

Saturday, 09 February 2008

Dear Loved Ones and All Friends of Uhuru,

I write this from the comfort, quiet and peace of the 'office' here at home Hexham UK, writing with thanks to so many of you for your prayers, thoughts and support over these past few very tiring, threatening and particularly sad weeks. It is so good to be back home again with Thelma and the prospect over these next few weeks of being with the rest of the family and seeing of course the grandchildren. But, it was also so sad to leave the 'family' in Kenya, especially with such an uncertain future for the country ahead of them.

My return journey from Kisumu to UK was not as traumatic as at one point I thought it might be. I left Mamboleo for Kisumu Airport early Sunday morning of this week and I think the time, 0630hrs, plus some returning peace to Kisumu made it possible to drive straight to the airport without having to go through barricades or any threat. I could not have made this journey on any of the previous 3 days. Sadly the photo on the right, just some 200 metres from our house, shows just two of the many burnt out vehicles we had to negotiate past along the way.



I spent a couple of days in Nairobi where I had some business to attend to including the collection of my 'Aliens' (I.D.) Card and also the Deeds to the house at Mamboleo. Thankfully both these tasks were successful and with our organisation having been granted tax exemption we did not have to pay 'stamp duty'. In Nairobi, apart from some extra police presence there was little visible evidence of the 'war' torn state of the nation. Flying to Nairobi was at that time the only way of reaching Nairobi from Kisumu, the railway track in several places had been ripped up, and gangs were still barricading many sections of the main roads - the road journey to Nairobi is anyway rather lengthy and traumatic at the best of times.

On arrival at Heathrow I later found out that the flight to Newcastle had been cancelled and we were to be taken by coach to Newcastle making a somewhat imperfect end to a very long day – arriving Newcastle at 0230hrs Wednesday. But thanks be to God for a safe homecoming.

Wednesday was rather hectic but enjoyable. I was phoned in the morning by a reporter from the Newcastle Journal, morning paper, who on hearing that that afternoon I was to go to the Tyne Tees studio for a slot on the evening news requested he see me immediately so as to get something in the next morning edition. He was very good and placed a second good article in the paper. The trip to Tyne Tees was very enjoyable, a look around the studios etc and with Thelma sat in the control room I was interviewed in a recorded session which went out later in the evening news. In the evening once back at home we had the Journal's photographer take some shots. Quite an eventful day!

News coming out of Kenya is quite hopeful, our boys and girls are nearly all back at school – school opening was delayed by the violence – also the Koffi Annan mediation talks appear to be getting somewhere. Over these past few weeks we have taken on several new children, some of whom were displaced by the violence.

I reported previously that one of our friends, Grace, a Kikuyu, had had to flee from her home in Kondele Kisumu. Caleb and I went to see her at the local prison, where she was being sheltered by some friends. By now I trust that she has rejoined her family in Nairobi.

Whilst we have witnessed some of the most frightening, heart rending, and distressing scenes carried out by man against his fellow man, we can pray and hope that something of a deep seated and long standing national 'boil' has finally been excised, and that some positive healing, more just situation can follow. One of the TV interviewers asked me if I thought all the

violence so vividly portrayed on your T.V. screens will have damaged the charity's standing and sponsorship. I can only say again that I hope and pray that it has not, the need is still there, in fact is greater, and that we are supporting some of the world's most vulnerable children. We believe that with the love, care, support including educational opportunity that our children are receiving with your generosity they and others will continue to become good citizens in their country, and also the providers of tomorrow. Let's believe and pray that Kenya will speedily recover its beauty and hope, and become a country freed from it's corrupt group of leaders, law makers and law enforcers.

Thanks to Neil Entwistle, son in law, our Web page has been expanded and I am sure if you have a look at it you'll agree is very informative; it includes the recent ITV presentations.

Please stay with us and please encourage your family, friends, workmates etc to get involved. We have several children that need your help and sponsorship.

With thanks

Yours truly,
Terry Newton

Our Web page address is www.uhuruministries.org.uk