

# Marimanti News

Issue 12

August 2010

Greetings once again from Marimanti. It is now winter time in Kenya and I am up in Meru for my winter holidays! The school is closed for the month of August and although it never actually gets cold in Marimanti, the same cannot be said about Meru. As I write this, I am hugging my hot water bottle and drinking a cup of hot tea!

## Registration

Our school year starts in January and ends in December. At the end of July, we completed our second term. There have been many things to praise God for this term and the first one was the registration of the school. In May, we were thrilled when we finally received the official registration certificate from the Dept. of Education in Nairobi. This means that we can expect to receive funding from the government sometime next year. It is good to know that when I leave Kenya, government funding will enable the school to continue and that the future education of deaf children in Tharaka is assured.

## Meru Agricultural Show

Another exciting event this term was our trip to Meru Agricultural Show. The children in my class had often asked me to explain what a tarmac road was like (the roads in Tharaka being all rough roads). I thought the best thing to do was to let them experience a tarmac road for themselves, so in May, we joined with some pupils from the nearby primary school and hired a bus to go to Meru show.



The children were amazed at the smoothness of the road when we reached the tarmac (no potholes!!) and they got very excited when they saw two storey

buildings, big shops (well, big compared to those in Marimanti!) and all the different vehicles in Meru.

I had often struggled to explain what 'ice' was. At Meru show, the children tasted ice lollipops for the first time and then they certainly understood the meaning of 'ice' and 'cold'!

## Education Day

There is an Education Day once a year when the MP, the District Education Officer and other dignitaries speak to children from all the schools in the district about the importance of education and of making the most of their time at school. This year, our school children were asked to sing some choruses (in sign language) before the speeches began. It was a lovely opportunity to make the wider community aware of the existence of the school and also for our children to integrate with other school children from the area.

## Irish VIM Team

Another event which brought much joy this term was the visit of the VIM team from Ireland. Before they came I was a little anxious about how they would cope with the food, the dust, the heat etc. but they didn't complain and all stayed well ---a tough lot the Irish!

It was great to get many jobs done, which had needed to be done for a long time.



Above you can see the Rev David Clements (from my home church) and Judith Proctor (also from Portadown circuit) busy painting the dormitories. We were very pleased to get the dormitories and all the toilets and showers repainted, as well as the dormitories and dining room wired correctly, the sinks tiled and a lot of carpentry work done.

The children were delighted to be allowed to give a hand and below, you can see the boys trying to copy what Owen (the carpenter) had been doing --- even to the extent of having the pencil behind the ear!



Of course it was not all work. Below, Jackie is having a game of volleyball with the boys



and here, Kathaleen is trying to teach the girls how to knit.



It was my week to take assembly and I was delighted to have the team participate, with David telling the Bible stories and Judith teaching us some new choruses. The two weeks flew past and the teachers and pupils really enjoyed and benefited a

lot from having the team with us--- a very worthwhile visit!

## **Building Project**



As you can see, our dining room/kitchen is now completed. Owen made a lovely fence around it and the ladies in the team painted it blue and white. It really looks very grand!

Thanks to the generosity of friends and young people at home we are now getting the inside of the building furnished so that when government funding comes, we can employ a cook and start cooking in our own kitchen!

The two classrooms kindly provided by the VIM team are now well under construction so we should have a classroom ready for the new children starting in January.



Next term, I hope the classrooms will be completed and perhaps even a few toilets built for the staff. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the building project and to the cost of running the school. Without your help, there would be no school and no education for these children. Thank you all most sincerely.

Helen.

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**Give thanks for:**

- Registration of the school
- The visit of the VIM team and all they achieved
- The support in prayer and giving of everyone at home
- Good health and safe traveling on the roads
- The enthusiasm of the children to learn and to do well in their studies.

**Please Pray:**

- For new Board of Governors which is being formed this term
- For wisdom in all the decisions that have to be made regarding staffing for the next school year
- That I will have good health and the energy required to do my job well
- That the children will grow in their love and understanding of Christ
- That the school will be a witness of Christ's love to the people of the area.