



News from Kenya

December 2008

u.ten.go (Swahili): a refuge, shelter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Christmas Greetings 1

Donated Bibles Touch Lives 1

A Life Changed by True Love 2

OUR MISSION

To faithfully manage contributions from caring persons to support Christ-based Kenyan ministries and schools

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Kuwa na Krismasi njema! *



Dear Friends of Utengo,

The stories in this newsletter highlight the impact made in the lives of our Kenyan brothers and sisters by kind-hearted donors.

As you read, will you consider making a tax-deductible contribution to purchase Bibles or to provide living expenses for an orphan? You may also choose to support the construction of a water tank needed to bring clean water to impoverished schools and surrounding communities in Keumbu.

Please visit www.utengo.org for more information.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year,

Leon and Verwray

Donated Bibles Touch Lives



Pastor Fidelis and Kalysa Wandera (pictured above) lead New Covenant Foursquare Gospel Church in a slum where illegal drugs, gangs and robberies are the way of life. We joyfully ministered with them on our mission trip in 2008. They provide powerful leadership to their Church in the midst of a community in turmoil.

Their church is the recipient of many Bibles donated by Utengo this year.

Here is a recent letter from the Wanderas.

Dear wonderful people,

Thank you for standing with us in the work of God!

The Bibles you gave us made it possible for us to begin a Bible study in the church. We also gave Bibles to 3 schools and other churches. The teachers at one school are using the Bibles we gave them to teach 750 children once a week, and they are very grateful.

Of the last 50 Bibles you gave us, 15 went to schools, 10 to different churches and 25 to our members and new converts.

All glory to God for the great works He is doing! The Lord continue to bless thee and keep thee.

*With lots of love,
Fidelis and Kalysa*

* "Merry Christmas!" in Swahili

A Life Changed by True Love

Living Way Children's Home has become a place of changed lives for abandoned children and orphans. We have seen God's wonder-working power changing even the worst children into new creations! Naomi is one of these special children.

Abandoned by her father, Naomi's mother did her best to raise Naomi. Her mom, however, had AIDS, and as she grew weaker, Naomi became the caretaker for her mother and younger brother, who was mentally challenged. Naomi came to us in 2004, when the government took her away from her mother, who had become progressively worse. Naomi's brother was taken in by another home for children with special needs.

Our Children's Home had just opened when Naomi arrived. Her character was despondent and hopeless. Her constant answer to any opportunity seemed



"I soon realized that reaching Naomi would take a special work of the Lord..."

to be "I can't." Distancing herself from us and the other children, she always wanted to be alone. We struggled to get her to help with her responsibilities around the Home, and her heart was hard to any love we tried to give.

I soon realized that reaching Naomi would take a special work of the Lord and I decided to reach out to her. On holidays, I invited her to stay in my home. Whenever she did something well at the Home or in school, I lavished her with encouragement. As a family, we

shared Christ's love with her in every way possible.

Dear brothers and sisters, it is amazing now as I share what God has done in Naomi! She is a new creation! Her attitude is positive, hopeful and friendly. She is number one in her school class. She even teaches some of the younger children songs that share God's Word. She has a great hope for her future, and she believes that one day God will give her the opportunity to go to the USA for further studies.

Thank you so much for continuing to support the Living Way Children's Home and to sponsor so many of our children faithfully. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity!

*Zachariah and Rebecca Shahasi
Directors of Living Way
Children's Home*



*Leon and Verwray
with the Living
Way Children's
Home children.*