

Subject: Savuto: Success Stories and The Rest of the Story!

24 February 2008

Dearest Friends and Family,

"Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; ... 3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. 4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations."

We are so grateful for all your prayers for Kenya. We continue to need them. It is difficult to know what is happening. Negotiations continue and we are all hopeful they are leading to peace. However, ODM has promised demonstrations next week and we are so prayerful they will be peaceful. Our prayer for Kenya right now is that the pain so many people have suffered is like labor pains and will produce a new nation, free from ethnic hatred and violence. We pray that God will bring beauty from ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, and will raise, repair and rebuild the destroyed land, homes and lives.

I do want to share some good news from Maua. Though so much destruction has happened there is always good happening, lives changed that glorify God, and God's love seen in the most surprising and amazing places and situations!

Maua Methodist Hospital raised 63,000Ksh. that we sent to the Presiding Bishop for Tumaini Na Undugu. We are so grateful for the staff's generosity. Our hospital is extremely busy right now. In the last month our out-patients have doubled in number from 200 – 250 to 350 – 488 daily. Our wards are busier than I have ever seen with 104 – 112% bed occupancy (yes, there are two patients in many beds). Pediatrics has had up to 98 patients; Surgical Ward has had 68 – 77 patients; Medical Ward has had 65 – 75 patients; and one night recently Maternity Ward delivered 17 babies (midwives not doctors!) We have called in all our nurses from leave, hired locums, and worked so very hard. I find the attitude of the staff phenomenal. When I ask how they are doing, they do not complain or fuss, but thank God for all the patients and the strength to manage day by day. One day when I went to talk to the Pediatric Ward In-charge, Sr. Sophia, when they had 92 babies and children of which it seemed 50 were crying, I asked how she was managing. At the time she was dealing with a physician, mothers, children, and me. She turned toward me with a smile on her face and replied, "By the grace of God and the prayers of many, we are finding the strength to do the work we need to do and we are doing the very best we can." We all need your prayers!

And now for the rest of the story: Those of you who have seen Bill's slides or Power Point presentation will remember a young girl named Julieta who had a large growth on the side of her chest. In June 2001 a newly married couple on their honeymoon, Jackie and Bob, led a team to Maua. During their time here, they went with one of our Outreach Clinics and met Julieta. At the time she was 10 years old. The growth on her chest was so large she could barely walk. She was not in school and her mother had told her that she had no money to help Julieta and so Julieta would die and when she did her mother would have another child. Julieta didn't think anyone loved her or wanted her alive. A compassionate teacher had brought her to the clinic.

Jackie and Bob were so touched by Julieta and determined to do something for her. When they returned to the compound they asked us what it would cost to remove the growth on Julieta's chest. We talked to Stanley Gitari and the surgeon, Dr. Ziegler. The cost would be \$45. Jackie

and Bob paid the money and Julieta came for the surgery. I met her for the first time after her surgery. Stanley Gitari brought her to the house to visit us. We were so impressed with her and so thankful that she had received help. She started to school for the first time shortly after her surgery. We visited Julieta at her school in April 2003. Her Head Master told us she was doing very well and was such a testimony to God's love and great evangelist for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

On Thursday 11 February 2008, Stanley Gitari came to my office right before lunch time. He had a beautiful 16 year old girl with him. They came into my office and Stanley asked me if I knew who she was. I looked at her and guessed but was incorrect. Then Stanley, with a huge grin on his face, said, "This is Julieta." I was so amazed, delighted, grateful to God, and joyful I could hardly contain myself. Stanley shared that Julieta was in Standard 7 and doing very well. She recently had been asked by a family to come and live with them as their baby-sitter/house helper. Julieta refused. She knows how important school is and she is determined to finish school. We are so proud of her. As I looked at and listened to Julieta, I could feel the presence of God in my office. "Beauty from ashes!"



Julieta before her surgery in 2001



Julieta after her surgery in 2001



Julieta in my office Feb. 2008

Recently, Reegan Kaberia, the young man who works for our Giving Hope program and Stanley Gitari who is in-charge of the program sent me five success stories. Giving Hope is a development program that works with the youth who are AIDS Orphans to help them in numerous ways including interventions aimed at sustainable self-employment; increased respect of rights, spiritual guidance, self-confidence, primary school completion; improved access to secondary education, hygiene & sanitation, medical care, diversified diet; and the reduction of frequency of illnesses to mention some of the anticipated impacts and goals. (See my 11/07/07 email)

Purity Kananu- Giving Hope Blessing Group

Purity is a 19-year-old total orphan. She lost both parents in the years 2001 and 2003 while in school. At her tender age, Purity assumed responsibility of providing food for her three sisters and brother who were all in school. Her siblings are Winfred Makena who has completed class eight, Josses Mutembei, Nyandola Karwitha, and Jedidah Gakeni who are still in primary school. After completing primary school, Purity attended a polytechnic for one year where she graduated as a tailor. To earn her living, Purity started renting a sewing machine for Ksh 300 every month which she was using to repair clothes for the neighbors. She joined Giving Hope and was supported to buy a sewing machine and given clothes to repair to start a tailoring business. She no longer needs to rent the machine and is able to not only repair old clothes, but also make school uniforms, dresses, skirts, and suits with new material. Her challenges are to meet the basic needs of her siblings because her business is very small. Her dream: To have the best cloth and tailor shop in town.

Purity with her sewing machine



One last bit of news about the hospital: In the past month our CEO has resigned and our Medical Officer In-charge left this past week. Friday the Hospital Management Team had a General Staff Meeting (the first since we have been here) to share this news and who will be acting in those positions for now. We are very encouraged and thanking God for His goodness. We do ask for prayer for all our new leaders. Dr. Claire Smithson, a mission partner from Britain, is serving as our Medical Officer In-charge, though she has more than a full time job as the Palliative Care physician. Bill will be the new Chairperson of the Computerization Committee, which has not functioned for some time. Mr. Gikemi will be acting CEO and Mr. Mung'athia will be acting Administrator. Please keep Bill, Dr. Claire, Mr. Gikemi, and Mr. Mung'athia along with all our management team in your prayers. Thank you!

I also wanted to tell you that UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, has an Advance Special for Kenya. You can give through your United Methodist Church or by sending a check to UMCOR and mail it to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Write "UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response - Kenya" on the memo line of your check. As always, UMCOR has been helping in Kenya from early January. We are so grateful for their assistance around the world and around the corner in the name of Jesus Christ.

May God bless each of you and transform your ashes into beauty.

In His grip,

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Everything that is done in the world is done by hope. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.