

Abbas Rest Orphans-helping children in Africa Newsletter November 2011

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Hi all, welcome to our latest newsletter.
This newsletter is dedicated to Kirsi Poole
who died on the 6th September 2011.



Kirsi, co-founder of Abbas Rest Orphans and wife of Peter, had been an inspiration to many. She helped build ARO from very humble beginnings to what it is today and she was still involved in the decision

making of ARO. I was reminded of her zeal for ARO by a Finnish friend, who used to be a volunteer and branched out herself and started a small hospital and lately built a boys and girls orphan accommodation in Malawi. She said that without Kirsi's input into her life, the hospital and other projects would not have been created. Also there were other volunteers who also branched out on their own. So through Kirsi and Peter's faith, 1000's of Malawians and orphans are benefitting greatly.



An early picture of the work in Malawi with Kirsi as usual in amongst the children

My second trip to Malawi was a bit more leisurely. Saying that it took me an extra day to get there due to having to turn back to Dubai because of technical problems on the plane.

Because of flights having to be rearranged it meant I could fly straight into Blantyre on the third day instead of Lilongwe and then Blantyre. On to Chiringa the day after and glad to get the travelling over. Saturday was maize distribution in Chiringa so I attended that, there was an old lady who Abbas helped on my previous trip, who had no food, she arrived with a big pile of wood in exchange for some more maize for herself. We readily agreed as I had told the staff to keep an eye on her to make sure she had enough to eat.



One of our workers who we had trained to make clothes had made new school uniforms for the children in all our areas so they were being handed out for the new school year. Life is harder here just now because of the economy, lack of water, more frequent power cuts and general day to day living. The people though just get on with it, they are used to the hard life. We had all our children retested for HIV in Chiringa and Muona. The good news was there were

only 2 new positive results and one was a child we had brought from Beka, so they have been put on to our ARV program. Remember the turkeys from the last newsletter, the hens laid 12 eggs each and they are now hatching. Money has been



given by our Finnish sponsors, so more turkeys, chickens, new turkey coops, special food for the poultry for both centres. New tailor classes at both centres, money available for extra

maize, the staff at both centres are very appreciative of the extra things for their centres. Money has also come in from our UK supporters, thanks

We had a full week of rain here which got the locals to plant their crops for next year, the rain here was warm and the lightning spectacular, if you ventured out you were completely sodden within a few minutes, but when the rain ceased, you were completely dry within ten minutes, not like Scotland eh. Some of you gave



money to ARO to get your child some gifts, well it was a roaring success, the only mistake i made was taking six of them to the market at the same time. I could not keep up with them easily,

they all disappeared and came back with what they wanted, i was run ragged, i needed a rest afterwards. This happened at Muona market as well. I had to get a

Few things in Blantyre after asking what they wanted,. Five of them wanted suitcases to put their possessions in, the ones i brought were trolley cases and this gave them great delight not having to carry their case back home.

This has been another successful year for ARO. At times we thought it would be hard but it is not our project, it is The Lords, we just follow His instructions and that is what makes the difference The tailoring shops are now open for business. Some of our children have left ARO program for one reason or another so we have replaced them with younger ones.



The tailoring classes are doing gear, the children are quick learners and after two weeks they are now taking orders. Staff come in with their children they get to choose material and get measured, the children in the class then make the item wanted. A dress, a skirt, a blouse and shirts. This is done for a small fee which goes back into buying materials, needles, thread and servicing the machines. We hope to increase the amount of sewing machines next year. This has been made possible by your faith in ARO and your generous donations. Our supporters in Dalry had their yearly coffee morning and as i was i Malawi at the time, our PO Box boy attended, and was made

very welcome. They staggered us again with the amount donated from Coffee morning, thank you all for your hard work. Our ladies from Dalbeattie again donated money and individual donations all help to further the work of ARO.



It is one thing going to school but another having to take your baby brother or sister with you. This is a common sight in our afternoon schools.

Chickens and turkeys are threatening to take over our centres. It is a welcome sight. They will give our children a better diet, and it will also bring income into the centres by selling the surplus. As you know we have the only turkeys in the Muona district. Which when the first batch hatch, will be a blessing to the children. We hope we progress onto other livestock in the future. To give us an all round food program. The new turkey and chicken coops will need to be enlarged again next year.



We have just been informed that our Muona centre is to be demolished to accommodate a new road, as our buildings are within 10 metres of the new road boundary, we are having to look at new land to rebuild. It is given us the opportunity to get a site near electric supply and fresh water, we might have to hire people and machinery to drill down into the ground to give us a good water supply as well, the buildings in our centre are to be demolished within 6 months. It is not giving us much time to find land and rebuild, we might have to make alternative arrangements for the children staying at the centre.



But when we have the new centre built it will benefit the children in a positive way, The situation in the country has not improved any. There is a chronic shortage of fuel which is pushing up the cost of basic supplies which in turn the poorer people cannot afford to buy. Medicines are becoming short in supply. The treatment we give to our children affected by HIV is becoming a problem, we are having to scout round all the district clinics to get enough supply for the children. With aid being stopped from the western countries, it is always the poor who suffer most, which is defeating the purpose of the ban on aid. The poor will

not survive without the foreign aid being reintroduced.

Our car has been giving us some trouble on my last visit. We have had to replace quite a few parts due to the nature of the roads and the heat has been causing problems. For you mechanically minded people who will know what i am going to say about my last trip in the car to get to Blantyre for my flight out of the country. We were travelling along the road and we dramatically lost power after about 30 kilometres from Chiringa, as this was a Saturday and it was my last opportunity to get to Air Malawi offices to get my ticket changed we decided to carry on. On the level we could get a decent speed up but on inclines the people walking were passing us. We thought it was a fuel starvation problem.



We drove the rest of the way and i was asking God to get the angels to push and flap their wings to keep us moving. It was a

journey of 140 Kilometres. When we got to Blantyre we got a mechanic to look at the car, he thought the timing was out. When he lifted off the cover we found to our amazement that the camshaft was halved in two and a tappet broken, we

could not believe it, we had driven all that distance on two cylinders and still got to Blantyre before the Air Malawi offices shut at lunch time. The car should never have run at all.



Joyce is one of the children who came to be helped by ARO. We have put her on a milk program. This little girl is 3 years old. Her parents

both died of HIV infections. We ask you for your prayers in finding the right land at Muona for our new centre, the chronic water shortage in Chiringa where running water is non existent, medicines for the children are found and improved conditions for the poor in the bush.

We welcome a new member to the team. Maggie, she has taken over the liaison work from Eleanor. For all general enquiries, please contact Maggie contact details at head of newsletter. We take this opportunity in thanking Eleanor for her past service to ARO which helped the charity immensely. We wish her well on her new direction. You can still contact me on my mobile and Jim at our PO Box All that remains is to thank you from all at ARO for making our work a great success again this year.

Be Blessed, Richard

Now hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not. Proverbs 8 verses 32 and 33 K.J.V.