

From: savuto@maf.or.ke

To: savuto@maf.or.ke

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Subj: Savuto: Teams and Assessments (99)

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Dear Friends and Family,

"You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying about the future" Anonymous

We remain in pray for the many areas in the US that continue to have severe drought, high winds, and fires. Also those areas that have had floods and tornadoes and those that now face the possibility of hurricanes. Maua and the surrounding areas are very dry. Stanley Gitari shared today that many in this area had such poor rain fall this year that they are already starving and I know for the last few weeks we have been admitting children with severe malnutrition.

Our 5th work team for this summer left on Friday evening and our 6th team arrived Saturday. Our 5th team was from Germantown UMC in TN. For some of the team this was their fifth year to work at the hospital. Their luggage eventually arrived on Tuesday evening, three days late. They were wonderful sports about the difficulties they had. This team worked to help plaster one of the apartments in our flats, paint the outside of the maternity ward, build an AIDS Orphan's home, and do VBS. On Friday they took a group of Hope Companions to Meru to the Bio-Intensive Farm for training.



16 Member Team from Germantown, TN



9 member team from Lakewood UMC, Houston, TX

Speaking of the Bio-Intensive Farm, I learned last week that John Mwalimu, the coordinator of the farm who many of our team members know, was elected mayor of Meru. We are thrilled for him and Meru as he will do such a great job.

Our 6th team is from Lakewood UMC in Houston, TX with one team member from FUMC in Baton Rouge, LA. This team also has members that have been to the hospital to work 5 times. They will be helping to plaster a flat, paint inside and outside the maternity ward, build an AIDS Orphan's house and do a Bush Clinic.

I know I often mention the importance of the teams bringing much needed medical supplies and equipment which allows us to keep our costs low. Also the hospital has no money to maintain or build new buildings so without the teams we could never be the hospital we are. We have seen hospitals close when they are unable to maintain their buildings much less build new ones. But even more important than the medical supplies and the maintenance and building are the things the teams brings the hospital that are not tangible. Their love in action, their laughter and joy as they work in the hospital and community, their care and concern for the hospital staff and all the children and adults in our programs have an enormous effect on the hospital staff, church and community. The teams renew our faith, increase our hope and joy, and remind us that we are never alone in our work to further His Kingdom. It is their presence that communicates this and we are so thankful for each person, each gift that God has sent us to help plant seeds, bring God's love a little closer to us and binding us together as one in Jesus Christ.

This past Wednesday eve around 5pm the national quality assessing agency, National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) quality assessors, called and said they were coming to do their assessment of the hospital the next day at 9am. They arrived around 12:30pm on Thursday and the hospital was ready. As we talked and then went to see our Laboratory, Out-patient Services, Surgical Unit, X-ray, and Medical Records I felt very proud to work at Maua Methodist Hospital and was so thankful to all the staff that work so hard to keep the quality of the hospital high. We also visited the incinerator which I think might be an added incentive for our management team to move forward on decisions regarding the purchase of a new incinerator. The assessors only visited 6 units and the incinerator because they trust that we are doing well in all of the hospital. We have some areas to improve which is always helpful but the quality of this hospital is known throughout the country. Sabera, who will replace me as Quality Improvement Officer in the next few months, learned a great deal and added much to the assessment. This was my last NHIF assessment and part of me was sad and part was thankful!

Monday I gave one Rising Star and two Shining Star Awards to staff who did an excellent job answering questions ask by the NHIF assessors and pointing out standards that were met in their unit. I also gave an award to our locum X-ray technician who was so excited and proud to show off our new X-ray machine. I had been thrilled after I had seen the new X-ray machine installed but after seeing all that it can do, I am 'happy dancing' whenever I think of it as it is absolutely incredible!



Winrose Karu receiving a Shining Star Award from Sabera, my replacement



Our terrific kitchen staff in the kitchen always working

I also miscommunicated with the hospital kitchen and they didn't learn until after 10am that I needed them to fix tea and lunch for 15 people. When they learned this they didn't fuss or complain but went right to work and the tea and lunch were ready for the NHIF assessors, the Hospital Quality Improvement Team and members of management when needed. I am surrounded by staff that are so willing to go an extra mile even when I mess up.

Christine Elder, who was part of a mission work team in 2009 and came again in 2011, has recently published a book entitled, Broken Blessings. The book was a gift and I have seldom received anything as valuable or helpful as this book. Her story is about her 17 year old son, Michael, and his miraculous recovery from attempting suicide, Christine's spiritual journey during this time and the story of Jeff Tiner, a death row inmate who prayed for Michael and became a strong influence in the Elder family and has touched the lives of so many people around the world. Christine has the ability to put into words many of my spiritual experiences for which I am so grateful.

We are always thankful for our supporting churches and all of you who support the work and programs of Maua Methodist Hospital. Bill and I feel so grateful to God and thankful to you for allowing us to serve in Maua for 10 years. It has been such a gift and has blessed us up one side and down the other. Thank you!

In His grip,

Jerri & Bill Savuto
Maua Methodist Hospital
P.O. Box 63 -- 60600
Maua, Igembe South
Kenya, East Africa
0728451643

"To give, not from my wealth but from my want, that is the great challenge of the Gospel." Henri Nouwen