

Special Edition

Kibidula News

January - March 2004

Unity Really is Blessed!

By Jason Herral

A lovely, vivid description of Christian unity is given in the 133rd Psalm.

“How rare it is, how lovely, This fellowship of those who meet together! - sweet as the sacred oil poured on the head, that flows down Aaron’s beard, down to the very collar of his robe; vital as dew of Hermon, that falls on the hills of Sion. For in this fellowship has the Eternal fixed the blessing of an endless life.” (Moffatt)

We at Kibidula may not yet understand all of that description but we do long to share more of the blessedness of brotherly unity. We long to cooperate with God as He seeks to draw us together. We see that allowing Jesus into our hearts means letting Him pull us nearer to others, and so we desire closer fellowship with one another.

During the last part of 2003, the Kibidula executive committee began to plan specific steps in the

process of coming up with a mission statement that expresses who we are as a group of missionaries. We desire a mission statement that represents us accurately, putting words to the unified group we long to be, not simply some nice writing to put in a plaque and hang on a wall. We would like to have the experience that can come in writing out a mission statement even more than the actual mission statement itself.

And so, the first item in our action plan was to have a whole weekend, a retreat, dedicated to coming together and working out the beginnings of the Kibidula mission statement. January 2 - 4 found us all in a place called Makalale, the Roman Catholic convent with conference facilities, near Mafinga. There we met together, prayed together, ate together, walked together, and became excited together about the possibilities that lay ahead for us in this process of seeking for

unity. All of the Kibidula staff families and their children, had comfortable guest rooms to stay in at the convent. Good food was provided so that all the staff members were able to participate in the various meetings and discussions. As a lovely result of the time spent together we did truly draw closer together, getting a small foretaste of the blessed unity we believe God wants us to experience. That weekend was the beginning of a process that continues to the present. Weekly staff meetings have begun and have been well received by all. Kibidula staff as a whole are looking forward to the second annual Kibidula inspiration weekend!! Please keep us in your prayers, as we endeavor to understand by experience what Psalm 133 is trying to tell us!



Songs, stories, tricks, jokes and much more was shared in our talent show!



What's Been

Happening Lately?

- *Kibidula Training Center is running a 4 month course right now and we praise the Lord for the 21 students that came from all over the country to attend!*
- *Patrick Mahoney, from Ireland, has joined the Kibidula team for a short term lending a hand in building the new Training Center.*
- *The Kibidula Board Meeting was held on February 29. We thank all those that traveled far to attend.*

Come and Meet the Kibidula Family in this Issue!!

God Be With You 'Till we Meet Again...

By Antionette Fournier

The day to bid Jason Herral and Rahel Züst farewell has come all too soon! For almost 3 years Jason Herral has shared his amazing talents in teaching and preaching to spread the gospel here in Tanzania. Many people have been baptized, and many students' lives have been touched by this young man who chose to obey God's call for His life and share the love of God for man wherever he went.

Similarly Rahel has amazed us with her dedication and love for the people in the surrounding villages as she went day after day visiting them all and sharing with them secrets to true happiness and salvation. Rahel will leave behind a little band of expatriate children that she has faithfully and lovingly tutored for the past 19 months. The many plays, games and recitals that they shared with the rest of

us during this time has made it clear how much they have benefited from her unselfish and efficient labor. Kibidula can never adequately say 'Thank You!' for everything you've done! Our prayer is, that wherever you might find yourselves in the future, that all will go well for the two of you and that God's Spirit will be using you mightily where He sees best.

Egglar Family from Switzerland

We are one of the three Swiss families that live on Kibidula at the moment. I'm a teacher and after 14 years of teaching in Switzerland we decided that I would take a sabbatical leave.

Kibidula is a fine opportunity for getting in contact with a different culture. It's quite fascinating to learn the

'African way of living'. It's so different from our life in Switzerland. Houses, mobility, food, even the way you shake hands is quite different to western Europe life.

As parents we enjoy seeing how our 4 children have the opportunity to spend a lot of their time outdoors. Nature starts just right

outside the house door. As Swiss we enjoy especially the big open space of Kibidula. Tanzania is a big country and Kibidula is a great place to be. We are richly blessed and thankful for this opportunity to be able to stay here for almost one year.



Urs, Beatrice, Micheal, Stephanie, Bettina & Nadja

Emanuel Family from Tanzania

We are Dina and Ezekiel Emanuel and we live on the property owned by Kibidula in the town called Mafinga. We have worked for Kibidula for the past 15 years. Some of our duties include receiving all the visitors that come to Kibidula; serving the customers who want to buy books from our

Kibidula Book Center; dealing with the lumber needs of Kibidula; and measuring churches in different places throughout Tanzania for our Roofs For Africa program.

We thank the Lord for placing us here because we learn many things from life as well as spiri-

tual. We get to know many people so we thank Him for putting us in such a place. We trust that as the Lord will provide we shall continue to work in what ever place He has provided for us.



Ezekiel, Dina & Pendo

Fournier Family from Canada & South Africa

2003 Started on a high note for us with the birth of our daughter on January 17. Twalisa has really brightened up this last year with her rapid growth and amazing development. It truly has been a very rewarding but also very challenging year for us here in Africa. When we look back at what lies behind us there are many

beacons of accomplishment and growth as well as disappointment and failures that lays strewn across the ground we have covered. Words cannot adequately express how the Lord guided, molded and blessed. We were involved in breaking the ground and building a primary school for the children in our area and we are so grate-

ful for all the wonderful support Kibidula has received for this new project. It was a big blessing to have three of our four parents visit us here in Tanzania during 2003. As we tread on new ground in 2004 we pray for wisdom and your prayers to continue our labor in this little corner of the world.



Jason, Antionette & Twalisa



Jason Harral from the USA



Jason

Looking back at 2003, I ask myself, "Are we proclaiming the Gospel that will do the greatest good?" *"It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing the knowledge of His character."*

Last July, in remote Rukwa Valley, we saw poverty, alcoholism, ignorance and disease clearly resulting from that

darkness. What can we do to help people in conditions like that?

"At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known."

Are we speaking clearly while drawing close to the people for long enough, so they understand how wonderful their Creator is?

"Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth." Christ's Object Lessons, p. 415.

2003 leaves a question lingering in my mind: "Is the Gospel I've preached this past year truly the everlasting Gospel?"

Kiwovele Family from Tanzania



Watson, Mariam, Love, Godwin & Given

"God is good all the time." This statement gives me a clear understanding of what He has done for my family. Although I was traveling to different places, He kept my family safe. But, in our mind we had an idea that the day is coming when we will have another baby. The time finally came! It was December 11, 2003 when

my wife, Mariam, gave birth to our baby girl, Given. We were so excited! Praise be to God who gave us a time to work for Him and for this precious gift of a baby girl!

The year 2003 was also very busy for me. I taught and translated during the two school sessions at our Kibidula Training Center. I also traveled a lot where

I translated during four evangelistic efforts. I also trained our team members to do door-to-door witnessing. I have been so happy for this work and I praise the Lord for giving me this opportunity to serve Him.

Matekere Family from Tanzania



Dan, Florence, Ephraim & Samwel

We would like to thank the Lord for His mercy and loving kindness which enabled us to come through the year 2003. May His name be praised.

Last year had its challenges for our daily lives. At the beginning of the year our second son had surgery due to a new-growth at the base of his tongue. We thank the Lord for taking care of the situation.

Struggles in life were always there, but we praise the Lord for seeing us

through all those difficulties. It was another privilege to know and make friends when other new families joined the Kibidula team i.e. Temboh Family from Zambia, Vinson Family from the USA and the Egger Family from Switzerland.

Lastly it was really a blessing as Kibidula staff members with their families went out for a special weekend retreat for spiritual nourishment and for a deeper insight on their mis-

sion here. That was a new beginning for the team here, and the subjects presented were of great help for the future success of the Institution. This was really a precious time to contemplate why we are here and to find ways of being more of what God intended us to be.

We praise God for that special weekend. May God continue to bless His work here and around the world. Amen.

Mqimwa Family from Tanzania

Soon it will be ten years of being married! We want to give special thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He bestowed upon us. We also thank God for His special guidance and protection through the years.

We thank Him for giving us two sons, Nathaniel and Ron. Nathaniel is 9 and Ron is 7. We pray that the Lord will continue to give them strength spiritually and physically and that in the years to come they may be soldiers in His

field. We want to thank the Lord that He gave us something to do in His field. We enjoy and love to be workers together with Him. Pray for us please.



Fulgenzio, Upendo, Nathaniel & Ron

Mosier Family from the USA

In December 2002, Marybeth and Barry became the proud grandparents of Emily Hope Abbott. Laura (Mosier) Abbott and husband Ben have now settled in Nebraska after graduation from Union College.

Marybeth continued to deliver village babies all through the year with many a thrilling moment! Then, in July, Happy, an

HIV-positive orphan, came to live with us up to now.

Evangelism coordination and book selling consumed most of Barry's energy this past year.

After graduation from Mission College of Evangelism, Keith was thrilled to see 80 new Christians baptized as a result of God's blessing in the 5 efforts he preached in un-entered areas.

Keith & Jared bought 2 used Honda 250 motorcycles in 2003 and thoroughly enjoy them! Jared loves to run errands now and even April is constantly asking for rides!

April loves her new bicycle, kitten, puppy, and many playmates at Kibidula!



Barry, Marybeth, Keith, Jared, April & Happy

Riederer Family from Switzerland

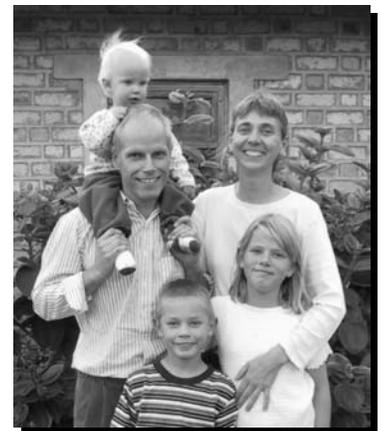
I was just reflecting on how much has changed since we came to Kibidula five years ago. We no longer cook outside on a charcoal burner, or haul water for our baths. We now have a nice wood stove to cook and bake with, and even have the luxury of hot water when the stove is in use.

These changes have improved our standard of living, yet I think the most important changes have been the ones we have gone

through personally. We are learning that solutions to problems often start with ourselves, and that has helped us grow as a family, and as Kibidula team members. One of the highlights of the past year has been to see Helena (our youngest) grow from a baby to an active little girl, and we have been blessed with many happy moments together as a family.

I would not be honest if I couldn't admit that there are

also trying times. I watched a premature baby die after it struggled to live for some hours. With no modern neonatal facilities available we did the best we could and prayed. I was very disappointed when the baby died. Knowing that God's love is far greater than mine could ever be, and experiencing His closeness through difficult times gives me the courage and hope to continue my walk with the Lord here in Kibidula. Anita



Thomas, Anita, Ariane, Philip & Helena



**Sylvester, Unity,
Brian & Komana**

Temboh Family from Zambia

Time seems to be running out very fast, and we are almost making it one full year at Kibidula. A lot of changes have taken place here and there and we as a family have been in one way or the other affected. As part of the team, we have been enjoying the growth in which everyone is a participant and look for-

ward to the challenges and fruits of our labor.

The year 2004 began with a lot of spiritual revival to us, and some good improvement in the Swahili language which resulted in improved relationships with the local people. This has also become a good tool in our school duties.

Brian and Komana are actually Swahili teach-

ers in our family and we are glad they love the place and enjoy their time. Mrs. Temboh (Unity) has made a lot of friends and is quite excited by the development. We love it here and are glad that we are part of the Kibidula team, a unique family, a school where God is teaching us through life experiences.

Robert Onsare Tinega from Kenya



Robert

Reflecting on the trends that have begun to work towards strengthening and diversifying Kibidula's influence, I am personally caught between excitement and determination. I give thanks to God for blending us together people from different nationalities working towards one goal to see Christ coming soon. A bee project I am interesting in

has made me very excited and we plan to support this project by planting Mucu trees with their flowers for the bees. I have personally learned to be attentive to the voice of God in nature. The birds which have transformed my appreciation for Kibidula can also be a blessing to local and international visitors. It is interesting to hear them praising

their Creator with all kinds of blessed music. I believe that the work of the Holy Spirit of God is to lead people to see Him in creation and to help them find more spiritual insight and happiness in nature. Therefore I have a dream of making Kibidula a bird sanctuary!

Vinson Family from the USA



Ben & Pam

We would like to share with you some of the blessings of this past year. In April Ben finished his mechanics / flight school training in Conway, SC, USA. In June God lead us to Tanzania through Global Evangelism and impressed us to stay in Africa after the efforts were finished. In July He brought us to Kibidula through meeting the Mosier and Fournier Families.

Once again He impressed us that this is where He wanted us. In August we entered language school to learn Swahili. In November we graduated from language school, got our residency permit and began to work at Kibidula. We work in the maintenance department making parts for the farm equipment, security bars for the Primary school's windows

and fixing everything else from trucks to umbrellas! He-he...

Thank you for all your love, prayers and support this past year. May God richly bless you in this new year!

Waber Family from Switzerland

January 17 was a milestone for us. Two years have already rolled by since we arrived in Kibidula after a long trip from Switzerland. We all liked Kibidula from the start. More than 800 days later, we call Kibidula "Home". The more extroverted or persevering among us have mastered the basics of communication with Swahili, the rest pass the test of greetings at the beginning of every conversation. We have learnt to live like our grandparents, do 101

things for the first time, meet the needs of family members which before were met by others, use our time, energy and resources wisely, take initiative to change things we can change. We are grateful to be here, knowing that God lead us here for a purpose. We see more and more clearly, that God enrolled us in this school and is teaching us not just to stumble along in life, but to learn to run. "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn

you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?" (Jer.12.5) He is training us for the work He has in mind for us here in Kibidula and He knows for what more on this planet. And one day He will lead all of us who have learned in His school (Mat 11.28+29) across the Jordan into the promised land.



Jean-Luc, Doris, Ellen, Eric, Christoph, Matthias, Livia & Tim



Rahel

Rahel Züst from Switzerland

I spent the whole year of 2003 at Kibidula and soon it will be time to leave this peaceful place. So, when I look back to 2003 I look back to my time at Kibidula. In teaching some of the missionary children which

have been my main responsibility, I learned a lot for myself. I like to look back and see how they have learned and changed themselves. In addition I experienced institutional life and learned about myself and

got new ideas for my own future. I enjoyed especially seeing European life with other eyes. In the silence and solitude of nature I could see many things more clearly and I don't want to forget this experience.

Current Kibidula Projects You Could Support:

- Church Building - \$ 1, 000 per church.
- Bibles for Prisoners - \$ 3.60 per Bible.
- Translation and Publication of Swahili Literature and Books.
 - Lay Missionaries in un-entered areas - \$50 per month.
- Tuition for needy students at Kibidula Training Center - \$100 per student.



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Please designate on check 'Kibidula' and the project you want to support. Thank you.