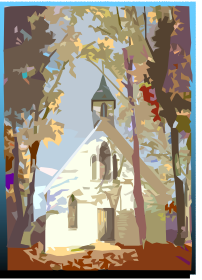




The Shepherd Times

NEW ACK
MALENA
CHURCH
THRIVES
IN
GILGIL



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GILGIL UNVEILS BOYS HOME

Merely 128 kilometers outside Nairobi, lay the perfect retreat from the chaos and cluster that surrounds the city—Gilgil Home.

Gilgil is located in the heart of nature's glory. The environment is isolated from the city and uses the beauty of nature to create a calming splendor.

Borders began arriving to the home early January and more boys are slowly trickling in. The home currently houses eighteen boys. The children are excited by the security of food, clothing and education provided by the home. They are also comforted to finally have a place to call 'their home.'

Nine year old, David Njiiru said, "I love the home because it gives me food and education. That makes me happy."

Twelve-year old, George Munyu also enjoys the home because they are able to be in a safe environment that ensures them a future. When asked whom he admires most, Munyu



GILGIL: January 20, students and faculty gather at Gilgil Home with Mama Kiiru

replies, "I admire Mrs. Kiiru because she brought me to this place."

The facility houses Hannah Wamboi, the caretaker and nursery teacher, as well as Patrick, who serves as a role model for the boys. Pastor Mungai and his family serve in the community and help with spiritual work through the newly established church.

Currently, the home provides a nursery school for fifteen girls and boys. The older

boys attend the nearby public schools. The home expects to open a school in January 2007. For now, the children are content with the safety and care provided through the environment. The home gives children the resources to dream. George Munyu said he wants to become a pilot, so that he can fly the Europeans to Kenya. While David Njiiru said he wants to be a brain surgeon.

Shepherd Academy teacher and volunteer Kim Baker said,

Housing and residents



GILGIL HOME FOR BOYS



Gilgil boys with Patrick and Teacher Wamboi

FACULTY'S CORNER



Hannah Wamboi

"Being far from town is good because the boys concentrate on their education and relationship with

Nineteen years of teaching helped Hannah Wamboi prepare to serve as both the live-in caretaker and nursery teacher at Gilgil Home for Boys.

Wamboi received her teaching credentials at the Early Childhood Education College (DICECE) in 1985. She has taught STD 1-6 and particularly enjoys teaching Mathematics and English.

Wamboi and her husband of twenty-one years, have a twenty-year old daughter that is currently in the process of applying to school in America. Before moving to Gilgil, Wamboi lived with her family near Nairobi.

When asked how the environments differ, Wamboi said, "Gilgil's remoteness can be difficult at times. This place is a bush and people are very far away from each other. However, this is good for the boys because they

are reminded of the beauty of God's creations."

While at Gilgil, Wamboi teaches fifteen boys and girls in the nursery. As well as teaching obligations, Wamboi is also responsible for caring and helping the boys who live in the home.

"I act as a mother to these boys. I coach them after school, serve them dinner and check on them after they have fallen asleep."

Wamboi learned of Gilgil after hearing a sermon led by the Kiirus. After hearing the sermon, Wamboi met with the Kiiru's and inquired about potential teaching vacancies. After prayerful consideration, Wamboi and her family decided God was calling her to teach and provide for the boys at the home.

When asked the leading factor in her decision to serve at Gilgil she said, "I came here to do the work of God."

GILGIL CHURCH BLOSSOMS

- ◆ Sunday, January 8th, the Kiiru's commissioned new Anglican church.
- ◆ Reverend Kiiru commissioned Anglican leader, Mungai and three elders to lead church.
- ◆ 35 children and 25 adults attended commencement.

Kimberly Baker

Reflects on Shepherd and Kenya Living

Has it only been two weeks since I first arrived here in Kenya? It's hard to believe because it already feels like my home away from home. It's been a smooth transition from the United States to these beautiful surroundings and welcoming people

Working at the Shepherd Academy thus far has been a blessing. As a school that just started classes at the beginning of January, it is doing exceptionally well. Suzann and I have fit in quite nicely and as time goes on we will hopefully be able to help more and more. I love having the gift of getting to know the children at the Academy. Since day one they have offered different roles as playmates, students, hand holders,



January 23—Kim and Suzann play with Shepherd students during lunch.

They offer warm smiles each day without fail, that make

we excited to rise and shine out of bed, (I'm usually a very grumpy morning person).

Recently as I was teaching science class we took a break and I asked each one of the students what they wanted to be when they grow up. Everything from nurses to bankers, from doctors to pilots were stated as they looked at me with hopeful eyes.

These children at the Shepherd Academy are the future of this beautiful country. I see, even from my second week here, that they walk forward with great confidence. This is thanks to the directors, founders, teachers, and supporters of The Shepherd Academy, and of course above all, God. I pray that they continue to move forward, toward bright and fulfilling futures.

Children's Corner

Frederick Juma

On January 19th, at nine in the morning, twelve-year old Frederick Juma underwent foot surgery. Frederick was born with clubfeet and did not have the money for an operation. After hearing his story, a sponsor, from the United States, volunteered to pay all the medical expenses necessary to correct Frederick's disability.

Before arriving to the Kikuyu PCEA Mission Hospital, Frederick lived in Gilgil with an elderly lady. The lady's granddaughter found (then five-year old) Frederick, wandering the streets of Kitale Town and brought him to her care. Even though Frederick was born a Bukusu, he has been raised in a Kikuyu environment.



At this time, only Frederick's right foot has undergone correctional surgery. After six weeks, his cast will be removed and doctors will repeat the procedure on his left foot. Frederick will be released soon and will stay at Shepherd Home during his recovery. Updates on Frederick's recovery will be published in additional newsletters.



Grace and Louice smile for the camera.



Grace shows her love of stickers.



The Kiiru's with their new additions to the family.