

Hello from Rebecca & Dave in Kenya! JANUARY 2017

New School Year Begins



Beatrice and Rebecca at Lambwe School for the Deaf, enjoying morning visit.



Mark is son of our cook Rose and started his first year of "baby class."

In early January, the new school year started in Kenya. Most of the children we serve attend the nearby Nyamuga Special School for Physically Challenged on Rusinga Island, just in front of the Feeding Program. Three other students are served at Lambwe School for the Deaf, three at Kibos School for the Blind, and four others at various high schools.

Medical Challenges Persist

Doctors Strike: Over two months ago, the doctors' strike began in Kenya. Doctors paid by the government are striking because they are paid very little, and they are paid only sporadically. (Kenya is notorious for its level of corruption.) Nearly everyone in our area uses government hospitals for inpatient and outpatient, as that is all they can afford. (We have paid 80 cents per night for a hospital bed.) Many Kenyans are dying, unable to afford private doctors. Some hospitals remain empty, while in others the sick and accident victims lie helpless. Even in pre-strike times, a patient with a broken leg could wait many days, even weeks, to have the leg set, while the hospital waits for payment from family and for medical materials to arrive.

Alternative: Private Clinic



Alternative: Private Clinic -- Most of our children are served at a private clinic in Mbita, the town near Rusinga Island. Our Safe Haven program has an agreement to serve our children, who often have malaria, typhoid, and other water borne illnesses.

Here Gloria and Joy wait for Daktari.

Safe Haven Facility

- **The kingly toilet : success story** -- A traditional, beautiful, 2-hole squat toilet was built in October. It works well, believe me. It's so nice that locks were needed to prevent nighttime visitors.
- **The decrepit front door and entrance: being repaired now** -- This has been a nagging security problem and funds have just been donated for this work. More on this next time.
- **The kitchen stove: dream for the future** -- This is an area for future development. Our current stove is 3 stones outdoors, sometimes 4. We are visualizing a future with an environmentally friendly stove inside, reducing the amount of wood needed, number of precious trees cut, amount of ghastly smoke in the house, and hardship of cooking on the ground in extreme sunshine. This is on a wish list for our next visit in Kenya later this year, after moving back to NC in late February.



The kingly toilet



The decrepit front door



The current "kitchen stove"

Moving to NC, Visiting Kenya Later This Year

We are moving back to NC in late February to be closer to family and friends, to have better health care, and because of expected violence in Kenya during election year. We plan to be back in Kenya for a long visit later this year and welcome those who want to join us and visit with the children and see Kenya.

The Safe Haven program for children is being well managed, and work with the children has continued during our previous long visits in the US. The year-round feeding program goes on, and the children continue to be supported during school breaks with food and medical care.

Thank you for your prayers and everything you do for these beautiful children. Blessings for you and yours !



Rebecca and Dave

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