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“CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”



Our February trip began with a huge celebration at Enkereri Primary School and above is the school greeting us with singing and dancing as we arrived with friends and supporters.



We saw the opening of a new block of four classrooms which the charity had funded. As the school is now recognised by the Kenyan education department the rooms are required to be built to comply with national regulations, and therefore are slightly bigger than the previous classrooms. New latrines were also built, together with sinks for hand washing. The school has asked for assistance in building a fence around its perimeter.



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The ultimate gift that the Maasai can give is a goat which I was given as a thank you, and which I would have loved to have shared with you all.

However I arranged for the goat to be taken to another village, as it would have been considered rude for me to leave it behind.

Another goat was cooked and shared with the community. Pola, the visitors who came with us and I decided it was probably better for our stomachs to go back to camp for lunch. What a shame!

We are delighted with Thomas the new head teacher, and Jacqueline is very much still in a leadership

This letter is as much a thank you letter as a newsletter. We are always thanked by the Mara Rianda community for our help and of course we always say that many people make this possible, to name but a few

- Over 400 recipients of this newsletter who support us either financially, prayerfully or with encouragement.
- Governors' Camp who assist in all our logistics in the Mara and provide staff to assist us and without whose help none of what the charity has done could have been achieved.
- Deloitte who operate our bank account in Kenya and make all the local payments
- My fellow trustees



Something that started modestly over 13 years ago has grown considerably and constantly amazes me. We are always overwhelmed by people's interest and excitement at what is being achieved. Those of you who know us personally will know that our Christian faith also informs and sustains our feeble efforts. However, what we value most is that people from all beliefs and those with none at all are involved and excited and help support this wonderful and beautiful Maasai community.

Pola and I return in September and look forward to seeing the newly constructed fence around the medical centre. This is necessary as much to keep animals away and locals just walking by as to protect the precious medicines, valuable equipment and of course the privacy of the patients.

In February we were able to deliver two Doppler foetal heart monitors and two nebuliser machines which the medical staff had requested.



It was wonderful to see Irine, one of our graduate students from Maasai Girls School, undertaking work experience at the medical centre.

Mara Rianda Primary School needs a dormitory for the girls, the original one is built of mud and dung and is very unsafe. Whilst it is understandable the school wanting to accommodate as many girls as possible this takes precedence over health and safety. Far too many girls are sleeping in very cramped and overcrowded conditions. As a charity this is something we cannot condone. It is important that girls are able to board as their home conditions are not conducive for studying.

If the girls were to stay at home after school they would be required to go to fetch water and care for younger children. Whilst this is important, sometimes difficult choices have to be made if they wish to pass exams. We also understand that it is important for girls to board for their own protection if marriage and early pregnancy are to be avoided. We are having discussions with Ambrose our builder regarding the possibility of funding the building of a new dormitory, latrine and washrooms for the girls.

Of course it is also important for the boys to board as well, otherwise they will be sent out to care for the cattle. It gets dark very early in the Mara, usually by 6.30 pm, and the mud huts do not have electricity

The Charity also supports a very small pre-school at Nasalie's village (formerly known as Mary's village) with books, pens, pencils etc and games equipment such as balls and skipping ropes. Most of the children here are too young to board at or their parents too poor for them to go to Mara Rianda Primary School.





The charity currently pays for the education of 54 children at six different secondary schools in Narok. If you are a UK tax payer a bursary can be funded by monthly standing order of £30 for four 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 the major capital projects. Should you wish 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.

Should you ever wish to come and join us in the Mara to see first-hand the work we are involved in please let me know. September is normally the best time to join us as this is the time of spectacular migration.

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)