

Mary Brown

From: "Jerri and Bill Savuto" <savuto@maf.or.ke>
To: "Jerri & Bill Savuto" <savuto@maf.or.ke>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2009 8:18 AM
Subject: Savuto: Miracles, Prayers and Continued Needs

April 18, 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

Where hope grows, miracles blossom. Elna Rae

Today is the AIDS Orphan's April Fun Day. April is one of the three months when school children are given a holiday. The other two months are August and December. I can hear the children singing loudly in the Chapel. Bill and I will be joining them in a few minutes. My next email will include the joys and happenings of their day.

I have some good news, actually miraculous news that I will share first. Clurisa, the 4 year old who was bitten by an unknown snake when it fell from the roof into her small sleeping area, is doing so well. Everyone calls her recovery a miracle. She has even been smiling when I visit her which is often. Nine days ago she had her last surgery to graft skin to her arm where the skin had sloughed off due to extreme swelling and the poison causing the tissue to become necrotic. Her arm had been so painful and still is painful but she is doing so much better. I will share two pictures of her. One showing the arm with the grafted skin and the other was taken this morning. I took her a little doll and she was so excited. The lady in the picture with her is her grandmother who has spent every minute in the hospital with her. Clurisa's mom has a new baby she is breast-feeding and could not leave.



Clurisa's grafted & healing arm



Clurisa with her doll & grandma

Over two months ago a 7 month old baby boy, Kevin, was admitted to the hospital with measles and TB. He was brought by his grandmother. His father had died and his mother had abandoned him at her mother's tiny home. The grandmother had so little food for herself and was unable to breastfeed so Kevin became very mal-nourished. During Kevin's stay in the hospital, his grandmother became very ill and was admitted to our Medical Ward. She died there several days later. Since her death the hospital has been trying to locate family and arrange for them to take Kevin. We found family but it has been a long struggle.

Kevin was not kept in the Pediatric Ward as he was so malnourished and thus had much less immunity to other diseases and problems. Kevin was kept in the Goede Wing. The nurses and occasionally a woman who had been discharged cared for all his needs. He was so precious and we all loved Kevin but were very concerned that his long stay in the hospital would be a problem.

On April 9th Kevin went to his new home. The hospital provided clothing, blankets and a few toys he had played with in his crib. We miss seeing Kevin but everyone is so thankful he is with family and will grow and develop as he should. God is good! (We could keep Kevin for two months because YOU give money to the Service Fund which pays for those patients that have no money.)



Kevin with Sr. Mary Gitari



Goede Ward Staff dressing Kevin

We have had some rain since I last wrote you. In fact, the very Saturday I sent my email, 4 April, it rained and then it rained for a few days. Since then it has rained sporadically but not anything like a true rainy season. The good news is the Mboone River has a bit more water for which the entire community is so grateful to God. The bad news is that the rain has not been enough and the seeds that were planted shriveled and died in the ground. Again food prices are going up dramatically. We understand a few farmers either did not plant until the last week or so or saved half their seeds and have planted and that some are seeing some results. A few farmers in our area have a small water supply and are able to water their crops. But the majority will not have

maize or beans this year. We need your continued prayers. Some places in Kenya have had flooding which ruined their crops but most have had little or no rain.



Rain falling on our compound



Mboone River yesterday, Fri. 17 April

We all know that the US is sending food as we have read of the high-jacking or attempted high-jacking of two of those ships. There are areas in Kenya with literally nothing so the food supplies are going there. However soon I think it will need to go almost everywhere so we are praying the food continues to be sent.

Large, long limbs cut. We were anticipating the coming of heavy rains. Bill watched the tree cutters with absolute amazement as they shimmied up the trees barefoot, tied ropes to the limbs that needed to be cut and then had other men in other trees holding the ropes. The first limbs cut, that were hanging precariously over the house in front of ours, were cut off using a machete. After those limbs were cut, a power saw was used. The agility of the Kenyan's is stunning.



3 men in the trees, one cutting and 2 holding robes attached to limbs

Bill and I are grateful beyond words for the amazing response you gave to Stanley and Mary Gitari and their trip to the US to receive their award as Alumni of the Year from Oklahoma City University. Thank you so much.

If any of you don't believe in the power of prayer or in miracles, you might want to plan a trip to visit Maua Methodist Hospital or join a team coming this year or next year. We have felt so immersed in prayer and love and concern since our last email. Thank you for all your prayers for Clurisa. Her healing and ability to go home this next week is a miracle.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Linnet. She will go to Kikuyu Hospital the first week in May to receive her prosthetic hand hooks. We are all so excited.

Thank you for your continued prayers for rain. We need more rain to at least help increase the water supply in our community. Maua Methodist Hospital continues to provide literally 100's of people with water through our two water taps outside the hospital.

The numbers of people who are being admitted to the hospital daily with no money to pay their hospital bills and those who are malnourished or starving continues to be between 25 and 40. Our Kenyan colleagues never give up or think anything is hopeless but instead look to God for something we couldn't imagine happening, something good. We are so grateful because often God use YOU to bring about that something amazing and unexpected. Keep praying and keep believing because God never quits!

In His grip,

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"Miracles are not a contradiction of nature. They are only in contradiction of what we know of nature." St. Augustine

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