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Kusoma Tu Foundation



Fathers from Chesitet Primary School compete in a spirited 100-metre race during Sports Day.

CHESITET: CELEBRATING LEARNING AND COMMUNITY

From 9–11 July, part of the Kusoma Tu team, together with leaders from Journey Village Church Kikuyu, travelled to Chesitet to take part in a special prize-giving and awards ceremony for the children and parents of Chesitet Primary School.

This was a particularly significant occasion for the school community. For the first time, a sports day was held at Chesitet Primary School. Students and parents participated in a range of sporting activities, bringing tremendous joy and excitement to the whole community. For many of the children and parents, it was a unique opportunity to come together, celebrate one another and enjoy a day of fun and fellowship.

The prize-giving ceremony was also an important opportunity to celebrate and encourage the children. Awards were presented to students who had performed particularly well academically, as well as to those who had demonstrated consistent attendance at school.
Importantly, prizes were also given to the parents of these students. This was a way of recognising and encouraging parents for their role in ensuring that their children attend school regularly and have the opportunity to learn. In a community where education can face many challenges, encouraging both children and parents is an important part of strengthening the value placed on education.

We are deeply thankful to the Lord for the partnership between Kusoma Tu, Journey Village Church Kenya and our supporters in Australia. Through the generous provision of Leeton Church NSW in Australia, funds were provided towards a much-needed generator, laptop and speaker. These resources will not only support the work in Chesitet but will also be used more widely in the community for outreach and evangelistic purposes.

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The gifts distributed to students and their families, together with the financial support that helped make the team's journey to Chesitet possible, were a tremendous blessing. We are truly thankful to the Lord for His provision and for everyone who gave, prayed and helped make this special time possible.

The sports day, prize-giving and awards ceremony were about much more than a single event. They were an opportunity to celebrate the value of education, strengthen relationships with families and encourage children and parents to continue pursuing learning.

The Growing Work of Kusoma Tu in Chesitet

When we first began working in Chesitet, the literacy programme was operating from a disused government clinic. What began as a small literacy initiative has grown into a place where children and adults can learn, relationships can be built and the love of Christ can be demonstrated in practical ways.

Through Kusoma Tu and our partnership with Open Schools Worldwide, children and adults in Chesitet are gaining the opportunity to learn to read and write. For many, this is something that would otherwise be completely beyond their reach.

However, the work in Chesitet is about much more than literacy. As relationships have developed, the team has been able to walk alongside families, respond to practical needs and support individuals facing extremely difficult circumstances.
We are also praying and trusting the Lord for the establishment of a permanent mission station in Chesitet.

For some time, we have prayed for someone to come alongside Irene in the ministry. The Lord has answered that prayer in a wonderful way by bringing Sam into Irene's life. Sam shares Irene's heart for mission and has a deep love and passion for serving among the Pokot people. At present, Irene and Sam continue to carry out literacy and ministry work from the unused government clinic where the programme began. While this space has been a tremendous blessing, they are now praying for a home of their own and a permanent base from which the work can continue and grow.

We are trusting God for His provision for a home and mission station that will serve as a place of welcome, learning, discipleship and practical ministry in the community.

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OPEN SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN

TeachBeyond | UK Transformational Education Services



Mums from Chesitet Primary taking part in a marble spoon race.

The Wider Impact: Abi Cheptoo's Story

One of the young people we first met through the literacy programme in Chesitet was Abi Cheptoo.

Abi was one of the older children who spent much of her time around the disused government clinic where the programme operates. When we first met her, she was physically very fragile but incredibly eager to learn. During the early days of the programme, she spent much of her time with Irene Maina and Irene Kiror whenever they were in Chesitet.

At just ten years old, Abi was tragically taken into the bush to undergo female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice that sadly continues in some parts of the Pokot community. She subsequently developed serious health complications, including an overactive thyroid. Her condition was made worse when a local traditional medicine practitioner attempted to remove the thyroid, leaving her with significant scarring around her neck.

Through a video sharing Abi's story, a kind supporter recognised the symptoms of an overactive thyroid and contacted us. Through this connection, Abi was able to receive treatment at Kijabe Mission Hospital.

However, when the team later returned to Chesitet after a break, they found Abi extremely unwell and almost unable to move. We discovered that, because no one in her family could read or write, they had struggled to administer her medication at the correct times. This had made her condition significantly worse.

Irene Kiror decided to take Abi under her wing and invited her to live with her so that she could receive the medication, care and nutrition she needed. This was a significant sacrifice for Irene, who was herself serving as a missionary and trusting the Lord for her own provision.
Over the past two years, Abi has received the care she so desperately needed. At the same time, we have sought opportunities for her future. She began learning to sew and showed a remarkable aptitude for it. Irene also worked through the Open Schools literacy programme with Abi in a home-schooling setting, and her ability and enthusiasm for learning were incredible.



Abi Cheptoo is standing next to the school board in her brand new uniform. The smiles on her face were truly priceless.

We also began praying for a suitable school for Abi. This was not an easy task. We needed to find a school that would understand her background, her health needs and the challenges she had faced.

In May this year, we were finally able to give thanks to the Lord for an answer to prayer. Abi now has a place at a boarding school in her region, not far from her family. The headteacher and staff understand the needs of students like Abi and are committed to supporting her.

Abi's story is one example of the wider impact of the work in Chesitet. Literacy opened the door for a relationship. That relationship enabled people to recognise her needs, advocate for her, find medical help and walk alongside her as she began to consider a different future.

This is why we believe the work of Kusoma Tu is so important. Literacy is not simply about learning to read and write. It opens doors to opportunity, independence, education and hope.

The Work Continues in Lodwar

We are also thankful to the Lord for the continued work taking place in Lodwar through our sister Dorcus and her team.

Through their ongoing commitment, the Open Schools programme continues to provide opportunities for people who have had little or no access to formal education. We are grateful for Dorcus's faithfulness and for the team working alongside her as they serve the community. Recently, the team requested urgent prayer for our brothers and sisters in Kalemngorok, who are currently experiencing Pokot raids. The resulting insecurity and chaos are interfering with learning.

Please pray that peace will prevail in Losol Interior and the surrounding areas so that learning can resume in a safe and stable environment.
As we look ahead, we are praying for the continued growth of the work in Chesitet, Lodwar and other communities across Kenya.

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A new cohort of children taking part in literacy lessons.

Please Pray With Us

- Give thanks for the opportunity to hold the first sports day at Chesitet Primary School and for the joy it brought to students, parents and the wider community.
- Give thanks for the prize-giving ceremony and pray that the encouragement given to students and parents will strengthen their commitment to education.
- Give thanks for the generous provision of the generator, laptop and speaker, which will support both ministry and outreach in Chesitet.
- Pray for God's provision for a permanent home and mission station in Chesitet.
- Pray for strength, wisdom and provision for Irene and Sam as they serve the Pokot community.
- Pray for continued health, growth and success for Abi as she begins this new chapter at school.
- Pray for Dorcus and her team in Lodwar as they continue the work of Kusoma Tu.
- Pray for peace in Kalemngorok, Losol Interior and the surrounding areas so that learning can continue safely.
- Pray for the continued growth of the literacy programme and for more volunteers and mission workers to come alongside the work.
- Pray for provision for the resources, training and practical needs required to reach more communities.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers and support. The work of Kusoma Tu continues because people like you stand with us.

Together, we are helping to open doors to literacy, education, opportunity and hope, while building relationships and demonstrating the love of Christ in communities across Kenya.



Adult student learners in Lodwar faithfully attend their morning and afternoon literacy classes.

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PHOTO-GALLERY



L: Younger children playing with balloons for the first time.

Below: Children and Adults take part wholeheartedly in various games ranging from balloon race, 100m dash, relays and throwing the balls into a circle.







Below: Boys and girls taking part in sprint races, icebreaker games and awards presented to students and parents.





