



THE JUA KALI JOURNAL

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

by Alan & Pam May



Karibuni, Watoto!

JULY 2011

That's "Welcome, Kids!" in Swahili. The Haven and Fresh Start Homes have welcomed many new children over the past months. We're always struggling with the right balance between moving forward in faith vs. waiting upon the Lord to provide. Believe me, this is a struggle because we all want to fill the home to capacity. There are way more children in need than we can help, yet we've never had full sponsorship of all the kids who have been in the home for years now. What is the proper course of action? The Haven's six-year history suggests we would never be in a position to bring in more children if we waited until all the current children are fully sponsored. Likewise, there have been times when we have stepped out in faith and taken in more children, yet we have had to lower the standards of food provision and care to do so.



We now have 70 orphaned or abandoned children in the Haven and Fresh Start Homes, aka the GFE Children's Home. The home has the capacity to house 128 kids if we utilized all available rooms as bedrooms. Ben Bahati (our ministry partner in Kenya) and I have agreed, however, to limit the number of kids to 100 so that we can use some of the rooms for other things, e.g., study rooms for tutoring and homework. When I last visited the kids a few months ago, I noticed the quality of the menu had gone down. When I broached this subject with the staff, my observations were affirmed. The rationale goes like this..."We have taken in more kids because the number of kids in need continues to grow exponentially. We are reluctant to report that our budget requirements are increasing because we know that the supporters of this work are already sacrificing to provide for us. And, as is the case around the world, food prices are soaring. So, we eat more beans and rice, less meat, fewer eggs, less fruit, and we wear our clothes until they're worn out."

My vision is to see the home filled to the agreed upon 100 kids; all the kids fully sponsored; and all the kids eating a balanced diet inclusive of fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, meat, and dairy. This vision is not only for the physical well being of the kids but also for their emotional and social development. Orphans in Kenya are generally looked down upon as social outcasts. The kids of this home, however, have enjoyed having friends at school and the benefits of a great home with loving caregivers who are the "parents, aunties, and uncles" of the home. In order to see this vision fulfilled, we need your help to recruit more sponsors of kids and more donors to the home overall. There are always additional needs to meet... boarding school fees for high school students, transportation expenses, library development, unexpected medical expenses, etc. Will you accept the challenge to recruit at least one person to support the Haven and Fresh Start children?



"Come Go With"

That's the expression Pam's uncle Buddy always leaves us with at the conclusion of our visits with him and aunt Liz. I have adopted the expression, and I offer it to you. "Come go with!" We're planning two more trips



to Kenya this year. The next trip is scheduled October 6 -15. We're also planning a trip right after Christmas to depart on or about December 27th for 10 days. The general work of the mission teams will be to minister to the kids of the GFE Home, the people of Jua Kali village, and the street kids of Eldoret town. The specific undertakings will be determined, as the gifts, talents, and interests of the team members are made known. Are you a medical professional? Come along to offer your services to the orphans of several homes, street kids, and others. Are you a prayer warrior? Come with us and organize a prayer walk around the village and the slums of the town. Are you a bible teacher? Come teach others the Word of God. Are you an educator? Come help us to train and encourage other teachers and tutors. Are you a construction worker? Come lead the way to construct playground equipment, etc. Are you one who thinks you have nothing to offer? If you love children, "come go with" and show the love of Jesus to the greatest band of children God has put together in one place. Contact me at alan@seroproject.org to start a dialogue as you "come go with!"



Sero Project and Social Networking

The Sero Project's community development pursuits for the village of Jua Kali likewise need funding partners. The development of the economy of the village, improved education at the public elementary school, establishment of a community center, a preschool, and a high school are just a few of the projects Sero is planning and prioritizing. The children's home does not exist in a bubble but rather it is part of a larger community. If that larger community fails, to what do the children have to look forward?

Check out Sero Project's website (www.seroproject.org) and "Like" the Facebook page. Don't forget to share the page with your friends! You'll find photos of the kids and other information on our projects. Feel free to utilize the Facebook page to engage me, and others, in dialogue about the work in Kenya. In fact, some of the caregivers and older kids of the home are on Facebook themselves. The world is getting smaller as this social networking craze reaches remote areas of the world. Twitter will be my next social networking undertaking!

~ In His Name,
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Gifts of support for the ministry to the children of Kenya, Sero, and Alan and Pam's General Fund should be made payable to:

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Please designate gifts for The Mays, Sero, The Haven or a specific project as you feel led by the Lord. All gifts are tax deductible and will be acknowledged with a receipt from Harvest International.