

# kivuli NEWS

EDITION 33 – January 2013 *GDG Project J606N Update*



Kivuli Project Inc p: +254 719 300 423 Kenya – [dee@kivuliproject.org](mailto:dee@kivuliproject.org) Australia – [corinna@kivuliproject.org](mailto:corinna@kivuliproject.org) [www.kivuliproject.org](http://www.kivuliproject.org)

## jambo friends,

January has been a really eventful month for Kivuli. We have had some really exciting news interspersed with our fair share of challenges. The highlights this month include, the birth of a baby bull, relocation to our new home, new staff, class 8 KCPE results and the election fever.

Anyembe



## shamba update

I can't explain why I almost invariably start with the shamba (farm), but I do. As we had indicated earlier, we eventually procured two Friesian cows on the 8th of January, 'Rachel' and 'Milly'. Both cows were pregnant, one having been served on the 17th of April and the other in June last year. We therefore got our first calf, the cute little 'Fuzzy' (affectionately named by Purple Soup who purchased a cow for us from our Gift Catalogue) on Tuesday the 22nd of January. It

was quite the eventful labour actually. Fuzzy was having some trouble getting out, and the staff were not quite sure what to do. Thankfully, one of our 'fundis' (builders) knew exactly what to do; he rushed over and managed to twist Fuzzy out. When Fuzzy entered the world, he was lifeless and not breathing. No problem for our fundi, he proceeded to clean the young bull's nostrils and airways and gave it mouth to mouth. No joke! Sure enough, after a few breaths Fuzzy was

breathing and up on his feet.

So, are we having any milk yet? Of course we are. There is milk a-plenty here; sixteen to eighteen litres a day, less the seven litres that we give to Fuzzy. We hope to get twenty litres a day once the cow's colostrum is exhausted - not that I'm an expert on dairy matters, but we have some projections. We expect the second cow, which is more of a buffalo cow than a cow-cow, to calve in March. We hope to not

only save money spent on milk, but to also earn some income from selling the excess milk. Lest you forget, March is also the month when our 200 hens start laying. I'm estimating the 10th of March is the latest. For those planning on visiting, April looks like an excellent time for it; what with the hundreds of eggs and the buckets of milk, plus lots of vegetables from the Kivuli farm. You never know, you may even get to help in the planting of maize and beans...



# home sweet home

The subject of our shifting from rented premises to the Kivuli farm is quite an emotive one. When we resolved to move by the end of January, it sounded like a tall order then. All we know was that we would do all that we had to do and trust in God to make it possible. And you know what, it has happened! We officially moved on Sunday the 27th of January after church, just 24 very short and busy days after we made the decision to move. Can you believe it?

When we started, we envisaged really temporary structures that we would soon knock down to build permanent ones. But what



we have cannot be accurately described as temporary. They are beautiful wooden structures that we wouldn't want to demolish very soon, and they are comfortable too, although a little cold in the mornings. Our construction team has sincerely done an excellent job!

Now don't start imagining our move was all smooth sailing. Take it from me, it was not. We have had to do without electricity. As I write this, the electrician is still doing the wiring and fitting the house with solar power. No worries though, when he is done we will be able to charge our phones, use the laptop and even watch some news on the television using solar power. We do not have

electricity where we are and so will source all of our lighting and basic electrical needs from the sun. Although costly to set up, we are happy to not have electricity bills in the future!

Other constructions still in progress are – now, hold your breath – washrooms and toilets. Look, don't start having ideas about open-air bathing or members of the Kivuli family

squatting in nearby bushes. We have done nothing like that. You know we are more cultured than that, don't you? Prior to the excavation work in December, we had build two basic toilets and an area to wash from.

We are also discussing the construction of a very large water tank for our new home that will feed the farm.



# election fever

Kenyans will participate in a national election of the 4th of March this year. This is Kenya's first election after the tragic post-election violence that rocked this country in 2007-2008. It's also the first election under the new constitutional dispensation – the new constitution was promulgated in August 2010. This is a hotly contested election and the atmosphere pulsates with election fever. The campaigns are aggressive, and party nominations have been a little violent.

However, there is reason to believe that there will be a modicum of peace during this election period. We have an independent and highly credible electoral body, a strong and credible judiciary, a more accountable police force, and the prospect of ICC charges for warmongers. Plus, the incumbent president is retiring (unseating a sitting president is a tricky affair in Kenya), and the international community has its radar keenly focused on his management of his exit.

# new staff

Following the acquisition of the two cows, Kivuli engaged a new member of staff. Those of you who know about cows will tell you how involved cow management is. Baba Nancy has worked with cows before, so he knows his way around them; milking, feeding, tending to fodder crops etc. For the almost two weeks he has been with us, he has exhibited a high sense of responsibility and commitment to duty.



For the uninitiated, 'Baba Nancy' means 'Nancy's Father'. Nancy, his last born, is one of the Kivuli children and is currently at high school in Form 2.

## short but sweet

As you read last month, Uncle Dan "B" and Aunty Kate (aka Dan and Kate Hickingbotham) were visiting us. It was a blessing to have them back with the Kivuli family, after they spend 9 months managing the project in 2011. Dan spent a lot of time filming and taking photos of the children, the locality and even some of the children's relatives. He is planning on creating various promotional footage to use to assist us in raising funds for the permanent buildings. Come back again soon please!!

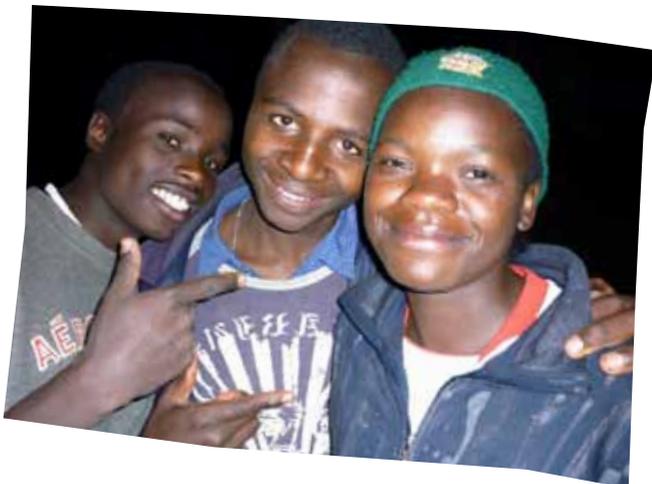
Kate's brother, Andy U'ren, and his wife Cathy also joined us for a short week in January. Andy, a PE teacher in Melbourne, couldn't help himself and ended up running several 'beep tests' with some of the children. I think he was impressed with the form of our young Kenyans, and even more so considering they ran one beep test uphill and at high altitude!

Jess Suryn and Erin Potter, also from Melbourne, remain with us for a short time longer and will leave in early February, more about their visit in next month's issue.



## class 8 KCPE results

We had four candidates sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination last year. The results were released on Monday the 28th of January. We are pleased that all Kivuli candidates passed. Out of a total 500 marks, Jimmy scored 363, Pauline 292, Charles 302 and Kelvin 252. These results are really good and will ensure all four are accepted into good high schools. Jimmy will most likely qualify to attend a National school, the highest class of high school in Kenya. This calls for celebration doesn't it? All four students are happy with their results.



## for those that pray

### Praise God for

- Our cows - Rachel, Milly and for the safe arrival of Fuzzy
- The move to the Shamba, and for the growing relationships with the fundis (builders)
- For the great KCPE results.

### Please pray for

- Peace in Kenya leading up to and during the election period
- Good relationships to be built with our new neighbours
- Coping at the shamba with the very basic accommodation.

## to donate

Gifts to Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) with a preference for this approved aid and development project J606N Kivuli Project are tax deductible. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

ANZ Bank  
Account Name: Kivuli Project Inc.  
BSB: 013 403  
Account Number: 3692 81295

Please email [kate@kivuliproject.org](mailto:kate@kivuliproject.org) with your name, address and amount deposited to claim your tax deductible receipt, or for additional payment options.

Donate Online  
[www.gdg.org.au/Give2Kivuli](http://www.gdg.org.au/Give2Kivuli)



No evangelistic activities are a part of or are funded by the GDG aid and development project. If excess funds are received they may be applied to other approved project activities.