonderful time.



Bahati on his way back from clearing up around the clinic

cooking, cleaning, and running the maize mill, the area around the clinic neat and helping own laundry!). School would break up for the there would be lots more to do. However a Wendy Black Nasta from Artists for World with lots of arts and crafts activities, music and holiday at Pagani on the coast of the Indian photos she posted that everyone has having a

Last summer *Artists for World Peace* brought a dental clinic to the community – providing both equipment and dental professionals. Needless to say Good Hope now has a host of new friends. For most local people this was their first ever experience with dental care, something so many of us take for granted, and once again the local people flocked to the clinic. Josephine continues to seek a permanent solution to having the clinic provide on-going medical services in the community and is exploring a recent possibility that has presented itself.

Early in the year there were a few bumps in the road for the nursery school as the government is taking a hard



Margaret with the older kids

look at private early childhood programs and laying down guidelines about programs, spaces and equipment. However all is well and 30 local little ones are enjoying their introduction to education. Luckily Margaret, a qualified preschool teacher whose husband



Martha with the younger group

teaches down the road at Umbwe Secondary school agreed to take on the assignment, ably assisted by Martha who also lives close by. The class is grouped by age, with the younger (3-4 year old) girls and boys engaging in age-appropriate play-based learning and while the 5-6 group exploring early literacy and numeracy. Of course all benefit together from social interactions and lots of language experiences. New this year are the very attractive painted tires which surround the play area and are a favourite place to climb and perch.



The teachers interesting parents want learn English move on to Swahili is the instruction. many of the



are facing a very challenge: while their children to but the children will class 1 where language of Especially since girls and boys speak



Chaga, the local language at home pre-literacy and numeracy activities like learning numbers, letters etc. in Swahili is important for school readiness. We agreed that while English songs and games etc. are fun and let kids show their parents what they have learned, more emphasis on language activities, both in terms of listening to stories and using words to effectively express ideas, interact socially, react to stories and talk about daily experiences in Swahili is important. An identified need was story books in Swahili but I was surprised to learn how hard it is to find any. I am hoping that friends in nearby Kenya will be able to find us some.

Farming continues to be important activity for Good Hope and the community, whose members contribute to the on-going work from planting to harvest and share the produce. This of course means that many families in the village benefit. After a few rough years of drought the current crop of maize and beans has done very well. The beans were being harvested while I was there, and I will never have another meal of our own beans, delicious sweet ugali made from our freshly ground maize and tasty and nutritious greens of all kinds without thinking about the hard physical labour that is involved in bringing all this to table. I was delighted that daily meals were based on these home-grown products, and really enjoyed delicious eggs provided by our chickens for breakfast.



Catching up with Baltazar

I was very happy to reconnect with Good Hope friend and neighbor Baltazar Munishi whom I had missed on my last few visits. He is busier than ever with Wavumbe, the group he founded years ago of people living with HIV/AIDS. Advocacy has become even more important as funds available to support people in need are diminishing and he is very active at the local, regional and national levels.



Josephine and Baltazar looking back and sharing memories

It was wonderful to be back in this very special place to see for myself how girls and boys whom I have known for many years are growing up to be responsible and caring young women and men who are there for each other even as they individually start to think about where the future will take them. It is clear that wherever that may be, Good Hope will always be home.



So many people over the last 15 years have contributed to making all this happen and to all of you who keep a little bit of Good Hope close to your heart please accept a great big Asante Sana. You know that your gifts over the years have changed the lives of so many.

However the key to everything has always been Mama Josephine, the heart and soul of everything. Good Hope today is a result of her wisdom, determination, perseverance, hard work and above all her faith. My prayer for my dear friend is, to quote my favourite Irish blessing,

“May God continue to hold you in the palm of His hand.”

It is always hard to leave Good Hope, recognizing that so much will change before I get back. But knowing that changes will continue to be positive makes parting a little sweeter. I take heart in knowing that I will be back and that new and exciting developments will greet me. And next year I will have more flexibility planning the timing of my visit so can be sure that everyone will be home. I can hardly wait!

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2019 to all.

Take care and may God bless you, each and every one!

Rosemary