



## Happy Home to the Present Day

– Rev George Ochola

*“We give thanks to you O God” – Ps 75:1*

We give thanks for the **vision** God gave to the late Mrs. Phoebe O. Mgoye, Rosemary June and Doc. **Johana Muka Mgoye**, Founder and first Director of the Happy Home Orphanage and Christian Fellowship Centre (established 1990).

Doc wrote: “My late wife **Rosemary** June, my mother Mrs. **Phoebe** O. Mgoye and I felt individually and collectively that the Lord was leading us to open our home to needy people, especially children, and fellowship. This started back in 1975. And from 1979 until now, people have come to **Happy Home** for fellowship and receive material support. Happy Home has hosted numerous gathering down the years. The biggest fellowship is the End/New Year fellowship which has been extended by Christians numbering up to two hundred at one go”.



These words help us lay agendas and plans for the future. Though the Lord has promoted Doc to our **eternal Happy Home** (3<sup>rd</sup> November 1997) we still feel both he and his vision are alive.

As Doc’s immediate **successor**, I have paid a price to lead this vision for the last seven years and will continue to do so. I have learned to trust in the Lord alone, for His Spirit is still revealing the direction for Happy Home, He has not finished with it yet.

God has provided for our **needs** and we **thank** God for those friends who have stood with us “in season and out of season”. Especially I want to mention the first **Trustees** of Happy Home Kenya Trust in the UK, our prayer partners, Christian brothers and sisters in Kenya, Britain and elsewhere. I also want to thank those who have provided critical comment and the resulting growth in maturity of our service.

## **Happy Home Kenya Trust (UK)**

– Charity Number 1101336

The **new** name for Happy Home work in the UK does not mean that the original vision has been lost, we are still following Doc’s strict aims for Happy Home in Kenya – the very cause you have been supporting.

### **Visit to Happy Home – April 2004**

I give thanks for being able to visit the **Orphanage** in April, on my way to leading a college mission team in Uganda at Easter (planned over a year ago). This was a time of **joy** and **sadness** for the children, staff and myself. A time of excitement and tears, eagerness and reluctance.



I thank God for Phil Marsden and Jonathan Barnes whose questions helped to cut through

the confusion and pressure of the weeks prior to my visit.

While visiting I met with the executive Trustees, Board of Management and spent time with the Orphanage children. This included a time of singing together as a family, strengthening Happy Home social life, as well as time for **pastoral** counselling with children and staff.

All this made **Janipher** and **myself** realise that God wanted us most at Happy Home



because of the change and transition going on presently. One day by God’s Grace we will be there **permanently** and fulfil **His call** at the centre of our heart.



## Happy Home Music Project

- Phil Marsden

Anyone visiting Happy Home in Kenya cannot help but notice what an important part **music** plays in the lives of the children and local communities.

From an early age children hear the **singing** all around them and when they reach primary school they learn to sing as one of their subjects. '**Happy Homers**' also have lots of time singing a range of music as a group, mostly contemporary Kenyan style.

I remember **early** one Sunday morning during my visit in 2002, being woken up to the delightful sounds of the children singing in the adjacent hall (they had got up early to pray, as is their normal routine for a Sunday morning). Call me a fool, but on waking and hearing the beautiful singing I said to my roommate, Rev. Simon Harris "**I think I must be in heaven**". It was wonderful to hear the children singing and humbling to think they had got up so early to worship and pray.



A number of us in the U.K. wanted to encourage the music ministry at Happy Home and in response to an appeal made by George, one donor in particular felt moved to give some **guitars** and traditional African **drums**.

It's exciting to think what the young people at the home will do with the instruments. There is for example, great potential for sharing musical ideas and worship between the home and others. The possibilities are **endless** and with God's help we will make some of these a **reality**.

Please **pray** that **God** would bless the musical project at Happy Home. Pray that the children would learn more about **Him** and how to worship Him through music.



## Web Site Update

- Peter Adkins

We now have our own website **www.hhkt.org** and **logo** which we will be using to keep you better informed about Happy Home and the Happy Home Kenya Trust.

The website is still at an early stage of development but some of our plans for the website are to:

- Provide a brief history of Happy Home
- Keep you informed of any major news at Happy Home in the period between newsletters
- Make all newsletters available on-line
- Allow you to receive newsletters via email (which will enable the Trust to minimise postage and printing costs)
- Publish a regular prayer letter

Provide you with information about the Trustees:

- Notify you of fund raising **appeals**
- Include **links** to other relevant websites
- Allow you a means of **communication** with the Trustees and Happy Home in Kenya.

If you have any useful information or suggestions for the website please forward these to **Peter Adkins** who is managing the website on behalf of the Trust at **peter.adkins@hhkt.org**.



## Happy Home relocation

- Jonathan Barnes

As George referred to earlier there are significant plans for the **relocation** of Happy Home from its current site which is not legally owned by Happy Home in Kenya and is beginning to require major redevelopment. This will also lead to a more **suitable** and **economical** set of buildings to maintain. A revised **constitution** is also being worked on.

Title deeds are about to be purchased for a new piece of land at **Songhur** just a few miles away where purpose built accommodation can be constructed, but still with nearby schooling.



The land around the current centre is planned to be used for **agriculture** as is part of the new site. This has been possible through a small number of generous gifts from UK supporters.

The estimated costs for the new building complex and its potential phases are being worked on and should be able to be shared with you in the next newsletter. The **plans** include the following:

- Office Block
- Residential Units for Children
- Wells and other water supplies
- Multipurpose block
- Library
- Workshop
- Sick bay
- Living quarters for staff

Your **prayers** and **ideas** for fund raising will be gratefully received.

## Treasurer's report

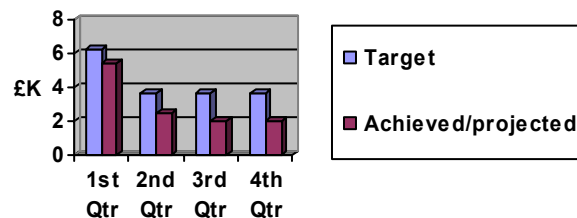
- Kay Johnson

As a new charity we have conducted a **review** of Happy Home finances over very recent years and **quarterly reports** are provided by Mrs. Dorcas Awinda on how current donations are being used.

Since October 2003, the Trust has sent out £8,300 to Kenya. The **budget** set by Happy Home for the financial year ending November 2004 was around £17,000 (as illustrated in the last newsletter). Whilst some solid progress has been made against this target, the trustees are concerned that we are **significantly behind** the sums requested by our Kenyan friends on behalf of the children.

**Dorcas** is doing a wonderful job **stretching** the available funds to make ends meet. However, with such a deficit, difficult decisions need to be made. At the start of a recent school term there were simply **no funds** available to pay the secondary school tuition fees resulting in several of the children not being able to attend for some time.

### Giving progress 2004



Please join us in praying for a **response** to the needs at the home and also for continued **guidance** for Dorcas. If anyone would like to respond financially contact details are available at the end of this newsletter. Thank you once again for all your support.

Maybe you could **spread the word** through friends or colleagues with the help of this newsletter.

One last comment: when making a donation - If you are a taxpayer we can claim a considerable amount of money back under the **Gift Aid** scheme. Please select the checkbox on the response slip and you will be sent a form explaining everything. Once completed and returned, we will do the rest.

**Give thanks** to God for:

- provision of **funds** for **purchase** of new Happy Home site
- continued **dedication** of the Happy Home staff and Trustees

Please **pray** for:

- the **revision** of Kenyan Happy Home **constitution**. May it be done thoroughly, correctly and quickly.
- the work of the Happy Home Kenya **Trustees** in the **UK**, seeking to finance a new site as a permanent centre for Happy Home, legally owned by the **Kenyan Trustees**.
- the **daily** needs of the **children** and **staff** to be met and wisdom for **Dorcus Awinda**.
- **George** and the task of **reaching out** to Churches, Schools and individuals on behalf of and seeking support for Happy Home Kenya Trust.
- Ken Horleston and the **St. Clement PCC Derby** for their commitment to sending Christian gifts to the children every Christmas.

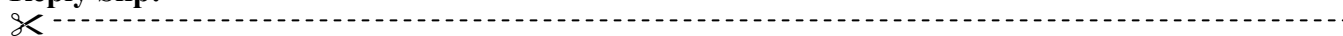


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**Reply Slip:**



Please return this slip to Jonathan Barnes at the address above:

I would like to help Happy Home by:

- Promising to **pray** regularly
- Giving a one off **gift** of ..... towards .....e.g. general funds
- Giving a regular **gift** of ..... towards .....e.g. general funds
- Providing **gifts in kind** (including funds towards shipping and import costs)
- I would like you to **send** ..... additional “Updates”
- I would like to **register a new contact(s)** for future “Updates” (details on separate sheet)
- Please send me a **Gift Aid** Form

Please make all cheques payable to “**Happy Home Kenya Trust**”.

**Name**.....

**Address**.....

**Telephone**..... **Email**.....

- I confirm that I wish to remain on the mailing list (address details not passed to other bodies).

Please note that all gifts received by the Happy Home Kenya Trust will endeavour to be targeted at the specified need but it must be recognised that from time to time other priorities will arise. When this is the case, in agreement between Happy Home and the Trustees of the HHKT, funds may need to be redirected.