

# Uhuru Update May 2015



A group of Uhuru's current youngsters

You will all be aware of the recent awful shootings and beheadings at Garissa University perpetrated by Al-Shabaab terrorists. Other than crying and unbelief it is difficult to respond. Thankfully we don't have any youngsters in Garissa and it is a long, long way from Kisumu, but the horror of it all is unimaginable. Uhuru has several at universities and it could have been any of them. Thankfully Al-Shabaab do not seem close to achieving one of their evil aims of dividing Muslims and Christians in the land.

## Personal News

I arrived home in the UK in late January, happy to be back but unhappy with the change of climate, the cold. It was a good to be back home, at different times meeting up with all the family, including with Deborah who was back from her seven month world travel. With the girls and their families being either north of the border, Naomi and Joanna, or in the south Ruth and Deborah, I don't see a lot of them whether I'm in Kenya or not. I returned to Kenya on April 14<sup>th</sup> but this time only for a relatively short visit coming back to UK on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Thelma and I will be having one of the Kenyan youngsters, Silas, staying with us in May for one week. I got to know Silas when I was running Kanyawegi children's home. His visit is being financed by his sponsor. My next visit to Kenya is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>, slightly longer than this one, and then again for January 2016.

## Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSEs)

We had seven youngsters sit these exams in October and November last year and the results were announced early in March. We still have not been informed of two of these but the rest did really well. In fact, for the first time, one of our youngsters obtained a straight 'A'. Two others also did very well with 'A-', another achieved a 'B-', and finally one got a 'C-' which for this youngster who had struggled in secondary proved to be a good effort. Unfortunately only one of these youngsters has a sponsor willing to continue through tertiary level.

## University and College

We now need to find funding for two of these youngsters, Stephen and Brian, so that they can proceed to university. Both should qualify for a government subsidized course which substantially reduces fees. They should also qualify for a student loan that would help reduce year costs further.

### **Costs the all-important question.**

Stephen and Brian have made applications to the Kenya Universities and College Application Board which will allocate places based on individual choice and KCSE grades. Such allocations will be as regular government sponsored students which are considerably less expensive than for 'parallel' privately sponsored students. Uhuru can only support regular offers even if this does not reflect the course that the student has applied for as the cost of a private place is too high for us to support.

The choice of course, location of the university and accommodation if available on campus all influence the cost but on average a year's support for one of these students would cost around £1000-1,400 a year, the cost will be reduced if gift-aided by an individual and also once the student is in receipt of a student loan. *Picture right future Uni hopefuls (apart from the 'white' haired one)*



We hope that we can support these young people to attend university from September but to do that we need to find funding for them soon. David Innes, our chair of trustees, will be writing to all of our supporters with more details of these prospective students and asking if individuals, churches, schools or other groups could consider supporting, or partially supporting, any of them for a fixed period through their period of study. This is a great opportunity to engage in a meaningful way with a young person in Kenya and really make a difference to their life.

Can you think of any way either as an individual or by being part of a church or other fundraising group that you could help these young people fulfill their obvious potential?

### **Every blessing Terry**

#### **Karen Wells**

It is with great sadness that I share with you that Karen Wells, a long serving supporter and former Trustee of Uhuru Ministries Support Association, passed away on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Karen was passionate about the work of Uhuru, about helping children, especially orphans, living in the poorest of conditions. As a Trustee, her drive and energy ensured that we kept focused on our priorities. She was the driving force behind many of our fund raising events, most recently our Burns Suppers in 2014 and 2015, and she sold most of the tickets despite her illness. Those of us who knew how ill she was in January of this year were inspired and amazed to see her working in the kitchen all evening. "I just love it," she said when asked how she managed.

A service of thanksgiving for Karen's life will be held at Hexham Trinity Methodist Church at 4pm on Friday 22nd May.

Please keep Karen's family, her husband, Peter, her daughters, Jessica, Phoebe and Imogen, and her sister Sian, in your prayers at this time.

### **David Innes Chair of Trustees Uhuru Ministries Support Association.**