



Newsletter No 19

July 2014

Hello Everybody

Another summer is here and a good one so far, so hope all of you manage to get a break before it is all over and although Autumn is a lovely time of year, following that it will be winter again. It must be age but the seasons appear to pass by so quickly these days.

#### HOME NEWS

I was booked for a break in Cornwall in May (at my usual place of retreat from the day today tasks of life) but the week before I was due to go I was hit and knocked over by a reversing van and as a result of the impact my right hip became broken and I had to have a total new hip replacement.. I am now towards the end of what has seemed like a very slow recovery although I have been told that I am actually doing really well and that my recovery has been quick, but for me it has not been quick enough.

I must apologise for this late newsletter but I have now a legitimate excuse, my hip recovery. Luckily the charity was quiet during the early difficult days of recovery but on the other hand when tragedy hit our children again I did not have enough funds to help as I both wanted and needed to, hence the appeal (See Africa). My very grateful thanks go to all who responded to this appeal and approx £2,000 was raised. (For details of how the money was spent please see Africa News.)

At the moment we have 230 children sponsored and are waiting for details of another two making our largest ever total of 232 children being given an education.

I am greatly saddened to tell you that Brendon, in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at university, was in March found dead in the shower at university. His mother is now away being looked after in a psychiatric unit as prior to Brendon dying her other son, a disabled young man, was killed in a road accident and three months before that her husband died of Aids. She is now left on her own and needs looking after possibly in the long term. Too much grief for her to overcome.

We have Zama in college who will start his second year next February. He is so very happy and grateful for this opportunity. The charity is not in a position to supply sufficient funding to place a

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young person into college or university which is very sad as the three who have already gone through University have all got very good jobs and are now in a position to help and support their immediate families in so many different ways. If you feel you can help at all or even want to contribute to starting a fund for higher education I would be delighted. I have long wanted such a fund but up until now have not been in a position to start one. If you are interested in helping to set up this fund my contact details are on the last page of the newsletter or phone me on 020 8926 2431 and we can have a chat about it.

So far this year £10,064 has been sent out to Africa. The total amount of money sent since the onset of the charity in 2004 is an amazing £255,222-94p.

#### FUND RAISING EVE

The only fund raising events planned, and the latter one is at this stage just a possibility, is to have a coffee/ cake morning including a bric a brac stall and a raffle at the home of Eira Endersbee, a member of St Anne's Parish church and a soon to be trustee of One Life. This will be held at 39 Priory Avenue, Chingford E4 8AD at 10am until 1pm on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>. Please do come and support One Life we would love to see you all there and we guarantee a fun, happy, getting together social morning. Donations for the bric a brac stall or home made scones/cakes would be greatly appreciated also a raffle donation.

On New Years eve, Debbie Pipe (Trustee) and friends may hold another dance to see in the New Year, the profits to come to One Life. I hope and pray this comes about as we could do with a good boost of funding especially now before Christmas.

If any of you know a group of African singers or dancers who would like to support the children in Africa and would be happy to give an hour or so of their time to partake in a fund raising event please do let me know asap. This would be wonderful and there must be people out there who would be happy to help in this way but haven't heard of the charity just as we don't now where to find them.

Members of St Anne's Parish Church continue to knit jumpers and supply underwear for our children in Africa. Connie Gray of Dewsbury West Yorkshire as well as many other people in this area continue to knit for the children or buy clothes for them.

Anne Booth of Cambridge and others make greetings cards and sell them on behalf of One Life and Wendy Tomkins of Birmingham continues to support us in different ways. My very grateful thanks go to all.



#### SCHOOL FEES

If you sponsor a child and pay by cheque or by cash, the fees must reach the charity by the end of August or at the very latest the first week in September. This will enable me to bank the money, get the cheques cleared then out to Africa and to the schools in plenty of time. This is a very important issue so please do your best to make time to get the money to me on time. Thank you.

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## AFRICA NEWS

In January I put out an appeal for funding to help with Nancy's all important medication for this year. This came to a wonderful £1,800 and my very grateful thanks come to you all from Nancy and myself to all who donated. Because of this Nancy is still out of hospital with less pain at the moment due to our help..

In March I was notified that Brendon, our young man in his third year of college had died suddenly (See our Home News). Also in March I heard from Khanya that three of the five school leavers – who had learned about house insulation and had insulated our last four houses that we had built, have now been offered employment and have accepted this offer with great excitement. These young men are now fully employed with different companies. This is such good news after all the bad and sad news we have constantly received lately.

In April an email from Nancy arrived - see below.

### NANCY'S EMAIL

Greetings to you all, I write this letter in tears, overwhelmed at the love and support I have received from you all. I am so deeply touched that you care so much about my well being. Through your kindness I have renewed hope that I will be able to go on without being hospital bound for months.

I will now be able to get medication for my unending painful legs and arms. You have given me so much relief and if I wasn't in a wheelchair I would be dancing but believe me inside of me I am dancing with joy and praise.

You made it possible for me to undergo an MRI scan on both my legs, feet, arms and hands and through the scan the neurologist has been able to confirm that my chronic peripheral neuropathy (which was caused by my diabetes) has crept from my legs and feet to my arms and fingers. He has prescribed medication to help me manage the pain. Through your help I will be able to buy the medication from the pharmacy as the state hospital does not provide it.

I am really grateful as now there will be less sleepless nights from the chronic pain I feel. May God Bless you all and reward you for all your kindness, love and support that you have given me and you are giving to the orphans and vulnerable children I care for in our centre.

Yours truly

Nancy Khuzwayo.

The money we sent to Nancy will run out before the end of the year as this kind of medication has to be bought privately. Knowing this I have started a fund for Nancy, for next year, to once again help her to be without so much pain and to also, very importantly for the sake of the children, to keep out of hospital. The needs of the charity are huge and they change all the time as tragedies happen. I have put just over £500 away as the start of a fund for Nancy but it is not enough so please, if you are in a position to help, and as always no donation is too small, this would be so very much appreciated and then together we can help Nancy to be free from so much pain and to stay

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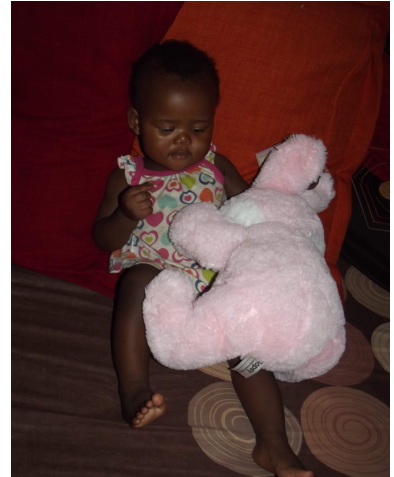
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out of hospital.

Earlier in April John Walker returned to Cape town – once again diverting his trip so as to visit Nancy, Khanya and the children. He took with him hand knitted jumpers, children's clothing and gifts for the crèche and on his journey to the project was able to buy sweets, lollies and ice lollies. A real treat for the children. The children were again very excited and put on a concert for John which he said was wonderful especially the singing which he told me he could have listened to all day.

It is a blessing for us that John diverts his trips to Cape Town to visit our project as I am no longer able to do these yearly visits myself. I am full of gratitude to him. John, on this visit, also took with him a large pink fluffy rabbit as it was baby Princesses 1<sup>st</sup> birthday a day or two prior to John's arrival. I think she liked it. (See photo inserted.) She was the baby left on Nancy's doorstep when she was four months old. She is now a very robust, happy little girl, well loved by all. By a miracle she has not inherited The Aids Virus.



In June Khanya emailed that lightening had struck the home of a family of 17, burning it to the ground. The family lost everything and one of the little boys in the family was badly burned and rushed to hospital. Sadly he died a week later. He was just seven years old. On hearing of this tragedy I put out a small appeal by email as I felt the need to help this large family. They took shelter in the church hall at night and bathed and ate at Nancy's small house during the day. It was and still is a difficult time for all. Almost £2000 was raised through the appeal, (again my grateful thanks to all who were able to donate) and it still isn't too late to donate as we are short of funding for the last part of the insulation for the house. Without this the house will be freezing cold in winter and boiling hot in summer. It is a four room house due to the large number in the family. Prior to the donation I had sent £200 to Africa for the immediate needs of the family and I heard that Nancy had bought mattresses to share for the family to sleep on and a few other necessary essentials but they need so many other things that we need donations for that as well.

Earlier this month, July, Khanya was involved in a hit and run accident which badly broke her left leg and equally badly damaged her knee cap. She was just rejoicing at being out of hospital after a long period of being in it when within three days she was back in again and I have no idea for how long but I know from experience, it will be for a much longer time than she would be if she was here in England. I haven't received any other news of Khanya since the eve before her operation. I have tried and I am still trying, by phone, mobile and Nancy's new Parish priest, who is not computer literate, to contact Nancy. I haven't been in contact yet but it will happen it is just a matter of time and patience.

If you are waiting for photos and/or background information re your sponsor child, please continue to be patient. I am doing my best to obtain this for you but at the moment circumstances are preventing this happening. I know from my own recent accident that it will be a while before Khanya is up and around and fully mobile or even emotionally ready to pick up the charity work so it is a waiting game which will eventually resolve itself.

I have, right now, received a surprise email from Khanya. She says that her leg and knee operations

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went well but she is in a lot of pain and on 29<sup>th</sup> July she is having another operation to insert artificial ligaments in her knee. She will see Lihle soon, well in about two weeks time, so will ask her to email me. So maybe then I can get some of the information I have been waiting for. I so hope so. What I do know is that Lihle will do her very best to send me what I need.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of this beautiful summer and I would like to thank you for your wonderful support, you may never know what a difference you are making to another if not many, human being's lives but you are and luckily I have seen the difference for myself smany times when I was in a position to do yearly visits.

My very Best Wishes to you all.

Elena

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