

Under The Mango Tree Newsletter October 2021



Apology

It has been a long time since our last newsletter and we apologise for the delay. The big news item below is about the library project which has taken much longer to complete than expected and we have been waiting to be able to share the news.

Timboni School.

The whole school has been open 'more or less' as normal throughout 2021. Following the time lost in 2020 the Kenya Education Authority decided to complete 2020 education year during the first half of 2021 which meant that the new school year commenced in July rather than January which was the pre-pandemic start of the school year in Kenya.

Those children who would normally have started year 1 of secondary education in January 2021 after leaving Timboni did in fact start year 1 secondary in August 2021.

We understand that the extra teachers, which your support enables Under The Mango Tree to fund, means the children are doing well relative to other local schools.

We have recently been sent some letters from the children and two of these are included in this newsletter

Library / Reading Room

Work to complete the library area took very much longer than expected. Once again Covid 19 had an impact on the contractor in Kenya and availability of materials.

Nevertheless it has been completed and is another great success story. The contractor was the same one who built the older girl's toilets and once again he has done an excellent job.

There are photographs below and also a link to a YouTube video.

https://youtu.be/Za7iKdYft_I

Just a small reminder – when you watch this video and hear the teacher asking questions of these very young children in English it is worth remembering that English is their THIRD language. They initially speak the local "mother tongue" and also learn Swahili which is the common language.

You will note from one of the photographs that the storage shelves are not overflowing with books. We have sent some funds for books but to fully stock the school with a good range of both books that are required for the area curriculum and for general interest reading then we need to raise a further £1,000. If you wish to assist with this please let us know.



** The photograph to the right shows some of the pre-primary children enjoying the small play area that was funded some years ago. It is good to see this equipment well looked after in in use. Older children are 'forbidden' to use these items !!!

Secondary School Sponsorship

Currently there are 7 children who have completed primary education at Timboni and are now in Secondary school receiving support with school fees through Under The Mango Tree. Three of these are fully funded and directly sponsored by Under The Mango Tree supporters, the other four are partially funded from general charity resources.

It is difficult to describe the huge difference it makes to the life chances of these young people from being able to successfully attend the full four years of secondary education. Regrettably there are still too many Kenyan children who are simply unable to fulfil their potential because they don't have access to the resources which would enable them to attend secondary school.

Communications with the secondary schools is sometimes a little difficult as we don't have good personal connections in those schools.

- There is a further appeal at the end of this newsletter. If anyone would like to assist Hassan then please get in touch.

Fund Raising

Thank you.

We are extremely grateful to those of you who have generously maintained your standing order giving, these donations are vital to our ongoing work. Similarly many of you make generous donations from time to time and again this support is very much appreciated.

We are still finding it difficult to plan and hold fundraising events although we have started to receive a small number of invitations to give talks. (If you know of groups that would appreciate a talk and they are within reasonable travel distances please let us know).

School Visits

You may recall that a group of trustees and friends visited the school in February 2020 and we returned home just as Covid 19 restrictions were starting to be implemented. We have not been able to travel since and, so far as we are aware, no supporters have any current plans to travel to the school from the United Kingdom.

Bishop Charles Makonde

The following three pages contain a letter from Bishop Makonde together with a letter from a young man seeking some financial support for his secondary education. His fees are about £125 per year for two years. Please get in touch if you would like to assist.

Using latest technology we can now accept contactless donations in a new way.

Simple point your 'phone camera at this QR code and you will be taken to a "givealittle" page where you can make a card donation. It is safe and legitimate. Give a Little take a very small percentage of the donation to cover operating costs but the vast bulk of your donation arrives safely in Under The Mango Tree's charity account.



Gordon and Angela Atkinson
Under The Mango Tree

Contact details:

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Northwich, Cheshire
CW9 5PW
Email = utmtcharity@gmail.com

Please see more information on our web site

www.underthemangotree.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Jambo wote!

Greetings to you all!

I am still here at Timboni Village Kambe, enjoying the natural warm weather. I had planned to be the UK over the Summer, but due to Covid19 travel restrictions I postponed my travel till sometime in December this year.

Covid19 has badly affected many lives of our people in Kenya, like many other parts of the world. Here in Kambe, a number of families have lost relatives from Covid19. I don't have exactly number, but in some villages, have families that lost both parent, leaving young families to be orphans. Many people also lost their employment, hence making life to be difficulty. However, Covid19 vaccine has proved that the infection rate is coming down as a result of the Kenya Government enforcing the Covid19 vaccine to be taken down to the grassroots. People are turning in large numbers to have vaccine. It is estimated that by December, over ten million Kenyans will have been vaccinated. That is Good News. We thank God that in Timboni School Kambe and in the locality, there has been no cases of Covid19. However, Kenyan Government is urging people to strictly observe the Covid19 Health guide lines.

On Timboni Nursery and Primary School, Kambe.

The enrolment this year is 348 pupils. Out of that number, girls are 46 percent and boys are 54 percent. The percentage of the girls is encouraging that our community now values equal education opportunity for both girls and boys. Not like in old days where young girls were denied education opportunity and even were married out early. Children now don't have to travel far to School, not like in my Primary School days, where I had to travel 5 kilometers one way to School. So in a day I was walking 20 kilometers. That means going back home for lunch and returning to School for afternoon classes. Timboni School children don't have to do that because the Feeding Program provides them with porridge in the morning and lunch in the afternoon.

Timboni School Kambe has brought education to where people are. The Feeding Program, Infrastructure and the newly finished School Library will continue to transform the lives of the children and the Community as a whole. The results of Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.) results of 2020 class 8 have shown great improvement indeed. And better results are expected from the 2021 class 8.

The School would not have been where it is if it were not your support through Under The Mango Tree Charity Trustees UK. A lot of good has happened because of your continued support. Children are valuing education and they are aiming high and high children in want to do more and more.

Let me share with you on one of the young man's story by the name Hassan Tunje Badi who finished Class 8 at Timboni School Kambe in 2019 and joined Form One. He has been raising his own fees by keeping local breed chickens. He has about ten chickens or so. He sells some of the

eggs and leaves some to hatch; and when the eggs have hatched, he sometimes sells young the chicks to get his fees. He has been doing that since he joined Secondary School. This year he came to my house and shared his story. I went with him to his home and saw his small chicken shade. I was really impressed and felt that I wish I could assist him more. He is one of the rare children that I have seen who has the ambition for education despite his family poor background. He is so grateful to Timboni School, because of the foundation of Education he received. He wants to continue and finally achieve his hopes and dreams of becoming a Medical Doctor, so that he may give back to the community and serve his people. I have assisted him in small way from time to time but this year 2021 and next year 2022, he needs KShs.15,000/- each year to clear his fees balances for 2021 and pay fees for 2022.

Attached herewith please find his own story which he has written himself. He is one of the bright and hard working young man who wants to achieve great things, should he get some assistance to complete his education.

Let me once again thank you for your continued support to the life and work of Timboni School Kambe. The School would not be where it has reached academically, financially and infrastructure if it were not for your kind, prayerful and loving support.

Thank you too for the sponsorship of students to Secondary Schools.

Mungu awabariki wote! – God Bless you all!

Kwaherini kwa sasa! – Bye for now!

Yours Sincerely,



Charles F Makonde (Rev)

October 8th 2021

Timboni Village Kambe, Kenya

Hassani Tunje Badi, C/o Timboni
Nursery and Primary School,
P.O. Box 275-80105,
Kaloleni.

7/10/2021.

To whom it may concern.

Dear Sir/Madam

REF: SPONSORSHIP ASSISTANCE:

My name is Hassan Tunje Badi, I am a boy child of 22 years. I did my primary education at Timboni primary school Kambe 2019 and I am in form 3 at Mbararani secondary school.

I come from a struggling family of nine children. My father is a small scale farmer who grows only few maize for subsistence use. My mother is a house wife. In our family three of us are now in different secondary schools. Although our parents are trying to make ends meet the money is not enough to cater for our educational needs, as well as our family needs.

I individually want to fulfill my ambitions of becoming a doctor after my education and that is why I usually try to assist my parents to raise my school fees. I have a small project of keeping local breed chicken and use to sell eggs and chicken to raise my school fees, although it's not enough. Due to some chicken diseases and lack of modern facilities my hens are not doing better which make me to be out of school from time to time because of school fees. I am now at cross-roads and I sincerely need assistance to complete my secondary school education.

My school fees is 15,000/= per year for two years. That is 2021 and 2022. I will be grateful if I can be considered for this assistance.

• Thank you in advance.

Yours
Hassan Tunje Badi