

# Uhuru Update

## Good News and Thank You

Unlike so many times in the past we can actually report some good and encouraging financial news! When the Trustees met in November the atmosphere was of much foreboding! We had already very reluctantly agreed that we were left with no option but to drastically run down Grace Home from 1st January 2014. What a difference six weeks made! When we met 8th January the final salary and redundancy money had been paid to staff, all debts in Kenya had been cleared, we had sufficient money for the school and university students to start the new year in January and we even had managed to build a reserve fund to see us through the inevitable peaks and troughs of 2014.

It looks like our income in 2013 will be just over a fantastic £126,000 which will be about the same as 2012 and the fifth year in a row that our income has topped £100,000. This is great but we also need to remember that inflation in Kenya has devalued that amount and so we can buy less in Kenya.

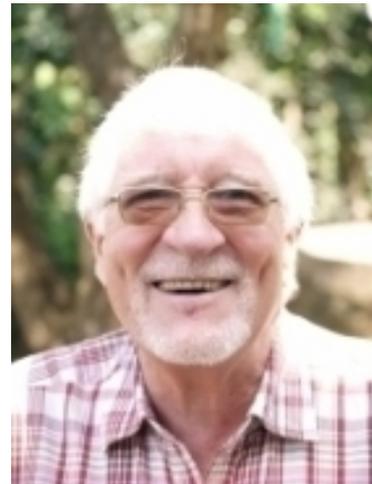
Over those six weeks I can only say a miracle occurred, tears flowed, and all praise given to our loving Father God for His care, compassion and love through you. Amen!

### Finance Generally

Thanks are due to the tremendous work of the UK Trustees, especially David Innes, who over this past year have worked tirelessly to get us to where we are now. We are now in a far better position than we have ever been to financially plan our future. With the changes at Grace Home we have reduced our costs while still providing an education for all of our young people. We are not out of the woods yet by a long way but if we can continue with tight financial control while encouraging additional giving, more sponsors and more fund raising opportunities we should be able to achieve even greater financial stability and also see the way to a future gradual expansion in Kenya and take on a few new needy youngsters.

### Current Situation at Grace Home

We closed the Home as normal over December with our youngsters going back to their home areas. By December 1<sup>st</sup> the house was closed up, all youngsters were out and the staff were off on leave. We had given assurances to all of our youngsters that their educational support would be maintained wherever they were living in the future. For many with home areas local to Grace Home it meant that they would continue at their existing primary school and would be offered lunches at Grace from Monday to Friday and if money permits Saturday also. This lunchtime programme will at least ensure that these youngsters get one full meal most days of the week. We started this programme immediately on the first day of this first term with the meals being cooked and brought in from a local source.



### Personal News

I had a booked flight to return to Kenya January 6<sup>th</sup>, in time to look through the home visit reports but on advice from Caleb I changed my return date to February 18<sup>th</sup>, returning to the UK in early April.

Once again I found Emirates to be absolutely superb in helping me make these changes; for me they are by far my most favourite airline.

Caleb's advice not to return to Kenya as originally planned was due to his concern about security issues in the region but he is now satisfied that these are no longer a problem.

During December, Caleb plus a qualified social worker recruited for the purpose, visited every youngster at their home area and carried out extensive home circumstances interviews and produced a report on all of our youngsters.

So far it would appear that while home circumstances might not be great they are at least adequate in most cases. I feel strongly that it is not just a question of the youngster being fed, and having somewhere to sleep but that there is also an atmosphere of love in their living environment. If we have any doubts we will bring the youngster back to Grace and make necessary staffing arrangements.

On that point I want to stress again that Grace Home has not closed even though it has been run right down. I have to continually remind myself that for a long time we had been planning this with an action plan to achieve this by end 2014. The only difference is that we were forced to make the transition sooner due to our financial situation and to meet the requirements of the Children's Department. Anyway, we will keep you informed over developments, especially keeping those of you who have an interest in individual youngsters.

### **Fund Raising Activity**

As reported above we are so grateful to the many of you who have so generously helped us with your continued giving or donations. There have also been several separate fund raising activities for which we are most appreciative.

The Annual Dinner and AGM at the end of November raised over £2,000. This was a great night which all enjoyed with a wonderful two course meal provided by the ladies of Stocksfield Baptist Church. A very big thank you to them and all and everyone else who made the night such a success.

Peter Fletcher and the group in Nottinghamshire have again been busy over Christmas and raised over £300.

Ian Graham, a long time supporter along with his wife Carol, donated the money from his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Ian had requested no presents at his party but for friends and family to make a donation to Uhuru and this raised a staggering £1,300. Thank you Ian and all involved. If any of you a 'notable' birthday coming up you might just consider putting on a special event to raise money for our very desperate and needy youngsters in Kenya?

All the above and other events are extremely encouraging and have made the year of 2014 get off to such a better start, thank you everyone.

Be very blessed

Terry and Thelma

## **Cheque Payments**

**Could you please in future make out cheque payments to Uhuru Ministries Support Association and not just Uhuru Ministries.**

**Barclays have recently told us this is necessary before a cheque can be paid into our account.**

**Alternatively you can easily make payment directly to our account with Barclays Hexham, Sort Code 20-40-09 A/c No 20445754 for the credit of Uhuru Ministries Support Association.**

**If you do that please let us know so we can acknowledge and reclaim gift aid if appropriate.**

**Many thanks for all of your support.**



## **Cherubin**

**You may remember Cherubin who had an operation on his nose to clear an airway last summer.**

**The procedure in Nairobi went exceptionally well and he is now back home with his mother and grandmother.**

## **E-mail Updates**

**In the future we hope to send out shorter but more regular updates, like this one, to all our supporters by e-mail. This will enable us to keep you better informed and saves considerably on our admin costs.**

**If you would like to receive these updates, please forward your name and e-mail address to:**  
[\*\*uhuru.newsletter@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:uhuru.newsletter@gmail.com)

**We will not pass this on to any other organisation.**