

Mary Brown

From: "Jerri and Bill Savuto" <savuto@maf.or.ke>
To: "Jerri & Bill Savuto" <savuto@maf.or.ke>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2009 7:10 AM
Subject: Savuto - Teams, An Award and Nurses Day!
 Written Sat – 18 July 09
 E-mailed Sun – 19 July 09

Dear Friends and Family,

“To be a model Christian referral and training centre, providing excellent health care in the community, to the glory of God.” Maua Methodist Hospital Vision Statement, 2009

Our 4th mission work team has been here since last Saturday evening and will leave tomorrow after church. They are from Germantown, TN and their team leader is Dr. Susan Hillibert. Though ½ of the team were ill the first few days they were here and one of the team members tripped over some luggage and broke two bones in her arm, they have worked non-stop painting the inside of the School of Nursing dining hall and a classroom, going with the Giving Hope director to meet some of the teens, bringing and sorting many suitcases of extremely valuable medical equipment that the hospital desperately needs, doing an outreach clinic for a very poor village in our area, and doing VBS for about 300 children. Laurie Whiteley taught Adult CPR to our nurses and Clinical Officers. Leda Phillips, an ophthalmologists nurse, worked with Dr. Inoti and Joyce, our nurse, in the eye clinic and also brought about \$9000 worth of eye equipment. Dr. Susan has worked on our Paediatric Ward and in the newborn nursery has been such an asset as our pediatric doctor was gone Monday and Tuesday.



Tennessee Team on Sunday morning



Team singing to SS Children

Every team brings people with special talents and gifts and each team seems to arrive at the right moment with just the right talents. God's timing and plans are always perfect. If you have been thinking about coming to Maua with a mission work team, stop thinking and start planning. We need YOU next year!

On Thursday 16 July Maua Methodist Hospital received an award from the National Hospital Insurance Fund. They are the group that measure quality in hospitals for the government. We received an award in the Mission/Private Hospital category as the Best Quality Hospital in Our Region. The manager and person in-charge of quality for our region came and presented the award to the Hospital Management Team and the Hospital Quality Improvement Team. My heart danced as well as my feet! I am so grateful to God for my work in quality in the USA and for the opportunity to work here in that area.



Receiving the Quality Award



Juliet after her surgery – always with a smile

One reason Bill and I are so thankful to work at Maua Methodist Hospital is the vision statement. (See top of page) For all the workers to acknowledge that what we do is “to the glory of God” gives our work more meaning. Daily as I walk in my office I see the Vision Statement on my door. Thus when the work is

long, or the particular job is tedious or boring, or when we wonder what difference it will really make, we are reminded that it is “to the glory of God” and that gives everything we do a different dimension. When we dedicate all we do to Him, when we lean on Him and He is our strength, then wondrous things seem to happen. Not because of Jerri and Bill but because of God. Please pray that what we do will indeed bring “glory to God.”

In my June 27th email, I shared about Juliet and her family being the recipients of an AIDS Orphan’s home. Juliet, a young woman who had been operated on in 2002 for the removal of a life threatening large growth on her right side, was back at Maua Methodist Hospital this past week for another surgery. The growth was beginning to return and so she was seen in our Surgical Clinic and surgery was done. The picture above shows Juliet in her hospital bed with her usual big smile. The surgery seems to have gone very well. Juliet went home on Friday. Mr. Gitari bought two beds for their new home and had them delivered before Juliet got home. He told me she was so surprised and happy. The never-ending story is surely never ending just as God’s love and goodness are never-ending!

Yesterday, 17 July, we had the first “Nurses’ Day Celebration” at Maua Methodist Hospital. We have celebrated the National Nurses’ Day but never had a day when all nurses came together sometime during the day for fellowship and sharing, updating and learning, and caring for the care giver. Mary Gitari, the Nursing Officer In-charge, thought of and planned the day with a team of nurses. I had asked the mission work team that were coming before the event to bring something and each team did. Every nurse received a precious angel pin. Those who presented or participated in any of our events received a button that said, “We **Love** Our Nurses”. Our Deputy In-charges’, who work very hard for no extra pay but lots of extra work, received a larger angel pin. Little writing pads and pens were given to all the In-charges, another group that work very hard. Then there were gifts for those who had a number on their lunch plate, and those that were the youngest, oldest, worked the longest at MMH, etc.

We had tea and lunch, we danced, danced and danced and sang and laughed. We heard speakers who represented the Provincial Nursing Officer In-charge and the Nyambene District Hospital Nurse In-charge. Both said there was a big difference between our nurses and other nurses – we cared more. One of them called our nurses beautiful flowers. The Deputy Head Mistress at Maua Girls Secondary School talked about Stewardship and inspired all of us with her words and stories.

One of our nurse midwives who has worked here for 30+ years talked about the hospital in 1977. She had us short term folk amazed. They delivered babies without wearing gloves. They used the amniotic fluid of healthy babies delivered to cover the burns of babies and children. They suctioned the new born babies with glass tubes the nurse sucked on and until they tasted the salty amniotic fluid they didn’t stop. She talked about were the morgue used to be and how the nurses had to carry the patients there. On nights there was one nurse per ward so it was challenging!

Sr. Gitari talk was powerful and motivating but also very challenging as she asked if we were willing to tell the truth when there were consequences for either ourselves or others. She moved all of us out of our comfort zones but did it by telling stories that will long be remembered and reflected upon.



Mary Gitari giving her talk



The nurses dancing together

Close to the end of the day, Sr. Gitari said she had a gift for a hard working nurse. There are many that do that so I was thinking about who it was she was talking about. Well, it was me! The gift was a clock and the face of the clock has a picture of Bill and I with our grandchildren, Lily and Ethan. I was so humbled by the gift and touched by the generosity and love shown to me.



Jerri’s gift – the clock with Lily and Ethan



Stanley Gitari laughing and having fun

At the end of the day many of the nurses shared what the day had meant to them. Everyone said they wanted the day to be a yearly event. Many said they felt cared for, appreciated and valued. Others met nurses they had never met and were so thankful for that opportunity. Some shared they felt motivated, up-lifted, and important. Others said they felt like they were really a team. A team that was not divided into registered and enrolled nurses but a team united by the responsibilities of caring for our patients. The theme of the day was “Together We Can” and indeed we all left believing that was true.

We ended the day with a circle dance that had all of us laughing, singing, dancing up and down, side ways, and backwards. A few times in my years of service in Nigeria and Kenya, I have had the chance to dance with a group that is so filled with joy and love and those feeling seem to transport all of us to a different level, a new place which is heavenly. I didn't want the dancing to ever end but fortunately just sitting here writing this email has brought back the memory of the joy and love. We have so much to learn from our brothers and sisters around the world.



Our final dance of joy and love

We are busy with the teams, our regular work and doing the final scheduling of our Home Assignment. We are certainly looking forward to being with our supporting churches and seeing family, old friends and making new friends. Please pray for us during this extra busy time.

In His grip,

Jerri & Bill Savuto

savuto@maf.or.ke

Maua Methodist Hospital

Box 63, Maua 60600

Igembe, Kenya

"Hope is both the earliest and the most indispensable virtue inherent in the state of being alive. If life is to be sustained hope must remain, even where confidence is wounded, trust impaired." Erik H. Erikson

cp