

December, 2018

Merry Christmas!!



Family,

Perhaps I am a bit late with my wishes for a Merry Christmas, but it was not due to a lack of effort! ☺

Life has continued to be very hectic as we chase after many legal battles for the babies, juggle both adoptions and new arrivals.

Since our last newsletter in Oct, we have taken in eight new babies. Four have been returned to family, and two have been adopted into their own Forever Family. We have one more adoption in the works but placement will not happen until mid January.

Since the first of the year we have rescued 46 babies! That is an average of a baby every 8.5 days! No wonder we all feel so tired!

This journey officially started in December of 2011 when we received our first registration to be able to legally care for, and help facilitate adoptions. In the past seven years you have helped us to rescue 198 babies, and to place 96 little ones with their very own Forever Family. Congratulations and thanks for your part in all these little miracles!!!

We consider each and every precious one in our care as our own child, for whatever time God allows them to be with us. For some, it was only a few days before family came forward to take them in. For others, like Chloe and Mercy, they were with us for around two years. These are the one that are toughest to let go. We are grateful that their grandmother came forward and wanted to give them a home with their biological family. But the girls were in for a big change as they moved into a rural setting living with other siblings and cousins this grandmother had taken in. Prayers for them are gratefully appreciated.



In our last update we shared a couple of specific stories. Joshua, the little guy who had TB, severe malnutrition, and possibly Sickle Cell Anemia, has returned to his biological family. His grandmother, who is caring for three additional siblings, wanted to take him in despite his compromised condition.



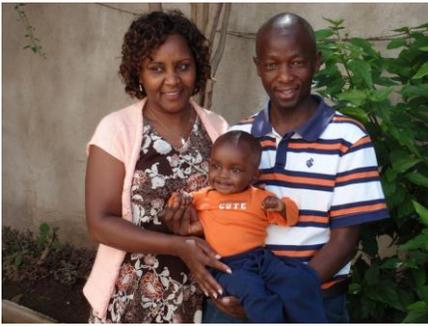
Thankfully Joshua had gained some weight, overcome the TB, and thanks to God it was determined that while he has some SCA traits, he is not suffering from the sickness. We agreed, for a time, to provide some food and assistance to this family who has so little. Joshua and his entire family could use lots of prayer.

Faith, the little one who moments after birth had her throat cut and then was tossed into a pit latrine, is doing incredible. She truly is a miracle baby as she defied all odds of her surviving. While she will have a nasty scar her entire life, she shows no other ill effects to her harrowing start in life. We praise God for the way He has brought her such healing.

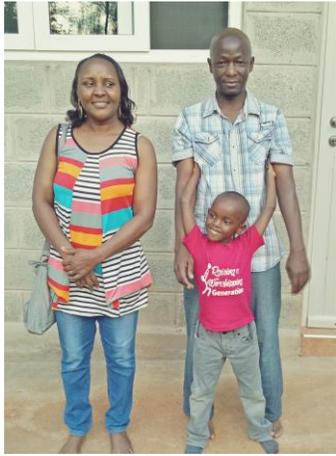


Jonathan, our newest arrival, (and #198) was found moments after his birth, cord and placenta still attached. He was taken to the police station, then to a government hospital where they cleaned him up and started him on some antibiotics to make sure no infection set in. For three weeks the hospital tried to reach the Government Children's Officer to report his case. Due to other "commitments" the children's officer was not available. After nearly a month the hospital called us and we made arrangements to pick him up ASAP. He is doing

amazingly well, and in the first three days gained ½ a pound!



Today, we got a special Christmas gift as Timothy Steven came back to see us. He was adopted in March, 2014 and it was such a blessing to be able to spend time with him again. He enjoyed playing with all the toddlers while he was visiting us. It is when we get to see one of our “babies” doing so well that God reminds us why we are here.



As far as a Bell family update, Ethan and Selah are doing very well in their schooling, now in grade three and doing math problems their dad never saw in school, even high school! Here they are posing for their latest of shots on the infamous Kilaguni hippos. Just for fun, here is one from January 2013. They have moved up to the big hippo!



There are many things we could share in regards to prayer requests, but let us keep the list short for the things that weigh heaviest on our hearts and minds.

Please lift both our marriage and our walk with God in prayer, with the hectic pace of this ministry, it is far too easy to let both of them fall out of the place they need to be.

Please continue lifting the Kenyan Government, and the adoption process in prayer. There continues to be rumblings of changes coming that may make the entire process more difficult. Specifically please lift up our special needs babies that families will come forward soon for them.

And finally, we thank God for each of you. Without your faithful prayers and support this ministry would not be possible. And while we are grateful for each of the 198 little ones that God has brought into our lives, may we never lose sight of the One that was born so many years ago to give us life.

Striving to serve Him,
 Dave, Jen, Ethan, and Selah