

**OSILIGI MAASAI WARRIOR TROUPE DEVON/CORNWALL TOUR 2009**  
**&**  
**MAASAI PLAINS VIEW SCHOOL APPEAL**

Dear Friend,

The Troupe returned home on 29th November, after a 13 week tour, their longest since the annual event started in 2003. During that time they performed 138 times at 111 venues and the tour proved their most successful yet with most of the public performances sold to capacity to audiences who unanimously expressed their joy and admiration of the Troupe's efforts.

It was obvious to us all that the schools in both counties lacked previous opportunities to watch African performers. It was therefore a great experience for all of us, working in and with the Troupe, to see the appreciation and understanding by both children and staff for the narrated performances of the group. We left each school feeling that we had implanted some knowledge of the Maasai culture and indeed the hardships experienced by them in their little community. Added to this was the feeling that all audiences had come to realise that such hardships were borne with great equanimity brought about by the total harmony in which the Maasai live. As I often said to audiences, "The Troupe sing in harmony, they dance in harmony and, most importantly, they live in harmony ! "

This year saw two changes to the Troupe. Daniel Mosiro coming in as Narrator and Lydia as female singer. Daniel acquitted himself brilliantly with every audience, child and adult, and his efforts were even more outstanding knowing that this was the first time he had left his homeland, and that his English was self taught. Lydia came here a very shy fragile soul. However as her confidence grew she blossomed both as a singer and as a member of the Troupe, with a smile always to be remembered. Lydia also sadly learnt of her mother's death, whilst on tour. This too she accepted with great stoicism as always with the great support from her fellow performers.

Sarge was thrilled to learn that his wife had given birth to a son, the couple's third boy. He had the less pleasant experience of having a tooth extracted during the tour, Daniel, his interpreter for the occasion, proving very squeamish at the sight of the needle !! I asked Daniel how they coped with extractions at home. " We just use a pair of pliers -no injections" was his reply." Doesn't the patient feel it ? " I asked " Oh yes but there are six people holding him down !! "

Richard Webster, a local St Austell resident, took on the job of driving the bus but soon happily took on the job of props and stage managing the performances. Without him we would never have managed, and along the way he became a very dear friend of the Troupe He also kept the group supplied with DVD's and tolerated much strange music on the bus cassette player !!

Jerry Horsman's support and help in so many ways proved an absolute godsend in so many directions and, as far as the Troupe are concerned, his kindness for arranging a

weekend away with three generous families was much appreciated. Additionally he kindly agreed to act as Treasurer of the School appeal fund ( see below ). Thanks must go to the Barriball family whose many many kindnesses went way beyond those of a caring landlord and his family. Lastly the Troupe would express their gratitude to the many people, particularly from the local parish church, who have befriended them in both kind and in the name of friendship.

The Troupe are to be congratulated for always giving of their brilliant best, never succumbing to the fatigue which they sometimes must have been feeling. They go home safe in the knowledge that they have left behind many many friends. Jim Wilkie, who will take over the organising of the tours from now forward, can rest assured that he has a group of the highest quality with which to work

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Apart from his many other kindnesses, referred to above, Jerry Horsman agreed to take on the Treasurer's post of the fund and, to this end, has set up a bank account in Exeter in the fund's name. Money has started to come in from donors in both counties and indeed many schools have said that they will be organising fundraising efforts for the appeal in the coming two terms. It is obvious that the whole existing school must be radically refurbished and re-equipped or that a new school must be built nearby. Most excitingly a Devon couple, Helen and Roger Pannell have kindly expressed an interest in helping to turn this dream into a reality. We shall report on this, as things develop and giving details of the 2010 tour at the end of March

John Curtin December 2009