

Under The Mango Tree Newsletter

Friends of Kambe Timboni School



Headlines:

- ✚ Rev Makonde sends a letter of appreciation to all supporters.
- ✚ Children had the experience of a lifetime when they visited a national park for the day.
- ✚ The famine in East Africa has an impact on the school.

News.

✓ Please see the letter from Rev Makonde included as the final page of this news letter

✓ APPRECIATION – Letter from the Deputy Head

Hi! Hope all is well in UK. All is well here at Timboni Kambe. On behalf of teachers, pupils and the entire community, we take this opportunity to express our deep heartfelt appreciation to you towards our educational tour to Tsavo West National Park.

First and foremost, we thank the Almighty God for the journey mercies from school to Tsavo and back. The children and teachers spent a night at school on 9th March. We hired Ribe boys' school bus. The bus arrived at school at 4:00 am. We were all ready for the journey. The bus took off at 4:30 am. The children were very much excited because most of them was their first time to visit Tsavo.

We reached Voi at around 9:00 am. We went for breakfast then proceeded to Mtito Andei. We arrived at Mtito Andei at 11:20 am. The children and teachers were taken to the education center for a session. After the session we took off to the park.

The children were surprised to see animals such as elephants, zebra and giraffes among others which they had initially seen in form of pictures. They also had a chance to see several hills. We also went to Mzima springs where we saw fresh water which is being pumped and used in many parts of Mombasa County.

We took many photographs which we are attaching some of them to our letter and you will come and see the rest of the pictures when you visit Kenya.

We left the park at 3:00 pm and arrived at school at 9:00 pm.

We surely have no words to express our feelings but to thank all members of Under the Mango Tree in UK for their financial support to us.

Ours is to pray to the Almighty God to bless all members in the organization.

Yours sincerely

Agnes Tewa

Tour organizer

Please consider the 'funds for nothing' opportunity with Riviera Travel.

If you know of anyone who 'might' book a holiday with Riviera Travel please ask them to say the following few words to Riviera - "Please link my booking with Under The Mango Tree". This can be done at anytime, just in case a holiday is booked later – or even next year.

There is absolutely no cost to the holiday maker, Riviera will send funds to the charity – it is that simple.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Children had the experience of a lifetime when they visited a national park for a day

Some of the children have also written individual letters about the joy of their visit to Tsavo and we will be pleased to send copies to anyone who would like them. Here are some extracts.
From: Easter Ndama Mwapahе -Class Seven

We had a lot of food at lunch. We ate a delicious lunch. We stood beside the bus until our teachers came. We were very tired. We came back home. We had many interesting things to tell our parents, siblings and friends. That we said we shall ask our class teacher to treat us to it again. It was the most enjoyable trip of my life.

From Nathan Amin - Class Eight

The start of the day. I woke up at the crack of dawn, I went to the frog kingdom and had a quick shower of cold water that left me shaking like a chameleon on a feeble plant and set the ball rolling to my bedroom and I wore my school uniform. When I finished a scent of aroma was calling in the dining room.

I went and gobbled down and when I finished I set the ball rolling to school quickly because I knew that the early bird catches the worm. When I reached school, I saw everyone had a banana smile on his/her face. A few minutes later a big blue italic bus came to our school compound.

Photographs from the trip



School Uniforms.

You may recall that last year we sent funds for uniforms for the very poorest families who could not buy them. We did the same at the start of this year. Parents who received uniforms brought to the school many extra bundles of fire wood that they collected. This helps the cooking for the feeding programme. Photos of the children with new uniforms.



The famine in East Africa and the school feeding program

Whilst the area served by Kambe Timboni school is not so harshly devastated by the droughts and famine further north it is still having an impact. The rains in 2016 did not materialise normally and crops have been lost. Also, food prices generally have risen with some basic items of maize flour for example now double the prices of last year.

For many years supporters from both Burnhope Methodist Church (Durham) and the Northwich and Winsford Methodist Circuit Kenya Fund have supported the school feeding program. The majority of funds have been sent from Northwich and Winsford over the past ten years. However, owing to falling donations and the triple impact of price rises and poorer exchange rates plus increased school numbers the Kenya Fund are unlikely to be able to meet current costs.

A meeting was held last week between two of your trustees and four members of the Northwich and Winsford Kenya Fund. The outcome was that Under The Mango Tree are asked to help fund the feeding at Timboni school with about £1,600 in 2017 and about £3,000 in 2018.

A proposal will be discussed by trustees at the meeting in May and we will explain what was decided in the next newsletter which we hope to circulate during June. As we all understand hungry children do not learn well. Trustees have discussed this topic previously and are likely to want to support the feeding costs. This does mean that we will need to work even harder to raise funds.

A new initiative 'Eat Cake – Feed a child' will be launched soon.

In January, an emergency call from the school for funds was actioned in order to ensure food was purchased.

Breakfast consists of a small cup of porridge made from sorghum. It is not appetising for the average UK palate but nourishing and filling.

Lunch consists of ugali made from maize flour plus some kidney beans. Once per week it is rice in place of the ugali.

DESKS

Following a generous donation from the Rotary Club of Saughall 30 new desks are on order. These are single pupil desks which are better for the older children and can be used when taking examinations. Once again, the desks will be made at the workshops run by Mombasa Methodist Church. This also helps to train young men in carpentry skills giving them a better chance to gain employment.



Forthcoming event: The Wesley Players (Morecambe) are doing a concert for UTMT on Saturday, 7th June, for more details please contact Jean at j.sopball@btinternet.com

Charity Contact details:

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21st April 2017

Dear Supporters of Under The Mango Tree,

Greetings to you all!

I have been asked to write a message to you on behalf of Timboni School Kambe and the wider community that the school serves. The most important message is 'Thank You.'

Thank you for all the assistance you have given to the school and my community through your support of Under The Mango Tree. Whilst there is still work to do and needs to be met, the school has really grown and flourished because of all you do. The school is performing well and children are getting the best chance in life that is possible.

Last year in November as the school closed for the year, the students in Standard 8, the final year for primary school children, sat for their national examinations Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E). 20 students sat for that examination. Eight children did so well that they were offered places in High/Secondary Schools and they are now continuing their studies. This may not seem so outstanding for you in the UK but for my community it is wonderful. This is the very first time since Timboni Nursery and Primary School Kambe started so humbly in the year 2000 under the shade of that 'Mango Tree' that children have been right through to Standard 8. We are so proud and yet so thankful for all of you and others do.

We have ambitions plans to complete further building work so that every child has a dedicated classroom and every child has a desk and a good supply of books.

Thank you for being alongside us on our journey, everyone in the Kambe Timboni School Community prays that you will be able to continue your generous support.

Thank You once again to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles F Makonde', written in a cursive style.

Charles F Makonde (Rev)