

Welcome to the
Kinamba Community Project
& Meg Foundation


Starring John and Vincent
and around 90 children




Kigali, Rwanda,
November 2012

www.kinambaproject.org.uk


A registered U.K. charity





Hello from Kinamba, Kigali, Rwanda! It's been a fantastic opportunity for me to be able to return and work with the children again, seeing them looking so well and healthy and also hearing how good they've done in school. I'd like to mention here that at the end of the year many of the children from Meg Foundation can often be found in the top 5 of their class.




This year John from America was here to help. John is in Rwanda for a year as his wife is working with the Rwandan Human Resources for Health Programme mentoring nurses at the military hospital.




I had the pleasure of been invited to dinners, graduation ceremonies and a wedding of one of the staff members at Meg Foundation. A typical Rwandan meal includes beans with vegetables on a bed of rice accompanied by a bottle of soft drink or local beer "Primus". Dinner by candle light here as the power went out, which is a common occurrence in villages outside of the capital.




Wednesday night Uno was also back with some of the staff from Meg Foundation along with one or two of the older children. After a busy day we'd head down to the local Bar/Restaurant for a few rounds of Uno, a cold drink, goat brochette and hot chips to share.



To re cap from 2011: The Kinamba Community Project and Meg Foundation were founded in 2007 with the aim of bringing education to local children from disadvantaged families and to work towards reducing poverty in the area. For full details please visit the website at www.kinambacommunityproject.org.uk










The Meg Foundation currently has over 180 nursery students between the ages of three and ten. It runs an after school programme for over 104 primary school students. The 'after' school programme is a homework club, with additional English/science lessons. Of these 284 children, 50 have sponsors while the others are funded through the Meg Foundation. The foundation also runs a feeding programme for all the students and sponsors five secondary students. In addition to the programmes offered to children, there is also a women's craft group, which has around 20 members.














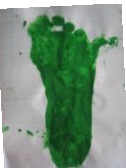






The foundation raises money through sponsorship, individual donations and the sales from the women's craft group, for example, necklaces, baskets, aprons, dolls and shopping bags. If you're interested in sponsoring a child at Meg Foundation or making a donation please visit the website or contact Meg directly on info@kinambaproject.org.uk The staff at the Meg Foundation have been or are also sponsored. Some are completing courses such as teaching certificates, accounting degrees and home economic courses.





This year three staff from Meg Foundation graduated from university.

School: Rwandan students must complete six years of primary education before sitting the national exam for entrance into a high school. Successful students are then allocated to a high school somewhere in Rwanda. For many families the extra expenses of transportation, accommodation and food is too much. The average age range of primary students in years one and two is from 6 to 12 years, for years three and four, 8 to 16 years and high school students in their late teens to early 20s.



School Holidays: The school holidays run from the end of October to January. There is an announcement on the radio shortly in the New Year telling the teachers and families when school will resume.

Summer Programme: All of the children in the Meg Foundation's after school programme were invited to join the summer programme. We had around 90 enthusiastic children this November divided into four groups. Primarys 1 and 2 came in the mornings and Primary 3 along with Primarys 4 and 5 who were combined into one group, came in the afternoons.






This year I was only here for three and a half weeks. I brought with me new games and puzzles such as Connect four, Chinese checkers, Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, Jenga, a Bingo set, three 200 piece puzzles and one 100 piece puzzle. They went down a real treat and kept the children extremely busy, quiet ☺ and focused. The new puzzles are a great challenge for the children as they were so used to the ones that have been here for the past four or so years. We tried to organise as many fun and interesting activities as possible, included were activities that the children wouldn't normally participate in during school or in their day to day lives.



One such activity was having Mr Allan Brian Ssenyonga, a reporter from Rwandans' daily paper "The New Times" www.newtimes.co.rw come to visit. Allan spoke to the children about life as a reporter and held an interview workshop for the children in P4 and P5. This was then followed up with a field trip to town to interview various people from different businesses and countries.



Traditional Rwandan dancing lessons started this year at Meg Foundation for all those interested. The children have lessons three/four times a week and thoroughly enjoy them. Their instructor is in the national dance team.





Other activities were also selected to practise and help improve their reading, writing, listening skills and communication skills. These activities included: drama, arts and crafts, watching movies, group activity work, such as writing short stories and songs, then presenting them to the rest of the class. The children also participated in story telling, team games, and sports such as relays and the much loved game of football/soccer.

The older children had a great time doing their foot and hand prints again while the younger ones had a blast finger painting for the first time.

Primarys' one and two enjoyed the "Colour by number pictures" where each colour is represented by a number and you colour in the area accordingly.

I also brought with me many photo copied worksheets from ACLE's summer camp work books. The children loved completing and of course colouring them.

Dress up relays where a huge hit with all the children along with the old obstacle course relay.

The children tried their hand at acting again, a little shy at first but they soon got into the scripts.



One of the older boys from Meg Foundation took the initiative this year and started up a football team "Meg Foundation" Their first game didn't go so well with the rival team all decked out in proper football attire including shoes while Meg Foundation boys were barefooted or wearing sandals. This didn't deter our boys who put in a mighty fine effort but came short 2 -0. Out of six games they have lost 2 and drawn four. We hope they can bring home a win with their next game.

On our last day, we had a small party and a short presentation where the children received a portfolio of all their work and an individual and group photo.

The following pages are filled with some of the many pictures taken, capturing samples of the children's hard work and fun times had here at the Kinamba Community Project and Meg Foundation these past weeks. We hope you enjoy looking over them.

Warmest regards,

John and Vincent

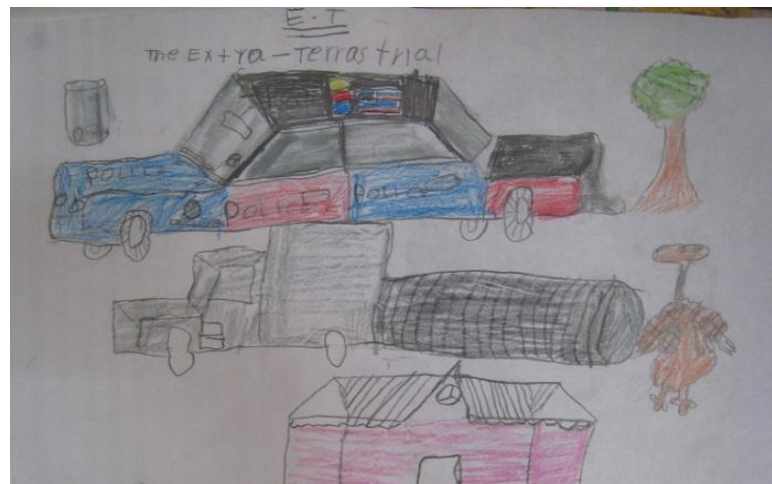
Movie Wednesdays

Movie Wednesdays, always fun but I do find it difficult to pick movies for the children. Cartoon movies are easily chosen for the younger kids as long as they are very visual and have a lot of action/movement in them. When it comes to movies for the older children, this years movies were E.T, Zathura and Star Wars episode IV "A New Hope". I wonder if I should also play cartoon movies for them, especially when some of the children believe E.T is a real creature and are lead to believe the Zorgons (Giant lizards) are in American national parks (Thanks John) I should have known better from the time we watched Charlie and the Chocolate factory two years ago, the children thought and probably some still believe that there are little orange men called Oompa Lumpas living.

Madagascar



E.T



Fun Learning Activities

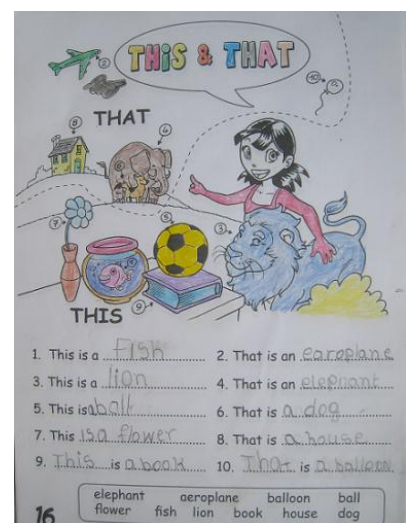
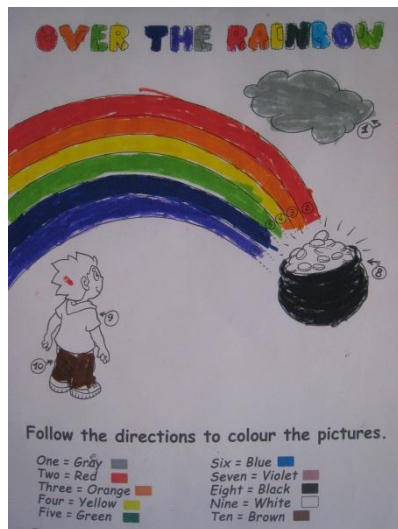
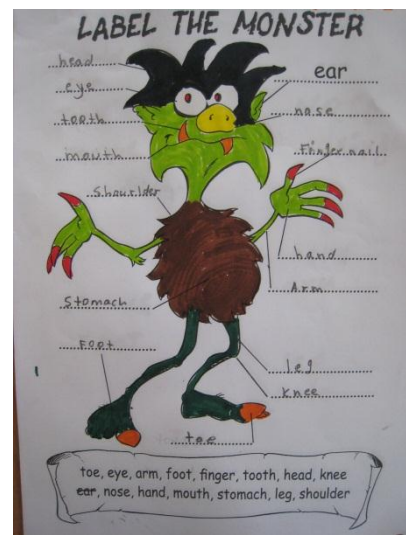


9/5/2001 **ORDINAL NUMBERS** My name is _____
DECEMBER

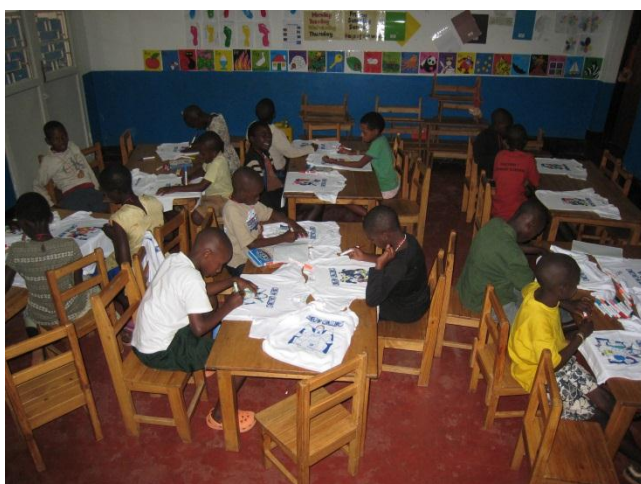
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 st First School day	2 nd Jennifer's birthday	3 rd Third in prize	4 th Fourth visit home
5 th Fifth sister	6 th Sixth music	7 th Caroleann's boy	8 th Jane's birthday	9 th Love Kivuu	10 th Love Kivuu	11 th Eleventh Lake Kivuu
12 th Love Kivuu	13 th Thirteenth	14 th Dental Appointment	15 th	16 th Love Kivuu	17 th Ripanna Carrots	18 th visit my
19 th visit my	20 th	21 st Twentieth day	22 nd Hot Cue	23 rd Tom's birthday	24 th Christmas Carolling	25 th Christmas
26 th	27 th Doctor's Appointment	28 th Twentieth Post	29 th Colgrand Parents	30 th Party	31 st New Year's Eve	

When is Jane's birthday? Jane's birthday is on the 8th of December.
 When is Tom's birthday? Tom's birthday is on the 23rd of December.
 When is the doctor's appointment? The doctor's appointment is on the 21st of December.
 When is Christmas? Christmas is on the 25th of December.
 When is New Year's Eve? New Year's Eve is on the 31st of December.
 When is Jennifer's birthday? Jennifer's birthday is on the 2nd of December.

Write these ordinal numbers in the correct place on the calendar.
 third, first, fourth, eleventh, thirteenth, twenty-eighth.



T-shirt colouring



Movie watching "The Jungle book"



Here we are with one of the groups of children we took into town to practise their interviewing skills. Activities like this are unheard of in Rwanda. The children drew much attention with their t-shirts. Many people asked us who we were and where we were from. Once we told them they all wanted to enroll their children into Meg Foundation.



Below we have John with some of the children he and his wife took hiking to Mt Kilgali. Most of their time is spent around their mud brick houses and urban sprawl. It was a terrific opportunity for them to see the natural beauty Rwanda has to offer outside the city and breathe in the fresh mountain air. The children were extremely excited when they came across the monkey, pictured below.



Arts, Crafts, Games and activities

P1 & 2 Finger painting



P1 & 2 Finger Puppets



P4 & 5 - Acting masks



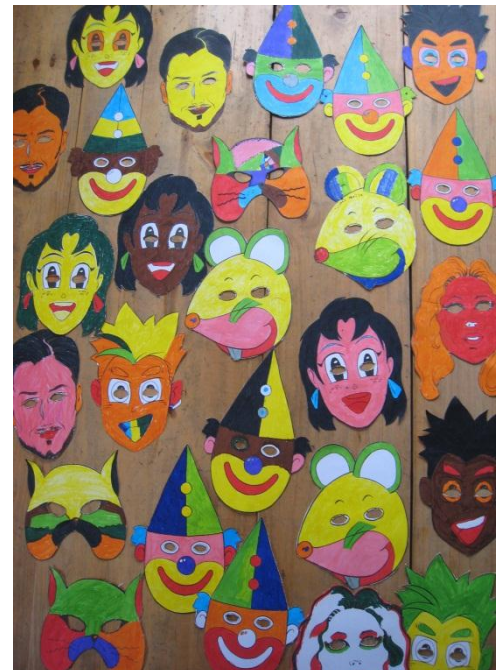
P3 - Hand prints



P4 & 5 Foot prints

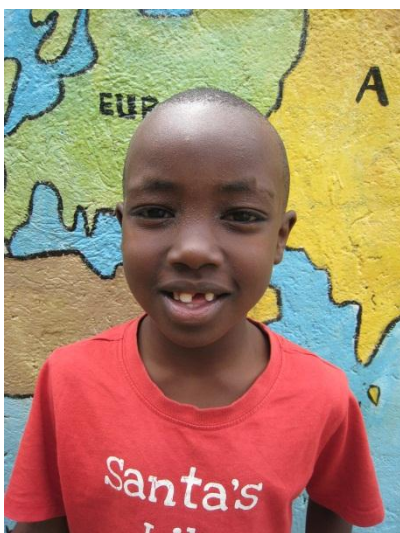


P4 & 5 - Acting masks

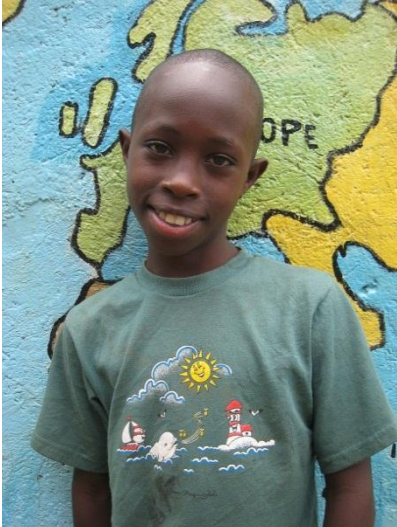


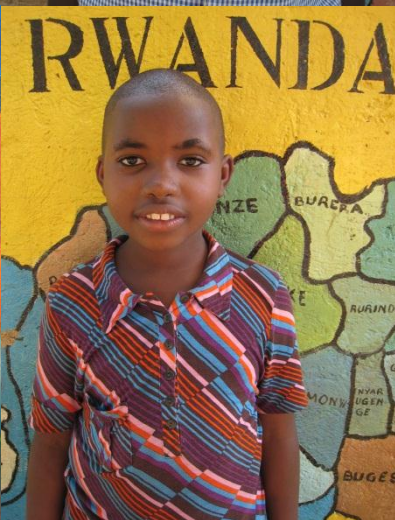
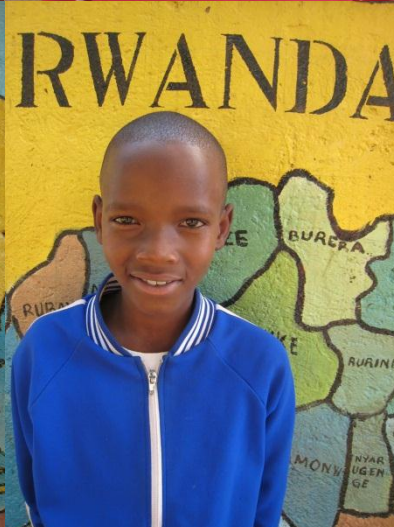
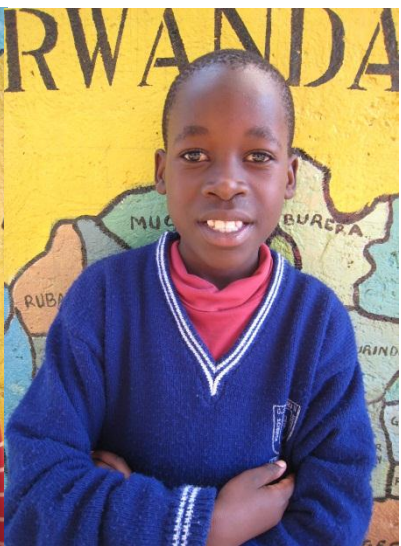
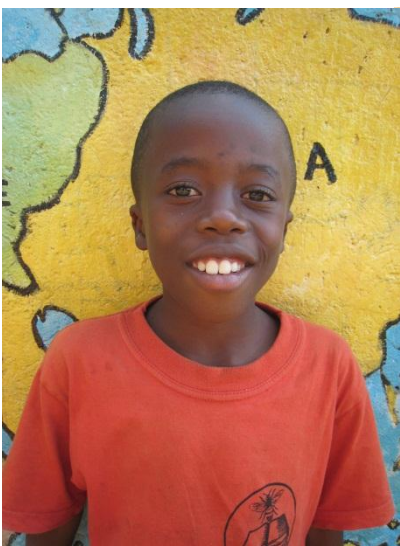
Sports Friday / Crazy relays

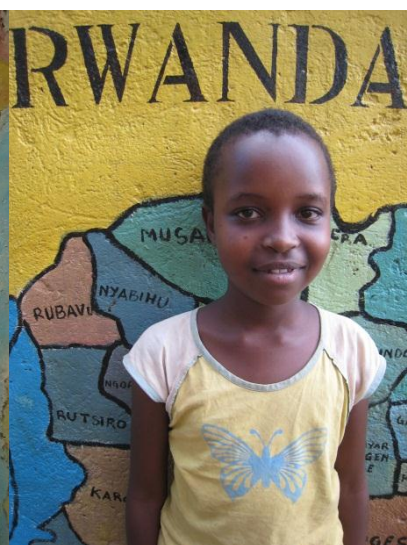
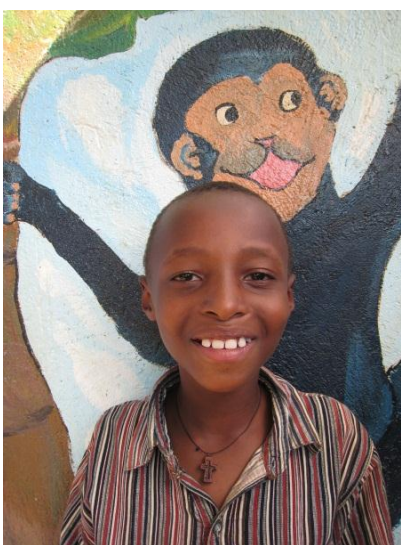














Still a great hit.....All together now

"Here in Kinamba, we have fun, fun, fun, fun, fun,
We play games and we run, run, run, run, run,
We sing songs and we sing, sing, sing, along,
Because here in Kinamba,
We have fun, fun, fun, fun, fun!"

The Kinamba Community Project / Meg Foundation takes on volunteers throughout the year. For further information please contact Meg on info@kinambaproject.org.uk and please feel free to forward on the email address to any interested parties. We welcome you to join the "Kinamba Community Project" group on Facebook.







With special thanks to the following people and organisations:

From Rwanda's daily newspaper "The New Times", we'd like to thank Mr. Allan Brian Ssenyonga for visiting the Meg Foundation and holding a workshop.

ACLE www.acle.org, who helped with supplies, photo copied worksheets etc along with all the ACLE staff and tutors who helped raise 600 Euro, one hundred more than last year, by purchasing one of these hand made elephants and giraffes. I have a new batch that needs to be moved so please contact me if you'd like one or.....

Mr John from America. Thanks mate. All at Meg Foundation are very lucky to have you around!!

To the Kinamba Community, Staff at Meg Foundation and especially the children who make the holiday programme, thank you all for your hospitality!

Finally without Meg none of us would be here!! A huge thank you to Meg for all her hard work, dedication and effort she has put in over the years!

If you have any ideas for fund raising, activities for the children, suggestions or contacts please do pass them on.

Once again, if you're interested in sponsoring a child at Meg Foundation or making a donation please visit the website or contact Meg directly on info@kinambaproject.org.uk

Thank you!

Here we are in 2009 with the 17 children who made up the holiday club.

