



A Christian Children's Home in Kenya for Vulnerable School-aged Boys

<http://ahadifamilykenya.org>

## DECEMBER 2017 UPDATE

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to the new year with open eyes and ears for God's leading you into His service in the coming year. I, for one, am relieved to have finally made plane reservations and gotten my Kenyan visa online to leave the US on 5 January, and will stay at Ahadi Family for 7 weeks, reconnecting with the boys, meeting with the Board of Directors and Trustees, and assisting with the preparation for the annual financial audit, which will reflect God's faithfulness in providing for the Ahadi Family.

The political situation is a bit calmer since the Opposition party didn't carry out its threatened plan to declare its Presidential candidate as the "People's President," shortly after the incumbent was sworn in to begin his second term. He was told that if he would have done so, it would be considered treason and he could face the death penalty. He is still planning to do something, not sure what, as he insists that the vote was rigged, and that he should be President of Kenya. Meanwhile, the country is in a position of relative calm.



**Twenty-five of our boys enjoyed a week of Christian camp during the holidays**, and had a good time mixing with other children and teens. Some of the boys are ones who have been living with relatives for the last couple of years and appreciated being able to reunite with their Ahadi brothers at camp (at our expense).

**The social worker has informed me that he has managed to find high schools for all but one of the boys who completed Primary School.** The one boy remaining should really repeat some primary school, but doesn't want to go back to the school where he was. Pray for wisdom since there is a policy not to let someone enter a primary school in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, so he would need to repeat 2 grades. Also pray for the social worker as getting kids into high school is a big hassle, and there are 8 boys who will need to get uniforms, a box to keep their belongings in, mattress, bedding, etc. since high school is a boarding situation (not fancy, by the way) for most high schoolers in Kenya. Cost, including school fees, are over \$2,000. They also will not be attending anything close-by, so it will involve adjusting to a totally new environment with none of the friends or other Ahadi boys there to make them feel at home. I really feel for

these boys. In the past, those entering high school (9<sup>th</sup> grade), began in February, but this year, they will begin just a week after those in continuing grades have begun. So, it's a lot for our social worker to "pull off" after just returning from holidays and getting primary school kids back from relatives, settled, and back to school.

**We recently learned that Kenya is interested to encouraging foster parenting and adoption (not international), and therefore isn't registering any new children's homes.** It makes us a bit nervous since we requested renewal of our registration back in June, and the council hasn't yet met to grant it. Foster care to those not related to you, has never taken off in Kenya in the past, and I wonder how the government will encourage it when they don't have the personnel or budget to oversee such a program. In fact, now, they don't assist children's homes at all, and only give about \$10 per month to anyone who agrees to take in orphaned relatives (that's no matter how many relatives you have taken in, and it is paid quarterly). The only time we see a children's officer is when a new child is to be committed to us in court, because they are so under-staffed.

**Jannes, who has been serving as Junior Staff this year, has been accepted in a Diploma Programme at Mt. Kenya University, to begin in January if we can get a sponsor that quickly.** The 7-semester programme costs only a total of \$400 per semester including room and board. Is there anyone who can (quickly) agree to sponsor him? He would like to study Public Relations and is a very diplomatic kind of guy with a lot of maturity. E-mail me right away at [phyllismasso@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismasso@gmail.com) if you would like to make this opportunity come to pass.

**Ian Kimathi, a senior at Daystar University, was chosen to go to Morocco on an exchange programme for 6 weeks.** He is there now, and already starting to understand Arabic and French. More about his adventures next month.



**CASE IN POINT** At a Christmas outing for kids living in children's homes, sponsored by the Machakos County Governor and his wife, our littlest boy met up with his sisters (now around 8 and 16) who reside in a different children's home. He was abandoned as a toddler, and he and his 4 and 12-year old sisters and 8-year old brother roamed the streets of town, eating trash until the police got them. The 8-year old was committed to Ahadi, and the little guy went to a home for abandoned babies (after staying with his mother in jail, where she was detained with him and his little sister for 6 months). When he was 4½, he got custody of him so he could grow up with his brother. His sisters were placed in other homes and have been transferred from place to place over the years. Our social worker keeps track of them so they can see each other from time to time.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE.**

**Phyllis Masso for Ahadi Family Kenya.**

**IN THE US, to make tax-exempt contributions: SEND CHECKS TO: SCREAM USA, 31 Benson Rd., Northbridge, MA 01534**

**Or, USE A DEBIT CARD TO MAKE A TAX-EXEMPT DONATION THROUGH ORPHAN'S JOY <http://orphansjoy.revtrak.net>  
Select "Ahadi Family Kenya Orphanage" and choose "running expenses"**

**IN KENYA: Send to our m-pesa account: 0706-344024 (Humphrey Chegome Olindo's name--our social worker/manager--will appear in your confirmation message.) OR, DEPOSIT AT NIC BANK, NIC HOUSE BRANCH Ahadi Family Kenya account**