

Mary Brown

From: "Jerri and Bill Savuto" <savuto@maf.or.ke>
To: "Jerri & Bill Savuto" <savuto@maf.or.ke>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2009 8:35 AM
Subject: Savuto - No Rain, No Water, No Food

28 Mar 09

Dear Friends and Family,

"Stocks are nice, but taking stock of what has real value is far more rewarding. Fancy homes are beautiful, but solid emotional foundations are more beautiful. Running a company is a worthy professional pursuit, but keeping good company is a worthier lifetime goal." Neil Cavuto

I am writing this email to ask you to continue your prayers for rain in Kenya. The lack of rain, the lack of water, and the lack of food are becoming more critical everyday. We are admitting approximately 40 people a day to Maua Methodist Hospital. Eighteen to twenty of them are babies or children who are suffering from mal-nutrition or starvation.

The Mboone River which flows from the mountains surrounding Maua into Maua Town is almost dry. The hospital has two water taps outside the hospital for the community. There are long lines at those two taps for most of the day but when we see that we have very little water left, we must turn off the taps. Trucks arrive at the taps carrying 20 – 30 five to twenty liter plastic containers to fill and then go to the surrounding villages to sell the water for about a \$1 per 5 liters.



Mboone River that supplies 90% of Maua Town with water



One of the hospital taps

Some of our staff have water pipes in their homes but all are dry. There is so little water from the Mboone River it is being used for the District Headquarters.



The other hospital tap for the community



My shiny black shoes after walking across the street, Oh, the dust!

With each new day that dawns with either clouds that quickly dissipate or no clouds but lots of blue sky and sun the Mboone River gets smaller and smaller, the lines increase at the hospital outside taps, the dust seems to blow in every direction and almost choke out any hope of rain. But we are remaining hopeful! We have about one more week before the seeds that almost all the farmers have planted will have dried up and died, the river will be completely dry, and the number of hospital admissions will grow exponentially. We thank God every day for our water wells on the hospital and that we can share the water with the community.

I know you have been praying for rain, but I ask you to continue. We have cut down so many trees in our area as 99% of the population uses wood to cook. Our hospital kitchen uses wood as gas is too expensive. Most the staff living on the compound, even those who have gas or electric cookers, cook over wood as they feel the food tastes so much better. It is our prayer that there are enough trees to bring us rain this year.

I do have some good news. #1 Clurisa is still alive. She has had two surgeries and her arm is looking much better. She will still need to have at least one more surgery to graft skin on the areas where the skin died due to the snake bite.

#2 Linnet was fitted for prosthetic arms this week and we are all excited.

#3 Stanley (In-charge of the Community Outreach Department which includes the AIDS Orphans Program, the Giving Hope Project and the Palliative Care Program) and Mary Gitari (Nursing Officer In-charge) have been chosen by Oklahoma City

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University, where they both received their BS in Nursing, as the Distinguished Alumni of the Year. The university is providing \$500 and room and board for three days but that will not pay for the flight from Kenya to Oklahoma City and back. If you would like to help Mary and Stanley with air miles (I'm actually not sure how that works) or any other way, please let us know. Mary and Stanley have been faithful servants in Maua for their entire careers. Bill and I feel like they have been the backbone and heart of this hospital and stood tall during its good times and hard times. We are so proud of this wonderful achievement and feel like it is such a blessing from God, such a surprise to them and such a deserved honor.



Mary & Stanley Gitari

Thank you so much for your prayers. You will never know what they mean to us, to the hospital, church and community. Oh God, let it rain, let it rain, let it rain.

In His grip,

Jerri & Bill Savuto

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Maua Methodist Hospital

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"For without belittling the courage with which men/women have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men/women have lived." ~John F. Kennedy

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