

Many of you will remember one of the gifts I took with me last September to Kenya was the banner depicting John Wesley riding through Teesdale preaching the 'Good News', formerly kept at Newbiggin Chapel. The banner went on pilgrimage with me to 13 of the 16 circuits within Miathene Synod during my visit. So it was very appropriate that on Wesley Day I emailed the Superintendent Ministers and Bishop Samuel Kithawe sending our greetings, inquiring how they were coping with Lockdown, and assuring them of our prayers. Here is Bishop Samuel's response sent on 25th May 2020.

'Thanks very much for your email. We are fine in the Lord my family and the entire Synod. We are safe and we are taking all the precaution to prevent ourselves from the Corona Virus. We closed the churches we only Pastor online and when it is very necessary. All the learning institutions were closed from 16th of March up to now. Right now in our country we have lost 52 and those affected are 1286 and some are recovering. It is our prayer that the Lord will protect and take care of all of us. When we don't go to churches our members do not support the work of God. They say we are not going to churches. We are trying to educate them as we do pastoral. We trust that our God will restore this word in his order and heal us in Jesus name. Continue to pray for us as we pray for you. We were very blessed by your visit and we have all the memories. When the Covid 19 Pandemic will be over we will have more to share. May God bless you and do you good and protect you.'



But last month I also received this information from Caroline Newton, Chair of the Friends of Kianjai (FKK).

"Sadly things are challenging over in Kenya. We sent out the appeal below a few days ago and have received about £2000 from generous donations. We are putting these funds into providing food for the special needs children as they are extremely vulnerable. But we also have about 50 sponsored youngsters in our main stream schools who have been identified by the head teachers and the community/church as being extremely needy. We would ideally like to provide each child with food parcels and support for individual needs at a cost of £40 a family. Darlington Circuit has been extremely generous in the past in supporting this community in Miathene through the FKK network, and I hope you don't mind me forwarding this information to you to see if there is any possibility of Darlington circuit being able to give emergency support at this time.

I can imagine Debs that the church is aware of pressing need from many sides, and I hope you don't mind me forwarding this to you. Thanks for all you have done in the past, and your energy and commitment to help, should that not be possible at this time I will quite understand.

But if the Circuit did have the ability to support an International effort we can guarantee that all the funds would be swiftly put to good use supporting these children and their families."

Dear Supporter

Thankyou for your continued support of our work in Kenya. We have all been adapting to unusual circumstances in recent weeks and that includes the children we support in rural Meru County.

The Covid-19 cases in Kenya continue to rise and as of 11 May Kenya has reported 700 cases with 33 deaths and 251 recoveries with Nairobi and Mombasa seeing the greatest concentration of cases. Rural areas have so far seen few reported cases however the impact of the control measures that have been

implemented to slow the spread of the virus has been significant.

A dawn to dusk curfew, forcefully administered by police, has been in place since 27th March and all schools, colleges and universities remain closed. **Food prices have increased by at least 50%** and many of the poorest find themselves trying to balance the threat of the virus with the threat of starvation.

All the above measures have had a **significant impact on the support** we can give our vulnerable children. At school they had been receiving morning porridge and lunch in a safe environment. With school closures many of our supported children have returned to unstable home conditions. They may have been orphaned and live with a grandparent or a peasant farmer single parent who has no opportunity to make an income due to the restrictions. Many of these homes have little or no food and the children miss meals. **The number of street children in Meru Town has increased significantly** and the situation there is volatile as people are moving from Isiolo and Samburu, fleeing because of the depleted food reserves caused by locust swarms and exacerbated by the lockdown.

Typically FKK support over 500 children through the school network and when schools closed in March, with the support of teachers all the April food we had previously supplied was split up and given out to families.

As we move into May we are aware that **more support is needed** and with support from the teachers and the local Methodist churches network, **we are preparing to deliver food parcels to our most vulnerable children.** Each parcel would cost around **£40** and be made up to suit individual circumstances typically including maize, beans, cooking oil and soap. **Could you donate £40 to support one additional child?** However any contribution to this fund is helpful. This parcel would provide for a family of 4 for at least a month and **be delivered to each child at their home.**



Can you help us in this critical initiative? Money we would have been sending to schools will be diverted to this project but the need is far greater than we can provide at this time. **Your support could make a HUGE difference to these children and we can assure you that ALL monies you donate will directly buy these life saving supplies.**

You can donate directly into our bank :

**Friends of Kianjai Kenya,
Sort code 30-90-49
Ac Number [33171360](#)
include the words "Parcel Project"**

Thank you so much!

We very much appreciate your support, whether with money or holding these children and this situation in your thoughts and prayers and will keep you up-to-date with the situation.

With Greetings and the very best wishes from your trustees
Caroline Newton , Jonathan & Elizabeth Gichaara, Sally Livsey and Gladys Gesage

Registered Charity number [1143972](#)

If any of our members/churches would like to make a contribution to the 'Parcel Project' and do not have access to online banking please contact me or the District Treasurer, John Monkhouse or cheques can be posted to Sally Livsey (Treasurer), Friends of Kianjai
31 Fore Street
Bradninch
Exeter
EX5 4NN

Debs Coggrave
Kenyan Partnership Link Co-ordinator
1 June 2020