

# Friends of Londiani

Volume 1, Issue 3

November, 2004

## WELCOME!!!

Welcome to the FOL Newsletter. This contains our latest updates from Londiani, and details of our latest fundraising events.

Lots has been happening in the Friends of Londiani, Ireland. We have now finalised our details for the Kenya 2005 service project, and currently have 54 members on the team who will travel to Kenya next June, July and August.

More updates and photos can be seen on our website ([www.irishgirlguides.ie/kenya/index.htm](http://www.irishgirlguides.ie/kenya/index.htm))

Please feel free to copy and pass this newsletter onto anyone you know.

## FRIENDS OF LONDIANI CONTACTS:

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## NEWS FROM KENYA

The children in the Bethel schools in Londiani are currently studying for their National Examinations. Lucy said that they are studying really hard, and the examinations will start at the start of November.

The new buildings in Kebeneti for the medical centre have been completed. The community in Kebeneti are busy painting the temporary medical centre for its opening on November 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be opened by members of FOL Ireland who will travel to Kenya on November 11<sup>th</sup> as part of a planning trip for the Kenya 2005 summer project.

The temporary clinic is very welcome in the area. The first birth in the centre was in June 2004.

Work has began in planning the permanent hospital that a team from Ireland will help build in 2005. This project will be run with the community in Kebeneti, and has been approved by the Ministry of Health in Kenya.

The womens' groups continue to work with the outreach programme and spreading the HIV/AIDS education throughout the community.

Children in Ireland are collecting presents to send to each child in the Bethel Faith Home in Londiani. These will be delivered in November. This is a project that we have completed for the past 2 years and a very successful one. It ensures that all the children in the home will receive a present for Christmas. Thank you to all of you working on this project.



*Kebeneti Clinic*

## A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF KENYA

Our names are Ciara Daly and Claire O'Leary and we are final year students in Mary Immaculate College, studying primary teaching. We have spent 6 weeks in Londiani, working in Bethel Primary School and doing just about anything else as well!

As student teachers we were especially interested in the school system out there. Nothing could have prepared us for what we encountered. Bethel Primary School is a private school but still didn't have half of the resources that the most disadvantaged schools here in Ireland have. Despite this, what surprised us most was the discipline and enthusiasm of the children to learn. They were all so eager to have the "mzungi" (White people) to teach them.

The orphanage is only a few minutes walk from the school, and everyday we had about 20 helpers carrying our bags and holding our hands! Even though the primary school was under-resourced by our standards, we got a great shock when we visited some of the public schools. There were up to 60 children in one classroom, with 3 or 4 children per desk. The teachers were lucky in these schools to get even a piece a chalk to educate the children. There was no sign of even a poster on the walls. Even though we witnessed some bad conditions, the children seemed so happy and they were always smiling.

The best thing about our trip were the children of the Bethel Children's Home. No matter how hard our day had been they were always there when we got back to cheer us up. We made great friends with the older girls and they were in with us every night until all hours! The young children were fascinated with our long hair and loved to touch and play with it.

One day we were taken to Kebeneti to visit the site of the new hospital. This is where the project team are going next year. This day was by far one of the most difficult of the trips we made. We were brought to Kebeneti in a car, which are very rare in the villages of Kenya.. On the way we met a group of men carry another man on a stretcher. They were carrying him 20km on foot in order to find a vehicle to get him to a hospital. The man was paralysed on his left side and would have died in the next day or two without medical attention.

It really brought home to us the great need for hospitals out there, especially with the lack of transport.

You would really appreciate home life here in Ireland after seeing some of the living conditions out there. All of the people were so welcoming and we were often invited to peoples' homes. An average "house" would be one small room made of mud and often the walls were decorated with old newspapers. Despite their poverty, they always made every effort to make us feel welcome in their homes.

It's very hard to put all our experiences into words. Even though we heard plenty of stories about Kenya before we went, nothing could have prepared us for what we encountered. It's an experience we will never forget.



*Ciara and Claire in Londiani*

## KENYA 2005 CALENDARS

As part of our ongoing fundraising effort for the Bethel Faith Home and Training Centre in Londiani we have designed a calendar for 2005.

This calendar contains pictures of Kenyan safari animals as well as an account of the project, and some of the children in the home.

It costs €10 and is now available for sale. Permission has been granted to publish the photographs of the children.

If you would like a copy of this calendar please send your name, address and money to Maria Kidney, 9 Cois Cuain, Mosestown, Whitegate, Co Cork. Please make cheques payable to "Friends of Londiani".

***Your support is very much appreciated***

## CHRISTMAS VOUCHER APPEAL 2004

We are delighted to re-introduce our **Christmas Gift Collection** in aid of the Bethel Children's Home, Londiani, Kenya. Last year we raised €2867 for the home and village in Londiani. This year we hope to raise even more!!! If you are looking for a different kind of gift for your friends or family, we have a worthwhile option. We have similar vouchers to last year. The amount will not appear on the face of the voucher.

The 'Gift Voucher Collection' includes the following:

Voucher Number:	Amounts available:	Reason for voucher:
1	€20	Cost of a child's primary education per year
2	€10,€20, €50, €100	Part-fund a child's secondary education per year
3.	€10,€20, €50, €100	Contribute towards university education for a year.
4	€10,€20, €50	Contribute towards a family's food for a year
5	€10,€20, €50, €100	Contribute towards the medical costs of the Bethel Medical Centre – nurses fees, doctors fees, medicines
6.	€10,€20, €50, €100	Contribute towards Immunisation costs for children
7.	€10,€20,€50, €100	Contribute towards the cost of the outreach programme in Londiani

### Some facts:

- It costs \$20 a year to send a child to the primary school in Londiani
- It costs \$267 a year to send a child to secondary school in Londiani
- It costs \$1000 a year to send a person to University in Kenya.
- It costs \$5 a week to feed a child in Kenya
- Immunisation of children is a major need in Kenya
- The Bethel Medical centre has moved to a permanent site in Kibeneti, and the first baby was delivered there in July 2004. It is totally funded by the Irish funds. Kibeneti is a village where a lot of the children in the Bethel Children's home come from.
- Antibiotics are so expensive for people in Londaini and Kibeneti, so the people buy them one tablet at a time
- The outreach programme was set up in Londiani by the women who were trained in HIV/AIDS programme by the Irish service team. It's function is to look after the children of AIDS victims through food, clothing and education.

You can purchase any of the above and we will send you an envelope containing a card. The cards are colourful and professionally printed. You can then fill in the person's name who you are buying the gift for and send them the card in time for Christmas. We will send **ALL** the money raised to Lucy Kirui, who runs the Bethel Home, in January. The voucher also contains the information on the cost of living in Kenya.. In that way your friend/family member who receives your 'gift' will know where the money has gone.

If you would like to order 'gift vouchers' please fill in the following form and send your details and the money to Friends of Londiani, c/o Maria Kidney, 9 Cois Cuain, Mosestown, Whitegate, Co Cork  
Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Londiani"

Contact us at Friends of Londiani c/o above address or [friendsoflondiani@eircom.net](mailto:friendsoflondiani@eircom.net)

**Friends of Londiani Christmas Vouchers 2004  
Order Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill in which vouchers you would like, and how much you would like to spend on each one.*

**Voucher Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Voucher Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Voucher Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**KENYA 2005 SUMMER PROJECT**

The initial inspiration for this project came from the story of two tiny baby boys. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2003, twin boys (William and David) were born in Kebeneti, Kenya. Their mother died just after giving birth. They were brought to the Bethel Children's Home in Londiani. David was very weak and sadly died a short time later. William is still alive and healthy. This tragedy highlighted the fact that the people of Kebeneti have nowhere to access any medical assistance.

With funding from Friends of Londiani a building was rented as the Kebeneti Medical centre. A field was donated to the community as a site for a permanent hospital. To date some temporary buildings have been constructed on this site, funded by the Friends of Londiani. One of the main projects for our team of 54 which will travel to Kenya in Summer 2005 is to start building a permanent hospital, beginning with two maternity wards. In addition to the building the hospital we will:

- Bring running water to the villages of Kebeneti and Lelsothet (the village nearest the Bethel Children's Home)
- Paint and decorate the school and the hospital
- Run a HIV/AIDS peer education course in Kebeneti and Lelsothet
- Organise a malaria education and awareness campaign
- Construct mosquito nets in the homes near the river in Kebeneti
- Establish an immunisation awareness campaign in Kebeneti
- Establish a nutrition education campaign in Kebeneti
- Run water, sanitation and health training

**Pictures from Kebeneti village showing the new buildings in Kebeneti**

