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“CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”



Thank You

for your support and continued interest in the Maasai community at Mara Rianda.

Whatever our faith or belief system is I believe that Christmas is a time of Hope. I also believe that The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust gives hope to hundreds of children and their communities. Recently we have given hope to over a 100 children at Enkereri School with the building of the new classroom block. They are already planning to include more school years and looking for more classrooms.



We had great fun with the children, teachers and community when we visited in September and showed them how to play parachute games!! We also took toys, games, dollies and knitted teddies.

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We are giving hope to over 800 children at Mara Rianda Primary School. When we first began supporting the school there were only 250 children. Following a national strike the teachers in Kenya have just been awarded a well deserved and 15 year overdue pay rise. Unfortunately because of the strike the school was closed when we were there recently. The pupils are all back now and preparing for their various exams.



Thanks to the support we receive five further classrooms in two blocks have been built at Mara Rianda Primary School. Everyone is very pleased with the quality of the work of our excellent builder Ambrose.



We give hope to the children at Olpurkel who at the moment meet under a tree or in a mud hut if it is raining.

During our recent visit I had constructive discussions with the elders in the traditional Massai way, under a tree and with a stick! I then met with the area Land Registrar to establish ownership of the land. We shall soon be able to fund the building of a new school. These children will then not have to cross a dangerous river to attend the nearest school at Mara Rianda.



We give hope to our 54 children who have received bursaries. In September we made our last visit at Sosio Secondary School in Kilgoris. This was the first secondary school our sponsored pupils went to and we have very fond memories. However the journey is too long and transportation too difficult, so all children are now attending various secondary schools in Narok. We are very grateful to Governors' Camp for providing transportation for us.

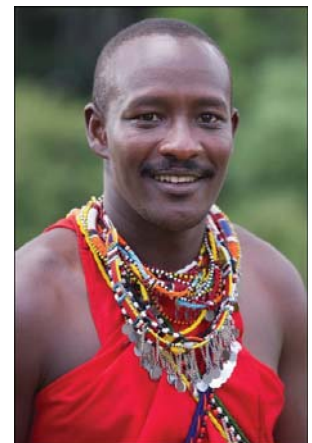
We continue to give hope to our children now graduated from secondary school and looking for further education. We hear that some are looking for college and university places. It was lovely to see many of them again. We plan to place those that graduate this December into three or six month internships. They will assist either at Mara Rianda or Enkereri Primary School, Kennedy's school at Mary's manyatta or at the dispensary/maternity unit.

We give hope to the mums who can now give birth in the new maternity unit. It is finished and in the process of being furnished. I recently received a message to say the first baby, a boy, has been born in the unit.

A local Hertford knitting group have been knitting some blankets for the new babies. We cannot wait to return and see some of them!!



We give hope to the community as discussions are under way for a medical centre. The existing dispensary does an amazing job with their limited resources. There is always a queue of people waiting to be seen. They desperately need more facilities, especially a unit with beds so they can keep patients in for observation.



We met Harrison our new community liaison officer provided by Governors' Camp. He is an excellent replacement for Jonathan who is now at university.

When I first visited the Mara in 2003 there was no mobile phone connection. There is now and the Massai have widely adopted this new technology.

Words cannot express our gratitude to you for your support, whether it is by words of encouragement, financial or prayer support. We do know we cannot do this alone, so thank you.





We are looking to provide further bursaries for pupils to attend secondary school from January 2013. Last year we were able to provide 10 bursaries and we hope to do at least the same this time. If you are a UK tax payer a bursary can be funded by monthly standing order of £26 for three years. With Gift Aid your donations will effectively be the full amount required to fund one child for four years of education. If you are interested in assisting a child in this way please let me know and I shall let you have a standing order and Gift Aid form.

Support is always welcome and greatly appreciated. There is always a need for new books, sports equipment and general school supplies as well as assistance with capital projects. Should you be able to give any support please make cheques payable to The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust.

As usual I do apologise if you feel this letter is an intrusion and should you not wish to receive any further letters then please do let me know.



May I conclude with my personal Christmas greetings and thank you once again for your interest and support, it is literally life changing.

Yours sincerely

Richard Long
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And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6 v8 (NIV)