

## BEFORE WE GO ...



We are headed to Africa again in early April to visit our Grow A Doc graduates & students, to bring more crafts from our support groups, christen more goats, and...something new...to visit Burundi. I've been corresponding with Father Desire Yamuremye, a Jesuit priest who is a commissioner on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Burundi. He also has an HIV clinic in Bujumbura, so we expect to learn a great deal about needs in this very poor country. Many people don't remember that Burundi suffered the same genocide as Rwanda in 1994 & much healing is needed. Re. safety: We are careful about where we travel & with whom. We've listened to the counsel of Father Desire. So please stay tuned to learn more about what Harambee may be able to accomplish in this new service site. *(For sure we'll be bringing a suitcase of donated meds & brown dolls.)*



Speaking of brown dolls, they are getting spread widely.

In December I sent a suitcase of them to Uganda with Sister Stella Akellor , where they were given on Christmas Day to children in the village of Ongutoi. Such joy they brought to kids who had never had toys! When they received the dolls, the kids starting dancing, & she had never seen them dance before. They were beyond excited! The boys tended to like the dolls at first, but then enjoyed playing with the cars.

So, once again, thanks to the wonderful women of Delta Sigma Theta & others who have donated dolls & cars. You've done a great thing.

### GROW A DOC UPDATES

#### *What else you are accomplishing in the world:*

One of our newest medical students--Lawrence Owino, reported on his visit home during the holidays: "Am also happy to share with you how i encountered a choking child in the countryside during the holiday and was able to save him by using my knowledge of Heimlich's maneuver which I learnt last semester. I hope i will learn more and put them to practise when need arises.

Thank you very much and may 2016 bring you peace and God's grace."

This, from a student with a single semester's training! Imagine the good he'll accomplish in his lifetime of service as a physician.... *And your donations have made this possible.*

We hear from each of the students and graduates regularly. They work hard & are doing well in their studies. We'll have another grad soon, Esnas Oonda. She writes:

"Am so glad too to hear from you. I miss you guys. This year is of greatness. Our graduation time is in August or December This semester I have 5 written units and one final grand assesment in the hospital, after this I will do my council examination for licensing and wait to be posted for my internship in 2017. After that I pray God to grant me the

opportunity and finances to continue with my masters education and a job. In the meantime after completion of this course I plan on volunteering at a local health center around home and also enroll on a short course, project management, microfinance or advanced trauma life support, for the 4 months as I wait to graduate. Shalom"



Our first young women students  
Esnas (center) with Jackline & Dr. Faith Juma

No grass grows under the feet of these ambitious young men & women. With their good Jesuit education & values, they will change the face of Africa. They never fail to mention their gratitude to all those helping them along. Another graduate, Dr. Collins Yallah, is finishing his internship & has applied for a Global Health Corps fellowship. And they all have joined "WhatsApp" -- a great communication & education tool for discussing clinical problems.

Lastly I need to tell you about M., our dear student who was attacked last year.



In January she gave birth to a healthy & beautiful baby boy. I've heard from her & she is doing well. Our appeal for help resulted in generous donations--enough to cover her medical costs & her mother's transport to Nairobi. A friend here in Chicago has pledged \$25/month for a full year. This will abundantly care for the baby's needs & of course we will continue to finance M's medical education. She was the highest scoring student ever in her high school and is enrolled at the best medical school in Kenya. She is determined to finish her training. God only knows how this courageous girl will pull this off, but we are in her corner and will help her all the way. As we celebrate a new Light in the world, my hope and prayer is that this baby will bring only grace and love and light into the lives of those around him.

Every day I remind myself that I never really wanted to go to Africa. But look what's happened....

You have ensured that this work continues and grows. You are acting as God's hands on earth.

***Please remember our alternative cards when you're***

**looking for a special gift. Easter is coming, Mother's Day, birthdays, weddings, teacher appreciation. We make cards for all occasions and they beat out sweaters, ties, candles, & hand lotion! For even \$15 you can change the life of a family. I can personalize any card: I've made a memorial gift card for a woman who donated a dairy goat in her deceased sister's name--a life-giving tribute that accomplished much more than a floral bouquet. Contact me at [harambee.work@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harambee.work@sbcglobal.net) or write to POB 1724, N. Riverside IL 60546. You also can donate any amount online:**

**[visit our website](#)**

*Are you interested in hosting a slideshow talk to see more photos & hear stories of our work in Africa? Want to attend a gathering or view our newest jewelry & crafts? Let me know. I travel, and I'll consider most anything to spread the word and make the world a little more fair for us all. Many thanks.*

### **HATS, HATS, HATS!**



*I have a large selection of elegant straw sun hats in various styles & colors with African beads decorating the crown. They're very reasonably priced & might be just what you are looking for this year. Hat shown, with matching bracelet: \$25. Some men's, too.*

In closing, I'll be posting to our Facebook page as we travel. I welcome your feedback & I send greetings and thanks from your friends in Africa. They know that God understands Swahili...*because you are an answer to their prayers.*

Ever,  
Keen



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