

Dear Friends

01.01.08

Things today are much quieter thus far and we earnestly pray will remain that way. Private vehicle traffic is beginning to move again though currently petrol stations are not operating and there still remains a risk of stoning from groups. With ref to Mark and Sam, the two teachers who have been staying with us, we just do not know.

Today there has been only one flight into and out of Kisumu and Kenya Airways with whom they were booked have suspended all flights until further notice and definitely are not flying tomorrow. We are trying to get them onto another airline from Kisumu hopefully to meet their Ethiopian Airlines connection from Nairobi at 1800.

We have managed to get some little food today and the guard is currently out trying to locate some maize flour etc.

All main shops remain closed today and of course being a bank holiday banks and financial institutions etc are closed anyway. This may prove a problem tomorrow for Mark and Samantha as they will probably need cash if they managed to book onto another airline, assuming of course there are flights. Banks have been closed since Monday of last week, and access to ATMs has been a problem since Saturday so money is now almost gone.

Point for prayer is particularly for Thursday when Raila Odinga says he is to hold a meeting to set up a parallel government. Most independent observers, including the E.U. now say that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that there were irregularities in the counting to give rise to doubts re the outcome. Reconciliation between the two parties appears a dead duck, and even if Kibaki was to announce some climb down, though it would satisfy the Luo (Kisumu is of course the main Nyanza Luo Province city) and other tribes that support Raila, these include most Luhya's, Coast People and Rift Valley including Masaai and Kalingen, the other main group (tribe) Kikuyu would very, very likely riot. They've been rioting anyway in support of Kibaki and in protest against the non acceptance of the result by the Raila ODM party. In the parliamentary and presidential voting's 5 out of the 7 Provinces support ODM (Raila). For the first time, probably since independence, the country is now very, very divided along tribal lines.

Even the lads in the house are so incensed and say, just as was said on Sky News this morning, that the Luo's have since Independence always been the political underdogs to the Kikuyu's and are no longer willing to accept this. Prayer is the only answer.

May you have a Blessed and Happy New Year,

Terry