

News from UDP – September 2021

Dear Friends

Please find below a brief update of recent happenings in UDP.

Covid Pandemic & Vaccines

Rates of Covid-infection have continued to rise in Kenya, causing speculation about another possible lockdown. After initial vaccinations for health workers and those over 58 years, there was a long period when vaccines were almost impossible to obtain, and sadly in the last few weeks a number of Covid-deaths have occurred in Kayole. Thankfully, however, in early August there was a vaccine camp organised in Kayole and most in the UDP community have now had their first dose.

In the Tujisaidie School the students are starting a new short school year at this time, hoping to catch up for the education lost in 2020. Many students will also be moving into secondary education and on to 3rd level colleges, while the tiny nursery school pupils will come in for the first time. Please pray that all the students will be safe from Covid.



Meanwhile there have been a number of projects that CMSI has been able to support, together with online events involving UDP.

Online Events

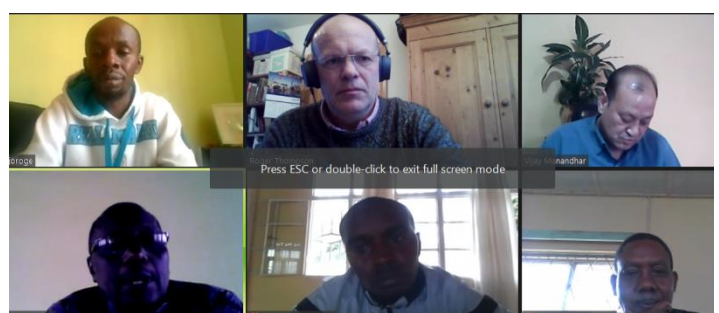


In June members of UDP & TAF linked up with folk from the United Parish of Ballyclare & Ballynure for a “Reading Room” online bible study. Studying Mark 10:13-16 - Jesus Blesses Little Children – the two groups had the opportunity of sharing insights from their respective contexts. This proved a really moving experience, with lots of mutual learning and a deepening sense of connection between

the two groups.

Rachel (a student from Ballyclare) commented, “The partnership unites the cultures.... we’re from different countries and different walks of life, but going by what today has shown us we all think with the same mindset”. These feelings were echoed by Louise Githire, “We thank God for this meeting, which shows us that it doesn’t matter where we are, we are united by the Holy Spirit and our work to spread the gospel”

A smaller number of UDP leaders also took part in two training webinars facilitated by CMSI – the first on Media Skills (Community Radio & YouTube) in May, and the second on Safeguarding in June. These were both remarkable for the large number of participants (over 30 on each, from 8 countries) and the



really positive feedback they gave. Antony Njoroge gave some input at the Media event, describing the work being done by TAF, and how they are exploring ways to improve contact with young people who are so isolated because of the lockdown.

Projects:

Tujisaidie School -

Developing a new plot of land recently acquired next door to the school, to create a safe and weatherproof playground for the students. While plans are being drawn up, a gate is being constructed between it and the existing school building to keep it and the students safe.

Replacing the old decaying partitions between the classrooms to ensure that each classroom is self-contained.

Tujisaidie Self-Help Project -

Food distributions (August & September) to be carried out by to provide the households most affected by lockdown with the basics (maize flour, rice, beans, green grams, cooking oil and soap)

Tujinue Young Mothers -

Funding for the manufacture of 20 sanitary kits providing the girls with sanitary protection and the Young Mothers with some work and an income (supplemented with additional funds from All Saints Cathedral).



Tumaini African Foundation -

The installation of electricity at the Centre for Excellence for internet communications, media plans, the library and the kitchen.

Bananas for the small children to add to the a mug of uji porridge already provided every day by TAF + 1 large cooking pot.



Finally we hope to hear from Antony during the upcoming Ignite Virtual Conference (see <https://www.cmsireland.org/ignite>) as he shares in a seminar about Young People in Lockdown. Another seminar on the climate emergency and how our partners are responding to this will include references to the TAF football teams' "scoring for the climate" initiative, which pledges to plant a tree for every goal scored. Working through another environmental organisation they hope to plant the first trees in October, when the short rains will have started.

TAF is running a similar initiative as they raise funds for a library in the recently opened "Centre for Excellence" resource building, hoping to match each book purchased with a new tree planted.

Please do continue to pray for all the staff, children and volunteers at UDP.

With thanks,

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