

THE CAVELL NEWS



THE CAVELLS ARE BACK IN BRUM!!

Today we write our update a long way from home at our UK base, Lucy's parent's house. We have returned to England to visit loved ones and to have a quick visa break before our return to Kenya on the 15th of July. The friends, the family and the food, THE FOOD has been amazing! It has been a wonderful time to process all that we have seen and done with the support of others around us. It has also been a little strange and sometimes overwhelming. It's amazing what 6 months without a hot tap does to your brain! It took a two weeks before we finally realised that we could stop going to boil the kettle to wash up and that was only if the dishwasher was full. DISHWASHER! Also amazing! Over the last few months we have seen poverty, we have seen challenges and we have seen traumas but mostly we have seen beauty. We have seen beauty in our truly spectacular surroundings. (We may be a little biased but we think God was showing off a little when He breathed Africa in to creation. What a privilege to call Kenya home.) We have seen beauty in the people, the children and the Nation we love. We are missing our balcony view over the banana trees and the children we have left behind but today's view is just as important, as we see the lives of our loved ones, have laughs with friends and enjoy quality time with family.



Thank you so much for praying, loving and supporting us. Thank you for being part of our adventure as we work towards seeing children off the streets of Kakamega. Kenya is beautiful, challenging, sad, fun, happy, inspiring and HOME! Here is a sneaky peak of what life looks like for us, on top of moving house, power cuts, beautiful sunsets, sunrises, cockroaches (Lots of cockroaches!) and so much more....



"Mark, Lucy, I want to go home" This is VICTOR.

We met Victor on our first day at street school, when he snuck into our session despite being too old! However at the end, Victor came to confess. Together we felt that God would honour his honesty and so should we. We hatched a plan to enable Victor to stay. Victor became our prefect. Regularly high on glue Victor, twice a week

handed out felt tip pens, folders and did his best to help with translation. Between our broken Swahili and his broken English we stumbled through together! Each session he listened about forgiveness, the importance of family and the power of reconciliation. These were the last words we heard from him before he took himself on a matatu back home. This was the first step of many for Victor but it was also his first step towards fighting for family.

STREET SCHOOL



Twice a week we provide a safe space and lessons for thirty of the vulnerable younger street children, away from the gang culture that they are used to. Aiming to teach life skills such as drug rehabilitation, knowledge of healthy choices and boundaries, along with bringing heavenly values and truth into their lives, we pray will complement their return home or into alternative safe surroundings. They shine when taken from a place of danger into a place of love and belonging. We are so proud of them and how far they have come. Seeing children return home and older children protecting the younger in their hours of need has been a privilege.

Teaching the street children on understanding emotions. So many of the kids here are so numb to emotional pain that they no longer recognise their own feelings. They struggle to understand their actions because they cannot express their emotions to anyone. Serious topic but so much fun to deliver!!



f **Outtake May 7th** "Yesterday at street school we were talking about the effects of labelling. To hear the children talk about the labels others have put on them and how that has determined their life steps was heart breaking but a privilege. To hear what they wanted to hear spoken over their lives was beautiful and to tell them that this is how God and how we see them was even more of a precious... Chokora, street rat is not an identity."



These little stick men tell a different story from the ones that we are used to seeing from the 8 year old children that we know and love back in the UK.... These little stick men sleep on the veranda. This little stick man sleeps on the cold floor outside Mama Watoto shop in town. Except this isn't a little stick man, this is the autobiography of the little 8 year old child that is sat in front of us with his felt tip pens.

Malachi 4:6 "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers"

Being away from these children is hard as we are far too aware of the realities that face them each night, however our excitement is building as we start to dream big with our Heavenly Father on what our next season in Kenya will look like. On our return to Kenya we will be looking seriously at further steps towards getting more of these children off the streets and back into families where they belong. Please join us in praying for a team around us of passionate Kenyans that would sacrifice their time to start a new season of reconciliation. To equip and empower with tools to help with transport, translation and to build a process that involves a compatible follow up program, including family support. Big ask! But big God!

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WWW.  HOPE IS GREATER.CO.UK

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PREVENTION

We spend time in the local slum because we see the connection. We know that children in the poorest, most vulnerable families are a flight risk to the streets and prevention is better than cure. Each week we spend time here providing children's activities along with access to trainings and support information for parents. Knowledge of children's rights, basic health and hygiene and money management is not something we are born with, it is a privilege. Some say knowledge is power but we say knowledge gives hope and a quality of life for future generations.

HOMESCHOOL CLUB! When we asked the community "What would truly benefit this community long term?" The response was an exciting one. "If someone wants to help here practically, we need a homework club! Our kids are failing there exams because they cannot do their homework. There is no electricity and the mama's can only afford enough equipment for fire when cooking. Not for light. The children who try have nasty burns from the times they have gotten too close to the cooking pots. Education is great for them but if they fail their exams, how will the next generation have a lifestyle that is more than this" **SO...** With the help of The Kenyan Children's project and the community, a homework room has been provided. This project has been a beautiful experience for us... On our return to Kenya we will be starting on our 'well project' ensuring everyone has access to clean water year round.



Let us introduce you to Incredible Isobella! "I have seen so much difference in the children this week, I realised that it needed to be opened daily. My children, who usually cannot concentrate because of their life circumstances are coming into class excited, finishing their work and then asking for extra homework, so that they can learn more in the homework club later. Children from the poorer families outside the community are coming in to seek out education and who are we to stop them." **Isobella. Head Teacher of the local school within the local slum.**



MENTORING

We have been amazed to see God work wonders with each six week individual mentoring program that we run. Each child has a story to tell and some still shock us but God has allowed us to speak life into hurting histories and with a safe space to talk, each child begins to see their own worth, regardless of background or circumstance. "They give hope to those who have lost hope" **Mentee.** "I have gained peace of mind. I can now freely share my problems with others." **Mentee** "It has helped us understand our children's needs better" **Children's home.** "It has given him hope again" **Children's home.... HOPE TRULY IS GREATER!** Each time a child crosses over the mentoring finishing line we celebrate together! Treat days are so important. These children have shown courage, perseverance and honesty and we could not be prouder. Our award and certification days are very exciting!



2015 CATCH THE FIRE WORLD CHANGERS MISSION TRIP. Thank you for your prayers, our first charity mission trip was a great success! We had ten days of seeing God do the miraculous within communities, widows, medical outreach and in the hearts of the team itself. It was a chance to partner with communities to see their dreams come alive and futures changed. It was also a lot of hard work and on the last night the team enjoyed a well-earned curry together!

OUR PLEASE PRAY POINTS...

- Our applications for long term visas are starting to be processed **YAY!** We are praying for a speedy approval and continued favour for short term visa extensions.
- Please pray for the safety of the children and families whilst we are here in England.
- Join us in thanking God for family and friend time! But please pray for our hearts as we say goodbyes again.
- Please pray for Lucy's family as her Grandmother past away this week. We thank God that she is around for support at this time.
- Please join us in prayer for provision, so that we can make it back to our new home fully insured, fully vaccinated and fully stocked with packet bolognaise mix!
- Thank you for your prayers as we continue in our Swahili lessons (pole pole! Slowly!)
- Please join us in praying for our next season, as we seek to raise up a team around us to help with the children's many needs.
- Please continue to pray and thank God for our safety and for wisdom as we seek to follow God's path for our lives.

OUR BIGGIE... WE ARE CALLING IN A CAR!



Currently we get around on local 'piki piki' motorbikes. It is easy, convenient and FUN... Most of the time! However along with a recent law change effecting the number of legal passengers' issue, we are quickly discovering that no car in the wet season is just no fun! We are regularly stranded, laden with lesson plans and VERY soggy! Please join us seek the Father's timing and provision for four wheels to call our own.



Struggling to cram just two sides with all that God has done over the last 6 months blows us away. We love that we can live out our hearts desires in Kenya but we recognise that without so many we would probably be emotional, crumbly ones! Thank you for continuing to be part of our journey and allowing us to be part of yours from so many miles away!

Be blessed and be a blessing!

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