



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

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

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The US is getting chilly now as Kenya begins warming up. And as we are just getting situated into a new school year in the US, the Kenyan children have completed their third term and are beginning their long "summer break." (Yes, it is warmer at the end of the year.) Those who are finishing primary school (8th grade), will now do their end of primary school exam, a scary three-day-long exam that will determine their eligibility for high school (usually a boarding school because there aren't enough local high schools in Kenya). The only one of our boys taking that exam this year is one who we reconciled to an uncle a couple of years ago. He is living in the western part of Kenya and is so well-behaved and hard working. The younger children have been sent home from school for the holidays already, so the schools are quieter for those taking these exams. The same thing is happening in the high schools, except that the exams are much longer. They used to send those in the earlier grades home, and then have them come back again after the exam-takers were finished, but now they are sent home to stay until next year, after a very short 3rd term. There are 4 taking this end of high school exam, one of whom is a sister of the above boy taking the primary exam. Two are boys whom we pay schools fees for because they are orphaned and their relatives couldn't afford the fees--one lives nearby Ahadi, and one is living with an Ahadi alumnus who doesn't have steady work. The one boy who does live at Ahadi has been a behavioral challenge for Ahadi and for his schools, and he has gotten poor grades all through high school. Before coming to Ahadi, he had been living on the streets after his mom died, and then the auntie who was supposed to be caring for him also died. Neither of these ladies were good role models for him and his sisters. **Please pray that God would help him to turn away from that trend and let the Holy Spirit do a work in his life.**

Soon, all the Ahadi boys will go to a Christian camp which is our practice each year. We believe the camp experience is a good one. They have fun, and they are also challenged by Biblical teaching. Meanwhile, four of our boys were circumcised by a doctor today. That is the custom in Kenya when boys are about 10-12 years old.

As you can imagine, it is very painful. It's good they have each other to commiserate with, though. It is a reminder to them, too, that they are growing up and need to stop "acting like babies" and take responsibility.



Geof graduated from Catholic University of East Africa in Political Science a week ago. Ahadi Family had a party for him with a very nice cake, and he challenged the Ahadi boys to work hard and not get messed up in some of the mistakes he did. He had many challenges his final year due to poor choices and being introduced to alcohol, so we are glad he finally finished. Geof has no relatives that he has ever met, and his single mom, who had come from Uganda and was working as a house-keeper, died when he was a

toddler. Pray for him now as he needs to find work. It is especially challenging to transition to adulthood when there are no relatives out there to turn to. We are thankful for a lady whom I met through a community choir, who took an interest in him when he was a teen and has been very supportive of him through thick and thin, taking him to a movie now and then, or buying him jeans, and now that she is married, her husband has joined her in being kind of “auntie and uncle” figures. For now, he is staying at Ahadi and commuting daily to an attachment in the nearby town of Athi River, working with a probation officer. This is not a paying position, however, and we hope he can soon find employment and be on his own.

Several of our graduates are in similar shape, that is they graduated but haven’t found work yet. One of them found out that his major in Environmental Health was not accredited by the government, and therefore no employer wants him because he is missing several courses that the university didn’t provide! Others are having difficulty because there are no job openings in their field or there’s a lot of competition from others who have connections--plus unemployment is around 50%. **PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE GRADUATES TO FIND WORK.**

The good news is that three of our college/university students who just began this year are doing very well in their studies, and Julius is on the Dean’s list at Daystar University! The bad news is that two others, we just found out, have not even been attending class! It’s really discouraging when we realize that the sponsor’s money has been wasted, and these boys are nowhere to be found. Another one, we had to discontinue because of continued deceitful living. **Pray that we will have wisdom in monitoring these boys and discipling/disciplining them appropriately.**

I will be at Ahadi from end of December through February to prepare for the audit and to meet with the Ahadi Board of Directors and the Trustees. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s direction in preparation for that trip, especially as I contemplate various options about what my future “hands-on” involvement will be. **Thank you for your prayers and financial support, and please keep Ahadi Family in mind as an option, as you may be considering end of year giving.** Our needs at the end of the year are great when we send boys to camp and to see relatives (we send them with food for a long break, and new home clothes); and at the beginning of January, school fees first term are always the highest. **May your hearts be filled with gratitude to God for your homes, your families, and your bountiful provisions. Kenya doesn’t have Thanksgiving Day, but we are thankful every day for you.**

Phyllis Masso for Ahadi Family Kenya.

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