

Newsletter 72, September 2015

Since some time ago we daily encounter pictures and accounts about people, who with great hardship and suffering and with no assurances for a better life, are forced to leave their homes and all their possessions, trying to find security in a foreign country. Vilhelm Moberg's suite about Kristina and Karl Oskar feels up-to-the minute. The need for immediate help is enormous and many participate in voluntary activities to ease the huge suffering we see.

My thoughts go to the children in S:t Christine School. I think of their situation today and what it could have been if we hadn't dared to, together, enter into the big undertaking of building and operating the school. Since the association is the main sponsor of the school, economic issues are constantly on the agenda. The school is still very much depending on contributions from our members and sponsors, gifts and other revenue which we manage to collect from other events and activities which we arrange.

The board has formed a small working group called The Fund Group with the purpose to find organizations and foundations and investigate which possibilities we have to apply for donations and contributions. Up to now the progress has been slow, and we feel that they normally chose to support bigger organizations. This feels a bit sad, as we, just because we are a small organization, need all the support we can get.

As we have told earlier the exchange rate has had a big negative influence on the economy. Costs and expenses for the school have been reviewed and some savings were necessary to implement. We have heard that there are rumors and some misunderstanding among the village people and the staff of S:t Christine regarding the cause of these measures. We have also heard that they don't believe in or understand that we have difficulties raising enough money. In order to restore confidence, increase the understanding of the situation and provide a correct picture of the economy, the association's accountant Per Kingfors will put together a report of the association's economic situation, which will be delivered to the head master David and Albinus Odada.

Culture Night in Norrköping on September 26th

Even this year Café Jolla welcomes us and lets us borrow a table and use the sidewalk outside the café during the Culture Night in Norrköping. This location served us well last year as many passed on their way to and from the many events of the night. We hope that we, just as last year, will meet some of you members living in and around Norrköping. Bring you friends and visit us! We will be there from 1:00 PM till some time in the evening, depending on weather and winds. You will find Café Jolla in Prästgatan 3, Se also [www. Jolla.se](http://www.Jolla.se).

Latest news from S:t Christine school in Kabondo.

At the beginning of August the school gathered all custodians and local leaders for the finish of the second semester. The students, who had participated in music and drama competitions, performed to the audience. The pre-schoolers' show was particularly enjoyed. The results of the classes were announced and all of them had made improvements compared to the tests after the first semester. The students had made so called *zonal exams* as had 30 other schools. They had, as we are used to see since previous years, achieved good results in general. The teachers made speeches to the custodians, emphasizing their important roles as models and inviting them to come and participate in the children's activities at school. Representatives for the custodians also spoke and praised the teachers for their excellent work and for seeing to that children, who became ill, quickly were brought to help at the clinic in the neighboring village Othoro.

Augustine, one of the teachers at school, declared that the teachers are very satisfied with their situation at the school, the good cooperation among the teachers, sufficient teaching staff, the meals

which the children get every day, the available teaching material and the fact that they as teachers never have to wait for their monthly salary. During the second semester the teachers had conversations with the older students in one boys and one girls group. The conversations were about becoming an adult, sexuality, how to behave and all those things that teenagers need to discuss comfortably with adults, whom they can trust. Evans, the deputy head master, talked with the custodians about just those things at the finishing party at the beginning of August. He emphasized the importance of supporting the girls in particular and not allowing them to go out after nightfall. The custodians promised to support the school with a "tin of maize" each semester, around one kilogram. This is a valuable addition to the school's food budget. David urged the custodians to take the primary school seriously and support the children in their efforts to achieve good results. Normally Secondary schools receive more attention, but the results from Primary schools are the entry ticket to a good Secondary school. The students in the upper grades have had additional tests together with a neighboring school now at the beginning of the last semester. During the break in August the pupils in 7th and 8th grade got extra tuition. The teachers then focused on supporting those who have difficulties of various kinds. This yielded good results: All the students in grade 8, except for two, got enough points to be admitted into Secondary school. It seems that the school now has one student, who has exceptionally high points in 8th grade.

S:t Christine School was very successful both academically and in the music and drama competitions where they have participated. Graduates from S:t Christine, who now are in Secondary school, were gathered in the school at the end of August. Almost all of these students have Swedish sponsors, whom they stand in contact with. In the meeting they agreed to meet once every semester to support each other and chat about life in Secondary school. The teachers are the key to their success, their devoted work and inventive thinking, their ambition to always succeed. The members of Kisumu Association can be proud of what the donations from one and all contribute to make a difference for each teacher and pupil at S:t Christine.

Greetings from Ulla Sturæus, manager of S:t Christine school.

The Association's and Foundation's home pages.

In the Association's home page www.kisumu.se you find a link to www.st-christine.org, which is the home page of S:t Christine Foundation. There you will find reports and news from the school. The Kisumu Association is now also on Facebook.

Coming activities – concert & sale

In an attempt to reach more than the members at Christmas we are investigating the possibilities to participate in a Christmas Fair in Stockholm and Norrköping. We hope to be able to organize a concert like the ones we have had earlier in Årsta church, but this time in the Norrköping area.

We would gratefully receive suggestions from you members for fairs, events, places or premises where we can participate or arrange our own activities and hopefully find more members and create new contacts, all with the purpose to secure the inflow of money for operation and maintenance of the school.

You are also welcome to suggest performers in a coming concert.

With hope for a continued fruitful cooperation and continuing engagement for the children in S:t Christine school we, the board, wish all members a pleasant autumn.