

Uhuru Organisation (International)

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To so many loved ones and friends of Uhuru

Dear All,

I had been contemplating sending out Christmas cards from Kenya, but a look at the card costs plus postage has made me back track and resort to the now faithful friend of the email. Please forgive me if it feels less personal.

Nakumatt is the equivalent here in Kenya of Tesco's in the U.K. The massive Nakumatt store at Mega City here in Kisumu started playing Christmas carols many weeks ago, and about two weeks with temps around 32oC a beardless and hatless Santa Klaus appeared (not literally) at the main entrance to the supermarket to welcome shoppers. All seemed quite incongruous. However, Christmas as we know, is not just about a season, snow or cold weather, presents, trees decorations etc, it is about a baby, born to a virgin, born to be saviour of the world, about Jesus of Nazareth. And it is in His Name that I, and all the youngsters here, wish you all blessing and joy at this Christmas time, and peace and prosperity for the New Year to come. Our boys will certainly echo the latter prayer for your prosperity! I find I am frequently reduced to laughter during our prayer times when one of them may pray a blessing upon our Sponsors and upon the Sponsors' pockets; on peeping I see a couple of them laughing at me.

Our family in the Home here has reduced, only 13 when the secondary school boarders are away, but the number of children we support in total has increased. But



it is not numbers that count, has Caleb Mbori my Manager argued with a children's officer a few weeks ago who was trying to pressurise us into taking more children. Caleb said 'it is about quality not quantity'. What use is it to fill the house if we do not have the money to feed all, nor to send them on to secondary school or university/college. We currently have two in university and four at college. All six of these should be very well placed to get work especially Don Oloo who is reading Actuarial Maths and Polycarp Odhiambo who a reading BSc Teaching degree. And little Boaz pictured here who has just completed his first year at Secondary School (it's a 8-4-4 system here) being placed No.7 out of 297 Form 1 pupils, this is at Kisumu Boys Secondary School, probably the best government school in

Kisumu. Well done Boaz. Boaz's dream is to go on to be a pilot. (Note with most of the youngsters here they smile after the photo has been taken.)

Over the past month we have received our Registration Certificate from the children's department and as such we are one of the very few officially registered children's 'institutions' in the whole of Nyanza Province. We have also received our Tax

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Exemption Certificate from the Kenya Revenue Authority; I won't go into some of the intrigues and nightmares that this process has involved. It should mean, but I have not tested it yet and of course things don't always work out as they should here in Kenya, that we are exempt from paying Stamp Duty on the house purchase. Another very positive is that I was able to renew my work permit for a further 3yrs, done very quickly and once more thanks to the Methodist Church in Kenya.

Otherwise we look forward to the New Year praying that our Lord and God will continue to be with us and us with Him. January and February will be a test once again of our resources as we face the mammoth educational bill to get the youngsters back to school and college etc.

We look forward to having two visitors, Mark and Sam Will, married couple, both teachers at the King's Academy, Middlesbrough, with us over Christmas. Chicken and goat meat should be on the table, and hopefully a good enjoyable party time with some swimming at some point. Thelma and I had some work done on the house in the summer and joiner donated his labour towards something for the children here. Wonderful! I rarely go swimming as the water, no matter the outside temp, is not normally warm enough for me. Most of the youngsters went swimming earlier this year and had a great time.



I was with the family at home UK, last year and the previous year. People frequently say that Christmas is a family time and I shall greatly miss being with Thelma, the girls and family's, and grandchildren - now three, but I know that I shall enjoy being with the family here. I am due to return to UK in February and will probably spend a longer period this time in the U.K.



Juma Shekiel and Antonio Oyoo (Juma is our youngest boy and certainly one of the liveliest) wish you along with the rest of us, love, peace and joy.

Yours with much appreciation,

Terry