

# SASA

Sasa means **NOW** or **WHAT'S UP** in Kiswahili

*every child deserves an opportunity.*

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LEARNING KISWAHILI: LESSON 16

## A HOLIDAY TREAT FOR SHEILA & BRIAN

Two of our oldest sponsored children, brother and sister Brian, 19, and Sheila, 22, had a special treat when their sponsor, Ed Ahern visited Kenya recently to take them on a never before experienced holiday. Ed tells his story.



Ed, Sheila & Brian

I arrived on Oct 16th at JK international Airport Nairobi with the idea of meeting Sheila and Brian there then flying straight to Kisumu on Lake Victoria in Western Kenya. As often happens things don't quite work out the way you planned. As we were boarding the flight to Kisumu it was discovered that the kids' IDs were not in order so sadly they had to return home to Nygong Hills to get their school ID (photo) which was acceptable to the airline. We met the next morning, boarded the plane and were at last off on our adventure.

We arrived in Kisumu with great excitement as we had not visited there before. Brian, Sheila and I spent the day in a taxi trying to find a hotel to stay in and having a good look around. Our taxi driver George was an unusual chap because he couldn't understand anything I said so I had to get Brian to translate. We had fun wondering why when I said something very slowly in English, George would say "What?" then would ask Brian to repeat the exact same words to him (in English!) and he would understand Brian immediately. We had a lot of laughs

over George. We settled on a hotel late in the day, not so much because of the characteristics of the hotel but mainly to rid ourselves of George. Once installed, we changed and went to dinner which we were all looking forward to.

Our first morning in Kisumu was to be our last as, having had a good look at Kisumu the previous day, I decided it was not going to suit us as much as somewhere where there was a beach, so we spent the morning purchasing new flights to somewhere on the coast. The only place we could get a flight to was Mombasa so that's where we decided to go.

We spent all day getting from Kisumu via Nairobi airport (a dump) to Mombasa, then a 1.5 hour taxi ride to Diani, a beachside town I'd been to before. I had a bit of anxiety as the Wallabies were playing Scotland at 6 pm which we had planned to watch at the "Forty Thieves" bar. I kept asking Brian the time and did he think we were going to make the game. We did make it and had a wonderful night ... good food, cold drinks and we were at the beach ... all happy campers.

In the first few days I observed that Sheila and Brian were very quiet and shy. Even though I had known them for well over a decade, we had not spent an extended time together. The first morning in Kisumu I would ask them what sort of day it was and they would look at me strangely. So I made them order the food and drink, thank the waitress or waiter, pay the hotel bill on my behalf etc. This was a tactic to get them to open up which worked really well. I believe it was the day they found their voice. Within a few days we were chatting freely.

Our time at Daini was wonderful, we had time to chill out, swim in the ocean, eat lovely seafood (ordered by Brian even though he always had what I had) and shopping for new clothes for them. I found getting to know these beautiful young people such a wonderful experience it's hard to describe. I am surprised how nice and well-mannered they are, they're really extraordinary people. I feel I'm the one who had the most wonderful experience by getting to know Brian and Sheila. They are orphans so I am their loving father from afar.



Sheila at Ololo

## SHEILA TAKES THE NEXT STEP TO HER FUTURE

find out how she's going and received the following reply:

"We are pleased to report that Sheila is doing very well at Ololo. She spent her first month with us in the kitchen, learning not only how to cook a few things, but how to run and maintain a hotel kitchen. Now she is working in the housekeeping department which she says is her favourite area so far. She is a lovely person and has proven to be a hardworking, conscientious staff member who gets along well with everyone and dedicates herself to whichever task she is assigned".

**Ololo also featured Sheila in their SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF series:**

This is Sheila Shenyisa. Sheila comes to us from the African LEAF charity which cared for her and provided her with an education after she was orphaned as a child in the Kawangware slum of Nairobi. She has been training in the kitchen and housekeeping departments in order to learn valuable skills for future employment. She is

a beautiful, cheerful 22-year-old girl who dreams of having her own lodge one day. Asante kwa kazi Sheila!

LEAF director Eva received an email from Sheila to let her know how she's going at Ololo

Hi mum Eva hope you are doing well.

I just want to let you know that am OK at Ololo. Am having fun working in different departments and am working hard in order to achieve my goals.

I enjoyed every bit of my trip with dad Ed. Being on a plane was amazing, the feeling was amazing though with a little bit of fear but in all I enjoyed being in Mombasa. We went to different places, we went swimming, it was fun... fun... fun.

When are you coming to Kenya? We miss you a lot.

Thanks to you all for being there for me.

Love you all,  
Sheila

In our last newsletter we heard from Sheila who had finished high school and was studying catering. Her course was completed at the end of 2015 and we're happy to report that she is now undergoing work experience at Ololo Safari Lodge, a beautiful resort situated on the outskirts of Nairobi bordering the National Park and 5 kms from the Steiner School where the LEAF children board. This resort is owned by Craig and Joanna Chapman who sponsor Faulat. We contacted Ololo to

## CHRISTINE NEEDS A CO-SPONSOR

Christine's sponsorship started with a group of 5 co-sponsors but currently there are only 4 so we need to find one new co-sponsor for this lovely young girl.

### Background

Christine is 13 years old and in class 7. She was supported by LEAF because she was without immediate family. Her mum remarried and she didn't want Christine in the same household with her new husband. She has been sponsored through African LEAF for the last 6 years

Christine is a very bright girl who loves learning, her teachers, her friends and playtime after school hours. You will always find her skipping, jumping and running about the lovely Steiner playground with her friends. Her English is excellent, she is polite and attentive and she has self-confidence. If she needs something she will speak up and ask for it which

is rare amongst the children as they are usually a bit shy to ask for something. She will also speak up for other children, not just for herself. Her aunt with whom she stays during the holidays is very strict and Christine is always happy to return to school where she feels very much at home. She loves sport and music and wants to be an athlete or a musician when she leaves school.

Because this is a shared sponsorship, the monthly amount is relatively small. If you are able to help by being a co-sponsor for Christine, please contact Susan on 0423 033 213 or at [admin@africanleaf.org.au](mailto:admin@africanleaf.org.au).



Christine

## GIVER OF HOPE UPDATE



At the end of 2014, we wrote in our newsletter that we were looking for a sponsor for Purity, (sister of Kevin who is sponsored by Mike and Alice McAuley). The family lives in dire conditions in the slums and they are unable to pay her school fees. The Pastor of

her school had told us that Purity was a very bright girl who was always within the first 12 positions in her class and he felt it important for her to continue her education.

Mike & Alice kindly offered to pay her fees until a sponsor was found and they did so for part of 2015. As no sponsor was found, LEAF decided to pay her school fees using the Giver of Hope donations. We will keep our Givers of Hope updated with Purity's progress.

Purity's school report at the end of 2015 showed very good results. She sent a letter to Alice & Mike to thank them for their help. Here is what she wrote:

"I kindly greet you, hoping that you are doing well. I hereby thank you for the

helping hand you have supported my brother Kevin and I. I am grateful for God who made us meet with you and for that always the hand that gives is the one that receive blessings. I wish to empower the students that are behind me and help them achieve their goals and through you become a great person who can improve the nation.

I now only depend on my brother Kevin to pass his form four to help our parents who are jobless.

In addition I would like to meet you and thank you for the helping hand you have given to our family.

Yours faithfully,  
Purity Khosandi"

## BECOME A GIVER OF HOPE

The Giver of Hope donations are important to us to continue helping children such as Purity to have a future.

You can become a Giver of Hope by making a regular monthly donation. Generally this is \$40 but **can be any regular amount you are able to donate.**

Please contact [admin@africanleaf.org.au](mailto:admin@africanleaf.org.au) for information on how to make a regular donation.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### African (l.e.a.f) Dance Party

What a fantastic night it was at Byron Bay Golf Club on Friday on 2nd October when top local and international artist Lisa Hunt played at a special fundraiser, the African (l.e.a.f) Dance Party, celebrating African LEAF's 10th anniversary.

The number of attendees filled the Club to capacity as people crowded in to catch Lisa's first show back in Byron after her annual tour of Europe and the USA. As promised in the advertising, there were surprises ... when Lisa took a break, the band Happy Africa took to the stage bringing an African vibe to the night.

During the break, raffle prizes were drawn. The lucky winner of the first prize: 2 x 5-day VIP Bluesfest 2016 passes valued at \$2,140 was Pam Scarborough. After costs, the evening raised \$6,887, a great result. Feedback on the night was overwhelmingly positive.

Our sincere thanks to: Lisa Hunt and her band; Happy Africa; Byron Bay Golf Club and to the organisations who donated wonderful raffle prizes: Bluesfest; Crystal Castle and Buddha Gardens Day Spa. Thank you also to all those who attended on the night to support the event.

### Ocean Shores Shopping Centre

For the 3rd year in a row LEAF set up a pre-Christmas stall in the Ocean Shores Shopping Centre, selling merchandise. For those of you who may not be aware, we bring back from Kenya such items as Masai beaded craftwork: keyrings; bracelets; belts and earrings. Also Kikoyos which are pure cotton African-style sarongs. These items we sold at the shopping centre along with our gift cards featuring drawings by some of our sponsored children. Over a period of 4 days, \$1,326 was raised, \$1,217 being sales and the rest in donations ... not a bad result considering that our items for sale are low cost. Our thanks to Veronica, Ocean Shores Shopping Centre manager for granting us the space to be there.

By the way, our gift cards can be purchased from Green Garage and Reject Shop in Byron Bay and Brunswick Health Store, Brunswick Heads.

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF KENYA CONTINUED ...

BY JOHN ADAM

## Nairobi

For those connected to African LEAF who visited Nairobi, it has come as a surprise how large the city is, considering that in the late 1800's it was only a swamp, used as a watering hole by Maasai herdsmen.

When the then British East Africa protectorate decided to build a railroad from Mombasa to Kisumu on the edge of Lake Victoria, their idea being to open the inland of East Africa and make it accessible for trade and encourage colonial settlements, the Maasai were forcibly removed to allow white ranchers to use the land. This was soon followed by the forcible removal of the Kikuyu tribes from the area surrounding what is now known as the Aberdares National Park, an area well suited to cattle and crops. The problems caused by this typical British colonial policy exist to this day.

In 1896, work on the railway began. A British railroad camp and supply depot for the Uganda Railway was built in the Maasai area in 1899. The building soon became the railway's headquarters

and a town grew up surrounding it, named after the watering hole known in Maasai as Ewaso Nyirobi, meaning "cool waters." The location of the Nairobi railway camp was chosen due to its central position between Mombasa and Kampala, as well as its proximity to a network of rivers that could supply the camp with water. Its elevation made it cool enough for comfortable residential living. Furthermore – and most importantly, at 1661 meters above the sea level, the temperatures are too low for the mosquitoes carrying malaria to survive.

The town was totally rebuilt in the early 1900s after an outbreak of plague and the subsequent burning down of the original town. But by 1905, Nairobi was a humming commercial centre and replaced Mombasa as capital of British East Africa. The city expanded, supported by the growth in administrative functions and in tourism, initially in the form of British big game hunting. As the British colonialists explored the region, they began using Nairobi as their first stop. This prompted the colonial

government to build several grand hotels in the city for British tourists and big game hunters.

Nairobi continued to grow under British rule, and many Britons settled within the city's suburbs. The continuous expansion of the city began to anger the Maasai, as the city was devouring their land to the south, as well as the Kikuyu people, who felt that the land belonged to them.

Of course, their complaints fell on deaf ears and the expansion continued, and continues to this day. At risk of being devoured by the expanding urban sprawl is the iconic Nairobi National Park, already losing land to the railways and the highways needing to circumnavigate the city. And of course the vast slums continue to expand. Kibera is the biggest slum on the African continent, followed by Kawangware, where the majority of the African LEAF sponsored children originate, along with 800,000 others.

### LESSON 16 LEARNING KISWAHILI Days of the Week

**Juma Tatu** Monday  
**Juma Nne** Tuesday  
**Juma Tano** Wednesday

**Alhamisi** Thursday  
**I Juma** Friday

**Juma Mosi** Saturday  
**Juma Pili** Sunday

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