

Subject: Savuto -- Home Safe and Sound

2pm Sunday 13 Jan. 08

Dear Friends and Family,

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” ~Mother Teresa

We arrived in Maua at 2:30pm yesterday afternoon. Today when I received and read our emails from Dec. 10th – Jan. 12th I was overwhelmed by your concern and love for Kenya and Bill and me. We have so many emails I will not be able to write each of you personally, but I believe this email will answer many of your questions and concerns.

As we watched the news and read the reports about Kenya on the internet while still in the US, we were extremely concerned and very prayerful. We did not know if we should return so made some calls to Kenya and learned that things were fairly peaceful with no problems in Maua. Thus we left Dallas on Tues. afternoon as planned and arrived in Nairobi late Wednesday night. At the airport I talked to a policeman who assured me things were peaceful. We took a taxi late at night to the Methodist Guest House with no incident or problem. Our taxi driver was from Limuru, one of the towns that had experienced violence. He explained that there was little violence but threats that people from the west needed to go back home thus causing displacement of several families.

We spent two days in Nairobi, trying to renew our vehicle insurance and obtaining our alien's registration, neither of which was accomplished. We saw no violence nor experienced any problems but we certainly saw the outcome of earlier violence. Our trip to Maua was without incident.

To our sorrow, Raila, the man who did not win the election, has called for demonstrations on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this coming week. The government has said the demonstrations will not take place as they cause violence, killing, and looting. In Maua there have been no problems nor are we expecting any. Approximately 95% of our population support Kibaki. Many people we have talked to feel that this Wednesday will be a turning point. Please pray with us that it will be a turning point for peace and acceptance rather than for continued violence. Kenya has such potential, but like all nations and even all people, we have potential for good and for evil. We are praying that Kenya's potential for good will win out.

On our last Sunday in the USA we were worshiping in Prosper UMC, where our son-in-law is music director. The first hymn we sang was “There is a song in the air”. When I noted that, I was reminded that five years ago I wrote an email with that as the subject line. Kibaki had just been elected and there was such joy over his election, such hope in a brighter future that literally there seemed to be a ‘song in the air’. Five years later he is re-elected and violence and tribalism replaces the joy and hope for many.

We have been very impressed with what has happened in the last five years. I think it helps to go away and come back because it is easier to see all the change and marvel at what has been accomplished in such a short time.

We are so grateful for your prayers and love. Please continue to pray for Kenya. The next weeks and months will determine its direction for many years. There has already been too much violence, too much bad publicity, too much fear. They have already lost millions of schillings from the loss of tourists. May we all remember “we belong to each other”.

And now for something completely different: Our time in the US was extraordinary. We had such an amazing time with our family. As I age I appreciate the making of good memories more than

almost anything and wow! did we make some wonderful memories. A few of those memories include attending a Christmas pageant and choir concert at Prosper UMC. Lily, our granddaughter, was an angel in the pageant and the most precious angel we've ever seen and Brent's choir concert was excellent. We also watched Lily sing with her pre-school class and dance with her dance group. We had the great joy of taking care of Lily and Ethan for three days while Corrie and Brent had a few days away. We crammed as much as we could into those three days and we all had so much fun. I flew home to spend 4 days with my mom before all the family arrived. My sister and mom picked me up at the Albuquerque Airport and we spent such a wonderful day together. My mom, at 89, is amazing and still runs circles around me. Then we went to my sister and brother-in-law's home in the mountains for a snowy, white, and wondrous Christmas. Our last weekend in the US, Bill's brother and family came to Frisco to see us and we so enjoyed time with all four of them. Other highlights included touch football with Ethan, hide-and-seek with both Ethan and Lily and a plethora of hugs and kisses from all.



Corrie, Brent, Lily & Ethan showing us how much they love us



Jerri, Jeannie and Mom

We do pray that 2008 brings peace to Kenya and the rest of this troubled world, out-stretched arms and open hands to all people to receive the blessings God has for each of us, and the hope and faith that allows us to work for peace with love and understanding using all the resources we would use for war.

In His grip and holding tightly,

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"Maybe we should develop a Crayola bomb as our next secret weapon. A happiness weapon. A beauty bomb. And every time a crisis developed, we would launch one. It would explode high in the air - explode softly - and send thousands, millions, of little parachutes into the air. Floating down to earth - boxes of Crayolas. And we wouldn't go cheap, either - not little boxes of eight. Boxes of sixty-four, with the sharpener built right in. With silver and gold and copper, magenta and peach and lime, amber and umber and all the rest. And people would smile and get a little funny look on their faces and cover the world with imagination." ~Robert Fulghum