



# The Shepherd Times



## ACADEMY KICKS OFF ROUND ONE

Issue 1: Tuesday, January 17, 2006

## Capturing Week One

Two years of prayerful preparation led up to *The Shepherd Academy's* grand opening on Monday, January 9. The academy educates students in STD 1-6 and adopts the National 8-4-4 curriculum, as well as offering individual and counseling tuition for those pursuing the G.C.E. system education.

**“The home is meant to maintain a family spirit for the children,” Dr. Kiiru said.**

The school provides students with both educational and life skill development in a practical and structured manner.

The well-structured Christian curriculum allows students to thrive both educationally and spiritually.

School founders, Dr. MacMillan Kiiru and his wife Nelly Kiiru, first established *The Day-spring School* in 1991. After observing an increasing need for HIV victims, the couple prayed for the means to house children or-



**CLASS 6; Front:** Leah Nyambura, Monica Wamboi & Mary Wanja **Back:** Patrick Ngila, Monica Njeri and Neddy Nabwilre

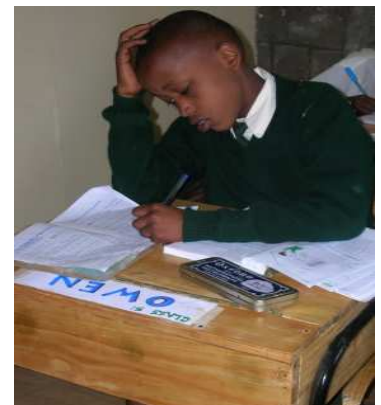
phaned by AIDS.

“The home is meant to maintain a family spirit for the children,” said Dr. MacMillan Kiiru.

In 2003, *The Shepherd Children Home* was established in Nairobi. Three years later, the home has relocated to Sigona and houses twenty-five girls. *The Shepherd Academy* shares facilities with *The Shepherd Children Home*. Both programs were established in partnership with Discover the World Inc. in California, USA.

Yet *The Shepherd Academy* is only the beginning for the Kiirus. They are currently developing a school and home for boys in Gilgil. The couple spent Sunday commissioning its new church and boarders. Currently the boys are living at the home, while attending the public schools. The homes own school is projected to open in 2007.

*Shepherd Academy* teacher, Esther Wacera, believes Shepherd students excel because “Academically, we teach them to become the BEST.”



Class 5 student Owen completing English



FRONT: Class 4 student Agnes Muthoni  
BACK: Class 5 student Louice Wanaithi



**CLASS 3 STUDENTS** - Front: Coleta Right front: Nancy Wakonyo Back: Margaret Gathoni

## Faculty's Corner

Esther Wacera



“A good school excels through its teaching methods.”

In 1995, Esther Wacera graduated from Makuyu Institution. After receiving her certificate, she went on to attain her teaching credentials in 2003 at the teachers college in Kamweja.

Prior to *Shepherd's Academy*, Wacera spent eight years working at a nursery in Muriwanda. In 2003, she began teaching primary at St. Mary Academy in Donholm. While there, she taught English, Math, Science, CRE, Kiswahili and Social Study. When asked her favorite subject to teach she said, “I enjoy teaching English because children understand that best.”

The teacher applied to work at the Academy in January 2005,

after visiting Dayspring School and witnessing the strong Christian values implemented in the environment.

Her husband of 17 years is very supportive of her new position, despite the distance it has caused. The family is happy about the academy because the school is also a church. “If you can work somewhere where God is always the first person, then you can be happy,” Wacera says.

The family lives in Muranga, which is approximately two hours away. On Fridays she is able to return home and spend the weekend with her husband and four boys, ranging from six to sixteen years of age.

***“God has shown me that a little bit of faith goes a LONG way”***

How can I reflect on an experience that is still teaching me a great deal?

Before arriving to Sigona, I was skeptical of God’s plan. I did not know what I would be doing, the environment I would be staying in or even the food I would be eating. During my plane ride, I constantly asked God to define how I could be of any service. Or even how my friend Kim Baker, who has just arrived, will play into God’s plan. However, it seems God intended for me to learn that on my own.

At the airport MacMillan Kiiru, known as Pastor to those in the community, greeted me. He managed to make me feel at ease in a foreign setting.

The ride to Sigona, where I would be staying with him and his wife (Mama Kiiru), was unexpectedly peaceful. God provided me with a shield of

## Suzann Magrdichian Shares thoughts on Shepherd Home

comfort and ease, despite my prior nerves.

It’s hard to find the right words to describe life in Kenya. What I do know is that I envy the energy and joy constantly portrayed through the children. I have been given every possible convenience, but yet I still lack their undying devotion for God. Honestly, shouldn’t it be the other way around? Shouldn’t I constantly be praising the Lord for the family and friends he’s provided for me? You would think that would be the case. However, I am learning to be thankful from the children. Children that did not grow up in the same environment I did, but that are happier than I could ever be.

I’ve been in Sigona for about two weeks now. Since arriving, I have witnessed a powerful fire for Christ extend through practically every individual. The children and adults have been



From left to right: Jane, Suzann, Agnes, and Nancy at Shepherd Home

helpful, informative, loving, and caring. Despite my minimal Kiswahili, they have all set aside time to help instruct me in their dialect.

I couldn’t begin to explain the sincerity and servant hood represented through nearly everyone. Kenyans exhibit a passion and understanding for life that I have only read about in books. The

environment is a calming beauty that compels you to set time aside and admire God’s work. As I mentioned earlier, this experience is continually providing me with life lessons. I just pray that my heart and mind grasps the Kenyan way of living and embraces all the beauty of God’s creations.

## Children’s Corner

### Spotlights On:



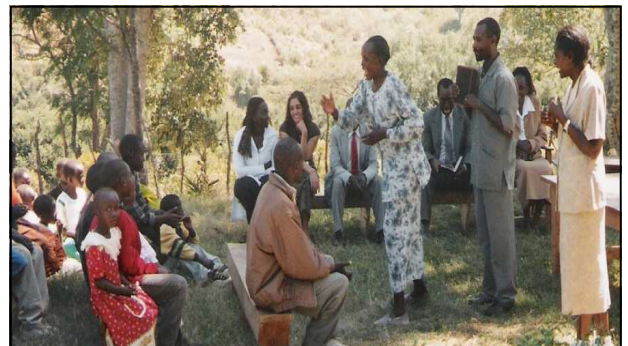
**Name:** Jane Wanjiku  
**Age:** 11 years  
**DOB:** November 12  
**Born:** Kenya  
**Siblings:** 2 (Older Bro and Sis)  
**Wants to be...**  
**Teacher**



Jan 7—Shepherd Home attends Milele concert to help support fight against AIDS



Jan. 8—Mama Kiiru addresses new church at Gilgil



Jan. 8—Gilgil faculty addresses church goers opening day