

Subject: Savuto - Smile, It's a New Kenya

9 March 08

Dearest Friends and Family,

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver." Barbara De Angelis

Before I begin to share today, I have been asked by one of our management team to ask for help. Our internal phone service has not been functioning for some time. The management is looking to buy a new PABX system. We want a system that will take us 10 years into the future (at least) and will allow us to grow. The management is presently looking at the Motorola VoIP Analog Gateway GT48 Series. We wondered if anyone knows about this system and could tell us if it is a good system to use in our hospital?

There is much news these days. On March 5th the headline of the Daily Nation was "Smile, It's a New Kenya" and showed President Kabaki and Mr. Odinga sitting together with huge smiles on their face. Those two men, with consultation from their respective political parties, are working out the details of our new government. They will be sharing power as Mr. Odinga will be the Prime Minister while President Kibaki remains President. There is a tremendous amount to do to work out all the details of the new government. We are all prayerful and hopeful that the government leaders are thinking more about the 1000's of homeless people still in the displaced camps throughout the country than about their own future.

Tumaini Na Undugu, the coalition of churches and businesses that the Methodist Church in Kenya is working with to distribute food, clothing, supplies and hope, is still very active. They are visiting the Internally Displaced Persons Camps around the country taking desperately needed food and supplies for the 1000's of persons who still have no place to live. We are so grateful that they continue to "be with those people".

There continues to be so many good things happening at Maua Methodist Hospital. For the past three weeks, Dr. Stan Topple, a retired Presbyterian missionary from the US, has been here doing orthopedic surgery. His specialty is performing surgery on disabled children. He did 29 surgeries in the last three weeks and changed the life of 29 children, youth and adults. The week before Dr. Topple arrived a team of ENT surgeons and anesthetists were here from Sweden. They were able to do 39 surgeries in one week. They removed tonsils and adenoids and did numerous ear surgeries. Yesterday, David and Mary Sarson arrived from Great Britain. They have been coming to Maua since 1999. David is a surgeon and Mary, a nurse, works in our pharmacy storeroom and we are so grateful for both of them and what they do as volunteers to help the hospital.

I wanted to share another success story from our Giving Hope program.

Martin Mugendi- Giving Hope

Martin is 22 years old and takes care of his mother who is living with HIV. His father died 4 years ago due to HIV/AIDS. He has two sisters - Caroline Kanana and Makena who are in primary school. Caroline is in class eight and Makena is in nursery school.

After Martin completed form four, he engaged in casual labor at the local market to support his family. Giving Hope supported him with 3,000Ksh (\$44) to start a shoe shining business. He bought two stools, shoe polish, shoe brushes and other materials that he used to start his business. He soon was doing quite well and was able to engage another boy to assist him, whom he pays in commission. Martin is able to use his earning to support his family and he hopes to save some of his earning to start a barbershop in the future in the nearby market. Martin is grateful to Giving Hope for giving him the support he needed. His challenges are that his business is small and his family depends on him for basic needs.



Martin shining shoes

Two More Stories: In our nursery we presently have two orphaned babies. 1) One is an unnamed baby boy, as his mother died during childbirth and has no father. No relative is willing to visit or pay for his care because he is disabled, he was born hydrocephalic. Our surgeon has operated on him and placed a shunt which is necessary to drain the excesses fluid from his head and save his life. We will continue to care for him until we can find a good home for him. We will not receive any money for his care. However, that has not stopped us from providing him with the best care we can possibly give.



Unnamed baby boy



Koome, 8 months old

2) Shortly after Koome was born his father brought him to our hospital and told the nurses that Koome's mother had died during child birth and he needed to bury her. He wished to leave Koome with us for a short time as he had no one to care for him. The Hospital agreed and took Koome to our new born nursery for those babies not born in our hospital. Koome's father never returned. When we went to the village where the father said he lived, no one knew of the family and no mother had died recently giving birth. Koome has been with us eight months now, an abandoned child. We have been working closely with the District Children's worker but things move very slowly. We thought we had placed Koome in a children's home in Meru but they could not take him as on the birth certificate we had put the name of the mother that we had been given by the man who brought Koome to us. We are now working to delete that name and leave it blank. Then we are told Koome will be accepted at the home. We have taken care of Koome for 8 months and will continue to until he is placed in the home.

We can take care of the unnamed baby boy and Koome because of your gifts to the Service Fund which help us pay for their care and the care of all the orphan's that are left here and those persons who cannot afford to pay for the care they receive. We are so grateful for your gifts to allow us to care for "the least of these".

You can help us pay for the hospital bills of Koome and the unnamed baby boy. A 7 day stay in Maua Methodist Hospital costs approximately \$150. Write your support check to your UMC and put it in the collection plate with this note at the bottom: "For Advance Special #09613A – Maua Hospital Service Fund, Kenya" or you may make your check payable to "Advance GCFA" and mail it directly to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068 or to make a gift on the internet go to: gbgm-umc.org/advance/donate (be certain to use the Advance Special # and name).

Thank you for your emails, encouragement, support and prayers. It is such a blessing to have you in mission with us.

In His grip,

Jerri & Bill Savuto
savuto@maf.or.ke
Maua Methodist Hospital
Box 63, Maua 60600
Meru North, Kenya

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