



Boniface & Hamisi Project Kenya, Africa

Boniface and Hamisi Report

June 15, 2002

Dear Friends of Boniface and Hamisi:

For the first time, we are writing many of you not as disembodied e-mail addresses, but as wonderful people we have now had the good fortune to meet in person. In early spring, we hosted the first Friends of Boniface and Hamisi party at our home, and met many of the good people who've contributed so generously to the project. Thank you for coming, those of you who could make it, and for those of you who couldn't, we hope we'll have another chance to meet you in person. Our three original donors to the Boniface and Hamisi project, Dorothy Perry, Mike and Esther Moghadam, and Daniela Jansson, were all presented with fossilized shark-tooth jewellery made by Hamisi and brought back from Kenya with us on *Northern Magic*.

Thanks to our busy public speaking schedule, we continue to raise money for the project. At every presentation we talk about our two projects, the Boniface and Hamisi project in Kenya, and the Friends of the National Parks project in Indonesia, and each time many people drop bills, and sometimes cheques, into our little donation bowl. Some of the groups have been incredibly generous. The Women's Breakfast Network, for example, raised \$1600 with a silent auction in December, and the Canadian Women's Club members stuffed \$1180 into our bowl in May. Some of the other groups whose membership have contributed to our two projects are (this list is not all-inclusive):

Naval Engineers	652.18
Newcomer's Club	450.94
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club	524.01
Ottawa Citizen	500.00
Kiwanis Club	285.00
Power and Sail Squadron	597.00
St. Matthew School teachers	524.88
St. Emmanuel Church	649.29

Women's Business Network	380.00
Scouts Canada	371.25
Knox Church	791.96
Good Companion's Centre	348.50
Knox United Church	379.06

The Time Out Group (hosted by Friend of Boniface and Hamisi, Daniela Jansson) also made an exceptional contribution of \$782.00, donated by a very small number of women.

All this has allowed us to expand our program in Kenya dramatically. With these extra funds, we have been able to pay the school fees of an additional 13 Kenyan high school students, bringing our total this year to 14, including Boniface. One of these additional students is Boniface's brother, Katana. The other 12 are students who were referred to us through a principal of a high school in Kilifi. This has been achieved with the help, once again, of Kenneth Muriithi of Plan International, on his own free time. These students were selected because they are all highly motivated and good students, and all would not be able to continue their schooling without outside help.

We were particularly happy because two-thirds of the new students are girls, which helps bring some gender balance to our scholarship program! We are putting a listing of the new students, their photos, and letters from each of them on the website. Any of you who would like to correspond with these students is welcome to do so; contact us for details. It would be wonderful if some of you established personal relationships with these young adults. I'm including some correspondence between us and their principal, and Kenneth, at the end of this report.

We were surprised in recent months to receive not one, but two e-mails from Boniface ' who had never used a computer in his life until we gave him the chance on *Northern Magic*. Now he's joined the cyber revolution and has someone to e-mail half way around the world! Boniface needed extra money for new shoes and school uniforms (we had not provided shoes last year, and only two uniforms, so they no doubt are worn out), and informed us he had been stricken with typhoid, but was now recovered. I've included his messages at the end of this report. We did provide extra money for school shoes, textbooks, and a new uniform for him this year.

I'm also happy to announce that the prestigious law firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain volunteered to take on the responsibility, free of charge, of helping incorporate the Northern Magic Fund for International Development as a non-profit corporation, a process they oversaw with incredible enthusiasm and efficiency. We have now received our Letters Patent as a not-for-profit corporation. The process to establish us as a charitable corporation (able to issue tax receipts) is a good deal more complicated and may take some time. The government requires us to have a considerable infrastructure in place in the foreign country and strict controls over how the money is spent before they will grant us charitable status. In our case, that will probably mean hiring local staff and having written agreements in place, as well as advertising the availability of funds to students at different schools to ensure the money is distributed fairly and not targeted to individual people or misdirected in any way. This will, of course,

mean we will have to operate a different way than we have in the past. We have some work to do to get that in shape. However we intend to continue our personal support of Boniface and Hamisi and their families, and will continue our original program as a private venture, regardless.

Boniface's older brother, Andrew, has been incredibly helpful to us in the overseeing of the project to date. Because this has involved a lot of his scarce free time, we have offered to pay him \$50 per month, plus of course his internet expenses. Andrew is helping oversee the assembly and shipping of an initial order of 50 shark-tooth necklaces we have ordered from Hamisi, with the objective of selling these at presentations, as well as being the liaison with his two younger brothers whose high school fees we are paying.

Mark, another brother of Andrew and Boniface, has now provided us with a very extensive and well-thought-out business plan to open a hair salon in the town of Mtwapa, just north of Mombasa. You'll recall that we paid for Mark's post-secondary training to become a hair stylist. He has received knowledgeable assistance from a Kenyan accountant in the preparation of the plan, and we are now in the final stages of approving it. Karen Sharp, of Charly's Hair Salon on Richmond Road, is providing professional analysis and advice at this end. She has still faithfully been sending cheques each month to help Mark get established her entire profits from the first Tuesday of each month. Karen's business has been booming, with Karen herself being run off her feet, and her monthly contribution to our fund has been an exceptional act of generosity.

In consultation with Karen, we've decided to finance Mark's new business as a loan, interest free for the first year, then a balloon-repayment plan that will have his repayments start out small, and then grow so the loan will be repaid after six years. After that time, it will be available to help assist another business venture in Kenya. We haven't yet established the final amount we will be advancing him, but those decisions will be made soon.

Andrew has also approached us with a great deal of enthusiasm for opening an internet café, co-located with Mark's future hair salon to save on overhead. This is a growing business and we believe has excellent prospects. From our days in Kenya, Herbert and I became quite knowledgeable about what was available in the area, and what the rates are, and we are convinced this is a smart investment. Andrew is now undertaking his own business planning, and there's a good chance we may also help him with a business loan for this project in future.

Hamisi's cow, Magic, which we purchased for him with the money donated by many of you in 2000, gave birth to a healthy male calf on May 17. At last report, both mother and baby are doing well. This is great news, because once the calf is weaned Magic will be producing milk and contributing to the family income, rather than being a drain. We don't know whether Hamisi plans to keep the calf, since it isn't female, or whether he will sell it.

I've been talking to various school principals in Ottawa about the idea of twinning Canadian schools and students with Kenyan ones. There is considerable interest in the idea, and we are now looking into ways

to make this happen. Herbert and I are beginning to realize that if we want the project to continue to move forward, we are going to have to make another trip to Africa (by plane this time) to set up contacts with schools and principals, and hire an employee or agent in Kenya who can devote more time to overseeing the program, as it grows. We haven't figured out yet how to finance that trip, but we assume that part will work itself out, in time! We're hoping to go either next spring or summer. Perhaps by then Andrew will be in a position to open his internet café, and we will be in the fun position of swinging a hammer and stringing cables with him! Perhaps we'll be able to bring some computer supplies with us for him as well.

Lastly, we would like to thank those of you who recently made additional contributions to the fund. Of all the things Herbert and I are spending our time on the book, our presentations, our future video project and CD, the repair of the boat, etc. our work in Africa continues to be the most important thing we're doing in life, except for being parents. Your continued support is what makes that possible. Thank you.

Your friends,

Diane (and Herbert) Stuemmer

June 15, 2002

E-mail from Boniface Kitsao, April 1, 2002

Herbert & Diane Stumer,

Hellow! Iam very glad that i have this opportunity to say hi to u guys.how are u doing since we last communicated . Its my sincere hope that the almighty god has been very sincere to you.how are the kids?chris the little growing?is he okay?has he gone to school yet?How is jonathan and michael i hope they are all fine i miss them so much. i wish i could be with them i need oa photo of you all and one of each.back to me everything is fantastic i have doing well at school, it was very unfortunate that i could not be able to do my terminal exams because during the exams i was very sick that i was taken to hospital for medical treatment , i was taken for blood test and i was found to have been suffering from typhoid. i was discharged but i colud not go back to school i had very severe headache and i stayed on bed almost a week .fortunately i had already done 4 papers before i went to hospital though i'm still taking some drugs iam glad that iam quite fine.after the dose i was told to go back for blood test again and see whether it has gone i hope everything will be fine soon.

Say hi to chris ,john,mike,and your dad!bye

love always ,

boniface

E-mail from Boniface Kitsao, June 1, 2002

STUEMER FAMILY,

it was of gret pleasure recieving your reply . I never thought that I could be e-mailing with somebody around the world before .I was very worried as it was my first time playing with a computer lheard that you were suprised to get my e-mail it was also a surprise to me as it was long since I say hi to you and I had no ways of communicating with you so I decided to go to the bureau and igave them your address and the message and they showed me how to do it but they said I had to have my own e-mail address And so thats how I got my own address I just went to kilifi town They charged me 5 shillings per minute it cost me as I was very slow but not that much by the way how are you doing and how is everybody I hope everything is wonderfull did you have fun on your party do I know anybody who attended the party by names, like mike and Esther morghadam? say hi to all those who know me. I wish i could be there parting with you. how is the little magic doing ? I hope it's growing as fast as it could.

may i congratulate michael on his hard working braveriness to be the champion as the best swimmer in your city.

i'm very proud of him and wish him the best through, both on studies and games.the same way goes to christopher, tell him to keep it up . i'll be very seeing you soon.Thought you would say you were coming this soon.But all the same it's okay .I know you are very busy tying to settle back and start a fresh .The sam,e way applies to me on my studies .You said michael is in grade 10, I think that is form 2 cause grade 11 is form 3 and grade 12 is form 4 it's the same as in Kenya.

On the case of getting in touch with you it would be very exciting getting communicating with you almost everday but the very unfortunatrethat most of the time am at school and asking you to give me some money for sending e-mails to you will be as if iam asking too much from you .May be during holydays or on halfterms don't worry .I'll try my best to make sure that am as well communicating with you .About the pictures I want you to send them through my school addrees cause of the time am at school.

SOKOKE SECONDARY SCHOOL,

P.O BOX 237,

KILIFI, KENYA

I wiil send you some of my pictures wearing my school uniforms. I am playing basketball for my school team .And we went for a provincial level this time but we were beaten. Much greetings from Dad,Mom,Mark,Katana and hamisi. Bye Love always,

Boniface.

E-mail from Christine Kahindi, Principal, Majaoni Secondary School

June 11, 2002

Dear Diane,

Your transfer arrived on fourth of June. I don't have the exact details with me right now but will communicate shortly. Thank you so much for this assistance to the needy children at Majaoni. Otherwise I got your message about getting in touch and will tell you more about the development of the school in the next e-mail I send.

Thanks again.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Christine Kahindi
Principal
Majaoni Secondary School

E-mail from Kenneth Muriithi, regarding the Majaoni School Bursary Project

June 11, 2002,

Dear Diane,

Greetings.

Christine Kahindi probably told you that the money arrived on the fourth last week. I have not had an opportunity due to travels to communicate up to now. Attached is a scanned advice slip which being a copy is a bit faint. She is making out receipts for each student which we will retain in our files. I would like to thank you and your collaborators most sincerely for your efforts. The students are absolutely delighted and will be communicating with you soon. They are truly difficult cases. Some have missed whole years and terms but have persisted. They have all shown great determination and were selected for their academic promise.

God Bless and we'll stay in touch.

Ken Muriithi

From: "Majaoni Secondary school" <Mschool@kilifibks.africaonline.com>
To: "Diane Stuemer" <dianestuemer@rogers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2002 10:13 AM
Subject: A BIG THANK YOU

> Hello Diane,
>
> We are pleased to take this opportunity to say a word of hello to you
> hoping that you are well.
>
> First we would like to say thanks for the aid we recieved. We really
> appreciated and we were overjoyed after recieving the message and
> information in your letters.
>
> It is our hope that since this year's problem is settled, we promise
> you that we are going to work harder and improve in our academic
> performance because our learning sequence will be steady. This will
> also reflect a good future as we will have built a good foundation.
>
> It is our hope that through the Almighty God you will continue
> assisting us further even to higher levels so that we can achieve our
> goals.
>
> We are also happy to hear that you will come. We welcome you and it
> will be our pleasure to see you!
>
> We also promise that we will soon be writing individual letters,
> telling you about our progress in school and many more about us.
>
> Loves from,
> 1. Ouma George
> 2. Vincent Karisa
> 3. Alfred Mwaro
> 4. Amina Ziro
> 5. Prudence Nyanje
> 6. Jonathan Shumu
> 7. Lidya Kazungu
> 8. Carolyne Katana
> 9. Celestine Khasim

- > 10. Claris Mangi
- > 11. Gladys Ndundi
- > 12. Christine Lughanje.
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