

## Newsletter «Our kids in Africa»

No 1

Kitale, Kenya

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#### SUMMER IN KENYA - TIME OF INCREASED READINESS

Summer is the time of vacation, heat, as a rule, good sunny weather for the inhabitants of the "white" continent of the Northern hemisphere. For Kenya three months of summer is the time of cold weather. rain, a peak of cyclic annual epidemics of malaria and typhoid. It is the period when the raincoat and boots during the day and a mosquito net and a warm blanket at night are particularly relevant. For the missionary team this is the time of increased readiness: more work, more care about sick children, more vigilance not to get sick ourselves.



Sunday morning.

#### BUILDING: WE ARE MOVING ON



The rainy season is not a reason for breaks in building the house of prayer. Besides the main building, which will serve as a place to worship, a school and a house for the missionary team, two-storey building - something like an outhouse with a kitchen, living rooms, bathrooms to accommodate visitors on shortterm mission and for the school La Tewa - they have only a kitchen is being built. Thanks to the support from our friends, many sympathizers and sacrifice from Ukraine, America and Russia, the building is almost completed over the summer the walls have been erected, covered with a roof, a large part of the finishing work on the inside has been done. Windows and doors have been placed. Soon this house will be able to take under its roof a lot of peo-

ple who are willing to partici- minor part of our construction pate in the mission in East Af- work. The main building has rica.



In addition to the construction of the house of prayer, we dug a well and built a water fountain with clean water that are an invaluable gift for the residents of the village of Shymma few sources of water of questionable quality, which is often the cause of a mass of typhoid. Completing the construction of pretty battered tent, some



only been started - the foundation has been filled and most of the work is still ahead. A separate house for school and church has be-



come a necessity for a long time. The children are sitting closely in a small dark room, the meetings of the Church take place under the already the smaller building is only a people will not fit in its shadow and sit in the sun or under the rain. But once even the ownship of the land seemed to be close to impossible, so we believe that God has the resources to complete the construction.

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#### EDUCATION: DIFFICULT BUT POSSIBLE



Despite the lack of space and not the most convenient location, the school continues to work, and children from poor families whose parents would never allow their children not free of charge pri-

mary education, continue to study, to get free meals and medical assistance that is required. From the beginning of May to August we have a school term, on the completion of which the children passed the exams and received clear results of their learning. Thanks to the people who support our children, we paid for the last quarter in school.



**▼** In addition to the educational prothe school cess. regularly hosts important events. In June we were blessed with the arrival of a small Russian speaking team from America, the members of

which gave us an opportunity to hold a wash for the kids. This event is not quite clear to most people in the civilized world, but is very important for Kenyan kids. Re-



member, the kids from our school live in slums - city ghettos, where the poorest of the poor are forced to survive, and representatives of the most vulnerable families get free of charge studies from us. In these families the children have no clear idea of what a responsible parent is, never heard about the basic rules of hygiene. These are kids, most of whom spend most of the day, running barefoot, stirring the mud on the narrow streets of Shimma, dressed in rags, with forever snotty noses. And for them we try to arrange regularly a "bath day", on which every child will be thoroughly cleaned, inspected for the possible diseases, dressed in new clean clothes.

This time the wash was held not only by our team, but with the help of the visitors, what greatly accelerated and

simplinfied the matter. The process went on as a conveyor: two wash boys, two - girls, inspection and selection of new clothes



and shoes by size, bandaging wounds and removing the "dudu" (subcutaneous worms, parasites), trimming nails and cleaning ears. At the final stage of this factory the clean kids with shiny faces were curiously looking into their new clothes. It is really sad that most of them in a

few days will once again run barefoot through the dirty puddles due to the lackadaisical attitude of their parents.



#### MOVING IS THE REMARKABLE EVENT

Moving to the new place turned to be the remarkable



event in summer. Before that we lived on the outskirts of Kitale, in an area distant from Shymma where the school and Church are located. It involved a lot of inconvenience: a walk was time consuming, and often we had to take a motorcycle, what presupposed considerable amounts of money spent by each member of the team, plus the time wasted.

In late spring we found a suitable house near Shymma at an affordable price. The moving to the new house took almost a month as we transported in small batches furniture, clothes, boxes of clothing to help the poor in Shymma and in the desert, kitchen utensils. After mov-

ing it turned to be much easier to work as the school was15 minutes walk away, we found ourselves always with the people we worked with.



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## Medicine in Kenya is an inevitable reality



The peak of the rainy season is the most favorable time for the spread of malaria and typhoid.



Daily, in the morning and in the evening we make a kind of a "tour" on Shymma - we need to visit all the sick children to do the injections, to control their state. In the evening, usually it's a ride in the rain or just on a slippery muddy road. But as a reward sometimes we



get a just-baked chapatis - local thin bread.

The clinic for the homeless during this period works in an intense mode: we accept the sick 3-4 times a week. Monday: the sick with seri-



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ous problems that require consultations, tubal. Tuesday and Thursday: regular patients treatment, slum dwellers and homeless children, and Friday – the day of surgery. The clean room, with electricity, with a



safe for medication enables simple surgical operations. The sanitary condition of our rooms for clinics are much better than that of operating rooms in the district hospital, where, as a rule, the local inhabitants seek help.

One of the "surgical" patients, the guy Rajab, 8-9 years old, was brought by our new friend Andrew, a missionary from the United States, who organized an orphanage and school in Kitale. The nice and helpful guy had a tumor the size of a Golf ball on his head. A frequent problem among Africans, it is formed from a clogged sebaceous glands that are of a peculiar structure in the blackskinned people. The simple for modern hospitals operation took us a lot of time and nerves - the tumor was densely adherent to the tissues of the head, and we took a lot of efforts to extract it. No general anesthesia aggravated the case as everything was



done under local anesthesia, and the boy was scared, and sometimes endured pain. But the incredible efforts were crowned with success, the tumor was removed, the head was sewn, and in 10 days just a barely visible scar remained on the patient's head.

Our mission in the desert goes on as well: at the end of June, the project "Children of Kerio" was launched. We provided families of



widows in the village Kerio, in the Central part of the Turkana desert with food. Thanks to financial support from different people and from different countries we had the opportunity to provide free clinics not only in Kerio, but also in the surrounding villages. The people there have no access to medical care, live extremely modestly, or to be more precise survive. The representatives of the tribe were very pleased and appreciative of the assistance provided. Later we were visited by a



small team of guests from Russia and Ukraine, and we had the opportunity to provide medical service in several villages in the desert.

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# Guests on a mission

Over the summer we were visited by three teams of guests. The first group from America, that was mentioned above, helped us with the



washing of the children and with the water fountain on the premise of the would-be house of prayer and school. Another small team from Russia and Ukraine helped us in providing free clinics in several local villages, and the already mentioned clinics in several villages near the village of Keri, the Turkana desert. All in all, free medical assistance was provided to more than 600 people, most of them children.

In early August we were visited by a large team from Ukraine for a longer period. The guys helped us much with the construction and finishing of the small building. We also had the opportunity to help



many families in difficult situation, in the village of Shymmo. We met with homeless people at one of the landfills in Kitale. Earlier we regularly fed the homeless, until it became very unsafe with no positive effect. Street guys came in intoxicated condition, with the only desire to get free food, not willing to hear anything or to talk to anyone. When their behavior became aggressive and dangerous, we turned this program down. But the new meeting and feeding created a striking impression on us as we had never seen anything of the kind. The homeless quietly gathered around us, with the explicit desire to communicate. Pastor Dmitry, one of the guests shared his testimony - he led a similar lifestyle and was alcohol addicted. He told the story of his difficult life situations, about his addiction and the way Jesus freed him. The audience was obviously sensitive to the testimony, and what was the most surprizing, did not require the speedy distribution of free sandwiches, but asked someone from the team to tell them one more life story. That continued until each of us shared the story of our conversion to God. The soiled faces of the street children reflected a genuine interest. We were surprised that when one of the younger children began to laugh or became noisy, interfering with the story, the



senior immediately stopped the "rowdy" and called for order and silence. We saw that the hearts of the children (and the older guys) are open for live communication, for the hearing of the word of God.

### Our plans

In the foreseeable future we plan to be seriously engaged in the rehabilitation of street adolescents. For this we need prayers and financial support. The homeless are the most complex contingent for rehabilitation. Children, who grew up on the street, are entirely dependent on the glue, and many on alcohol. Their recovery and coming back to normal life require



a huge amount of dedication and resources, and we hope and trust in God's help.

In August we tested our pupils on the material learnt at school. Such tests are conducted at the end of



each quarter in any of the schools in Kenya. The children from the orphanage who live with us, pleased us with better than the last quarter results - all have made considerable progress what could not but make us happy.

Our urgent needs are still the construction of the house of prayer and the school, medical service in and around Kitale, serving in the



Turkana desert, beginning of the rehabilitation work with homeless teenagers.

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