

From Flossie Adoyo, Director and 'Mum' of the J&D Children's Centre:

Greetings to you and all our J&D Friends!
This far, the Lord has brought us, and we are grateful.
Thank you so much, our Friends from England, Ireland etc for all your support. We appreciate you and sincerely thank God for each one of you.

All 39 of our children are now here at home for the school holidays, which is lovely. (In Kenya these are short holidays – only 3 weeks – as the long holidays are in November-January). The whole place is busy and noisy, with the children playing everywhere together and telling their news. It's wonderful that they are all well and happy..... see below for more news, including some written by the children themselves.



Here below are our beautiful older girls: Winnie, Zubeda, Joyce, Neema, Riziki and Zawadi



The Solar Panel System

We are very grateful for the 3 sets of solar panels (one on each building) gifted to us through you, Friends of J&D and the Seedfield Trust.

It has made a huge difference for us over the past few months. Maseno's mains electric power has a bad habit of disappearing for days or weeks, often at most crucial times, such as in the middle of cooking, or when the children need to see to do their homework. But for us, since the solar panels were installed, we have had power throughout day or night and the best part is that after all the money spent on its purchase and installation, we do not have to pay single cent for it! We will only need to spend a little money on it for inspection every two years. THANK YOU!

A new Rainwater Tank

We are also very grateful for the funds given to us to buy and install a rain catchment water tank to collect water from the roof of the dining room building. This has been donated by two of our supporters, Mike and Bridget, who also visited us here at Maseno in February this year.

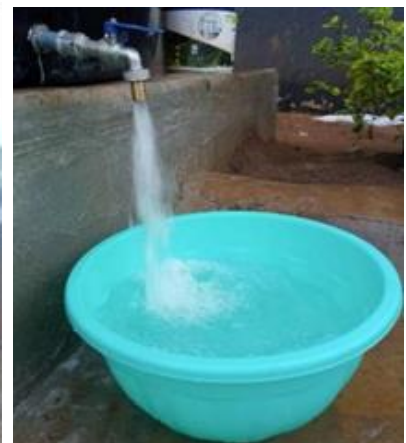
The foundation base built



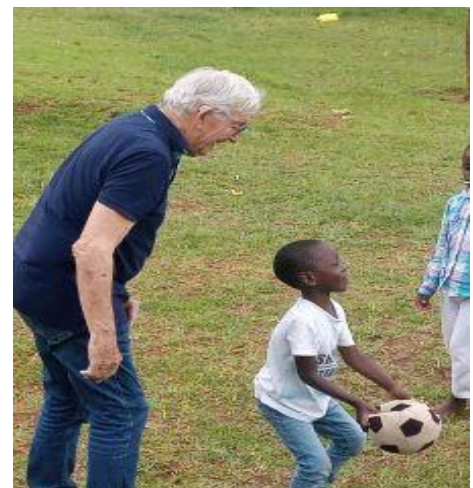
.....the tank installed



.....clean rainwater!!!



Here are Bridget and Mike during their visit to us at Maseno, showing the children how to make different kinds of animals using balloons that they brought to the children, and Mike playing football with the children.



J&D struck by lightning

We really thank God for the gift of the new rainwater tank which came just at the right time. Without it we would have had real difficulties, because in June we were struck by lightning and one of our other 3 smaller 'old' rainwater tanks (the one beside the Boys House) was completely shredded into pieces.

Here at Maseno, we thank God that we do not get floods during the rainy season because we are on high ground. However, we are prone to thunderstorms and lightning, though actual lightning strikes are rare so it was a great shock. It happened in the night and the huge 'bang' woke us all

up. My own bedroom is in the Boys House and the lightning struck just outside my window, so I was very frightened at first.



Thank God that nobody was hurt. Luckily it was night-time, we were all lying in our beds which are made of wood, and so our feet were not touching the ground. The lightning hit the Boys House tank because it is high up - raised up on a metal 'tower' to give enough water pressure to supply the indoor taps. In the photo you can see the metal framework of the tower and the split plastic tank which had been on the top of it.

The solar panel which is on the dining hall roof was also damaged by the thunder-storm (though the ones on the other two buildings are fine). The solar company that installed them, has promised to replace it under the guarantee, but we are still waiting.... ! I hope they keep their promise.

URGENT - A Manager for the J&D Centre?

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we do urgently need to appoint a 'Manager' who can work alongside me and gradually take over my role when I am no longer able to do certain tasks. However, we cannot appoint anyone until we are sure that we can at least begin to pay them! At the moment our J&D income is just enough to cover our current costs and the children's school fees, but with nothing left over to pay a Manager.

We will need to raise enough to pay the Manager at least 100,000 Kenyan shillings (around £600) per month. That's a reasonable salary at current Kenyan rates, because we need a very able person: someone who loves children; is strongly motivated and hard-working; is financially capable and totally honest; can oversee a team of about eight staff; can write good reports/newsletters in English to encourage supporters; can build useful contacts and gain respect locally, but also challenge "the authorities" and the schools when necessary.

If you have any ideas about fundraising for this post, and people or organisations who might be willing to help, do please let us know swiftly!!

All suggestions gratefully received.

Ideally we would need an Endowment of enough money to guarantee being able to pay a Manager for a minimum of 3 years (**so an Endowment of at least £22,000 in total**).

Contact one of the Trustees of 'Friends of J&D': our Chair Eugenia Adoyo on maseno@icloud.com or our Treasurer Jim Dobson on jimfdobson@gmail.com or just reply to this newsletter to Amiel Osmaston on amiel.osmaston4215@outlook.com



Right – Auntie Monica with two of our babies

What the children really think about their schools (in their own words)!

I thought you would enjoy hearing from some of the older children in their own words. So recently I asked each one of our ten children who are in Senior Secondary school, to write something about their school and how they thought/felt about it. They were happy to do this and all wrote something except Steven and Moses.

Here below is what they wrote without any guidance or oversight from me or anyone else. I'm impressed by how well they are writing English now, given that it is their second language after Swahili.

I have not edited or changed anything (*though in a couple of places I have added a comment in italics if an explanation is needed*).

(We moved Riziki to this new school in January – even though she is half-way through Secondary School - because she was being bullied at her previous school for bed-wetting etc. She is now much better and happier, and doing well).

Riziki writes: "My name is Riziki and I am now in Form Three at Edward Limo Educational Centre in Eldoret. The school is a very good school compared to the one where I was before in Form one and two. Three of my sisters from J&D (Zawadi, Winnie and Joyce) also go to the same school with me but they are in Form One.

The school was founded with very few students in 2017 and has rapidly moved up the 'ladder'. Last year, it emerged as the second-best school in the county in KCSE examination with 99% transition rate to university.

Let me now talk about my subject choices and career. I personally take eight subjects: Maths, English, Kiswahili, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, CRE (Christian Religious Education) and Agriculture. My favourite subjects are Biology, Chemistry and Kiswahili, not because I passed them very well but because they will help me achieve my dream career.

In future, I would like to be a doctor and also study mass media and communication. What I have to do now is to focus on my dreams and work hard on all my subjects because anyone who desires to become a doctor must pass well in chemistry, biology and mathematics. A pass in languages i.e English and Kiswahili is also a must and goes without saying.

Apart from these two careers, I would like to be a brilliant feminist and a woman of substance who will stand up and protect the rights of women and children in society. One of the key points to success is that, even though I might not have high ability in something, once I have the determination and believing and trusting myself that "Yes I can do it", of course I will, through hard work and by the Grace of God. I believe I can become anybody I want to become. This is what I have to do and focus on it so that I may achieve my goals at the end of the day.

Let me now finish by talking about the extra-curriculum activities. The school offers many games such as football, netball, volleyball and athletics, and plans to introduce rugby and create a pitch for basketball. We have indoor games such as chess and scrabble where a few students participate. We also have the school choir where our school Principal is the choir mistress and she is excellent in music.

I really love my school because we have very good and caring teachers. I thank Mummy for taking me to such a good school. Now all I have to do is to work hard!"



Below is Edward Limo school, the boarding school where Riziki, Zawadi, Winnie and Joyce all go.



Zawadi says “I am in Form One at the same school with Riziki, Winnie and Joyce, and I love my school very much because I think it cannot be compared with any other school anywhere in Kenya! In education, I am always ready for it and work hard in all subjects. The teachers in our school are never late in coming to class. They are always ready to do their work. Some of them are fierce but kind while others are friendly and approachable. Most of the teachers are ready to listen to us. They never judge anyone because they have the knowledge to never judge a book by its cover! I am always attentive in class which leads me to excel in most subjects. I got a straight ‘A’ in end-of-term examinations because of my teachers. I plan to keep this performance up until I reach Form Four when I will sit for my Kenya

Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) so that I can get an “A” and go to university. I am very happy here and I am also very proud of my school.”

Winnie (Winifred) is also in Form One at the same school. She says,

“Most of the students in our school participate in various games. For me, I participate in athletics. Our athletics teacher is as tall as a giraffe and he is as slender as myself. I love my school very much. Our class teacher is madam Kipchumba. We love the way she handles us as her children. Our headteacher, madam Joyce is very talented at her work. She does her duty as fast as she can.

I thank God for being in this school. The only bad thing about our school is that although we learn about agriculture, we only do so in theory so far, we do not have practicals. Otherwise we have labs for all other subjects - that includes an ICT lab where we learn about computers.





Joyce is also in Form One at the same school in Eldoret.

She says,

“When I went to Edward Limo school and saw the place, I was as happy as a lark. The school looked better than any school I had ever seen. We have fifteen teachers who normally teach us very well so that you understand.

I love my teachers very much because they are patient. My mother choose for us a better school. When I finish Form four, I will never forget about my school”

Neema Milakon (right) is very bright and was given a scholarship to go to a ‘National School’ (one which only takes the cream of the brightest students from across the whole of Kenya).

Neema writes:

“My school is one of the best girls’ schools in our country Kenya. The first day I came to Kipsigis Girls High School, I was astonished at how big and beautiful the school was. I had never seen such a big and beautiful school. It has a lot of facilities and there is enough and well-prepared food which we are taught to share by serving among ourselves.



I really love and enjoy being in Kipsigis Girls High School.

Personally, I like Kiswahili, Mathematics, all sciences and English. I would like to become a medical lecturer in future.

Kipsigis Girls has a clean environment with enough hot water for bathing morning and evening. There are more than 23 dormitories that house a total of 1,800 students so there is no congestion.



We usually have thorough cleaning every Saturday whereby every student co-operates in cleaning our wonderful school with the help of the prefects.

Moreover, our school has good and polite teachers. Our Principal, Mrs. Chumba, is the role model of the school. She is always kind and makes sure every student has settled in school and is happy. She always says that we are equal since we all wear uniform. She has also ensured that our canteen sells only milk etc and not bad food stuff or junk food such as sweets and biscuits and mandazi because she wants us to know that we are all equal.

All lessons in our school are attended on time. The teachers make sure all students have understood the lesson taught. I love the English lessons. Our English teacher is funny and jovial. There is no day I have seen him gloomy.

We always have morning and evening devotions every day whereby we praise, worship, pray and thank God for His goodness to us. We also have prayer grounds on the campus where anyone can go and pray at their own leisure any time. On Sundays, we have Bible study after Sunday service followed by guiding and counselling sessions.

I really thank God that Kipsigis High School is the best environment to help me achieve my goals in life. May God bless Mummy and all those who have enabled me to be at this school.

Job Tumaini started in January in Form One at Esalwa Boys Secondary School which is an 'Extra-county school' (Extra-County schools are next in ranking to National schools).

Tumaini says: "My school is so nice that when I entered there for the first time, I was as happy as a sun boy because I was now in boarding school and I said to myself **"Job Tumaini, now that you are in a good boarding school, you will not be wasting your time on the road walking to and from day-school but you will just be doing your work very humbly and working very hard to pass your examinations"**.

Esalwa Boys School is the best school a round because we always eat well. Our diet is very good because nobody has ever been sick by eating our school food.

Our teachers are also very good to us, especially Form One teachers who take care of us and treat us very well. They also know how to teach and they make sure that everyone has understood well the lesson taught. My best subjects are physics and all sciences. In future, I would like to be a mechanical engineer".



Daniel Imani is at Nyang'ori Boys High school, which is also an Extra-County school. He says:

"I love my school very much and I am so grateful to God that I was able to get into this school because, academically, it is the best school you can think of. It is also a Christian school. It is more or less a National school even though it is categorized under 'Extra-county schools'.



The total student population of Nyang'ori Boys is 2,750 students. Our teachers always come to class on time and they teach us very well. They make sure we understand what we are taught. My best subjects are English, Kiswahili, Biology, Chemistry, C.R.E and History and Government. In my stream we are only 66 students, but in the whole of Form One we are a total of 466 students.

Even though the school performs well in national exams, there is one practical challenge in the school - if you want to have breakfast, you must wake up at 4.00am, bath and get ready for class so that you are one of the first students to be in the line to be served breakfast, otherwise you can miss your breakfast if the bell for class rings before you are served. This makes many students go without food. This is because we are very many and it takes a very long time to serve all of us. For me, I said to myself **"Daniel Imani, you did not come here to eat food, you came**

here to learn so focus on what brought you here” so I decided that I will not be having breakfast so that I can be in class on time.

In this school, my nickname is ‘Chaplain’ because everybody thinks I am the son of our school chaplain! Also at home at J&D, they call me Chaplain because I volunteered to be leading evening prayers every-night before we go to sleep.

I just thank God for enabling me to be in this school because my marks in KCPE were only 307 out of 500 (whereas the cut off mark for admission to Form One here was 360/500). However, I do much better than many of my fellow students here who got much higher marks than me because my teacher always tells us that “*our past does not define us or our future*”. I have decided to work very hard so that I can do well in my exams and go to university and realise my dream of becoming an engineer in future.

I want to thank my Mum for trying her best to ensure that I got admitted in this school, and also thank all our J&D Friends abroad for giving Mummy money to look after us and to pay our school fees.

Baraka Obama writes

“My name is Obama. I have been at Mbita Boys High School for 2.5 years and am in Form Three. Our school motto is “PADDLE TO SUCCESS” which steers us to achieving academic excellence. Our school is beside Lake Victoria on the Kenyan side.

Mbita Boys High School has a total population of 2,526 students with over 140 teachers and more than 50 support staff. The school Principle is Mr. Kennedy Ojijo, a well-known and highly respected individual which earns him the title of “Chief Principle”. We have a very smart school uniform as you can see in my picture here.

Last year, the school managed to achieve a transition rate of 98% to university whereby 420 students out of 424 who sat for their final examinations had a straight entry to university. Some of the key tips to our success are the quality of teaching, notes given by the teachers and the tests given. We have very devoted teachers who take their time to teach us even over the weekends. Also not forgetting that all is nothing without God. Our school has allocated 20 minutes daily to Bible study before going to bed.

My best subjects are Chemistry, Biology, English, Kiswahili and Agriculture, but I also take Maths, History/Government and Physics. I have some problems with Maths but I am trying my best. Mbita High School performs best in sciences, mathematics and humanities too. This is good for me as I want to become a medical officer in future so that I can be treating my mother.

Meals are usually superb and delicious. We normally have buns every morning with tea for breakfast. At break time we are served with black tea and buy ourselves something from the canteen such as a mandazi (a fried bun which is very popular with Kenyans but not very good nutritionally) or bread. My favourite meal is rice with beans or ugali (*stiff maize porridge*) served with meat and sukuma-wiki (kale).

Apart from academic activities, we also engage in extra-curricular activities such as sports that include rugby, football, basketball, badminton, table tennis, hockey among others. We are also allowed to join any club of one’s interest such as the journalism club, music and drama clubs, and



the Christian and Muslim societies. We also attend academic-related events like science and engineering fairs, student workshops and agricultural fairs among others.

My school is good at encouraging responsibility and welfare. It allows students to elect their own leaders whom they think are best to represent them in the student council which is headed by the school president. The student council assists the school in its administrative work.

At the same time, the school recognizes the Guidance and Counselling department where peer counselors are chosen from among the older students, and assist in counselling those students who need counselling. In addition to this, the peer counselors chair counselling meetings usually held on Sunday evenings.

I am very grateful to God, to Friends of J&D and to Mummy for enabling me to go to Mbita Boys High School. Thank you”.

Academics in summary

We have not yet received any reports or results from Term Two which ended recently in early August. However, here below is the summary of examination performance for the ten children in Secondary school, at the end of Term One (i.e. January – April).

Name	Class (Form)	Total marks	Stream/class position	Overall year-group position	Mean Grade
Rael Riziki	Three	427/800	11/22	11/22	C+
Baraka Obama	Three	425/800	46/68	352/543	C
Steven Musheba	Three	331/800	25/67	177/435	C-
Moses Am'matsi	Two	Moses did not sit for any of his exams at the end of the Spring term so he was given 145marks out of 1200 just because teachers are not allowed to give a student "0" marks and he was position 270 out of 270 students. However, things are changing now after the accident. (read more about Moses later)			
Joyce Neema	One	499/1200	22/22	22/22	C-
Job Tumaini	One	514/1100	14/29	66/126	C-
Daniel Imani	One	718/1100	19/66	186/466	B
Winifred Tamara	One	787/1200	8/22	8/22	B+
Neema Milakon	One	883/1100	5/61	104/470	A-
Zawadi Elizabeth	One	1000/1200	4/22	4/22	A

The marks may not look brilliant at first sight, but I can assure you that the children are focused on their studies and are working quite hard and improving. In my view they are all potential University material except perhaps Joyce. The minimum Mean Grade for university entry is a plain "C" but if one wants to take a course like medicine (which both Riziki and Baraka hope to take), then they must get an 'A' in their KCSE examination at the end of Form Four. However, there are good middle level colleges in Kenya that students who do not make it to university can go to. Depending on your chosen subject, it can even be better to go to a good middle level college than to university since our university classes are too congested.

Aiming at exam targets

At J&D, I sit down at the start of the academic year in January with each of the children separately, and we discuss many things including their aims and targets for school and exams. The Form Three children (Riziki, Obama and Steven) all set their targets at 600 or above out of 800 total marks by the end of the year. Most of the Form One children decided to set their targets at 1000 or above

(out of 1100 or 1200 marks depending on the number of subjects one is studying). Joyce set her target at 800 marks.

I have promised them that whoever meets their target marks will be able to choose any gift they want up to the value of Ks.5,000/ (£30 sterling). At the end of last term, only Zawadi met her target of 1000 out of 1200 marks, so she asked me to buy her a scout's uniform as her gift since she is a member of her school's scouts club but did not have the uniform. I thought to myself *"That's a good choice of gift, since I would probably have had to buy it anyway".....* not knowing that the full uniform would cost me a total of Ks.10,000/- !! Anyway, I bought the uniform and Zawadi was very happy with it.

Cooking chapattis for Sunday supper – the children's favourite treat.



Junior Secondary School

We currently have four children in Grade Eight which is categorized as 'Junior secondary school' under the new education system of the CBC (Competency Based Curriculum) system. It is a sort of 'half-way house' between Primary and Secondary school. These four are Zubeda, Andala, Marianna and Emmanuel. When they get to Grade Nine next year, they will sit for their national examination and transit to Senior Secondary School.

Sadly these four children are not doing very well in their studies. The main reason for their poor academic performance is that Kenyan teachers are quite confused about the new CBC system of education since it was rolled out prematurely by the government before the teachers could be fully trained in it. Zubeda and Andala are bright pupils, so I hope that they will eventually do much better.

Under the new CBC system we also have Enos in Grade (Year) Five, and Fabian, Fidel and Edward in Grade Two.

Enos too is not doing very well in school due to the same reasons as given above. Also he did not receive a firm academic foundation in the lower classes, because he was sent to J&D when he was already too old.

However, Fabian, Fidel, and Edward are doing very well and their teachers are pleased with them. This is because of the home schooling they went through here at J&D where Teacher Grace laid a very firm foundation for them, so they are able to read both English and Kiswahili simple story books fluently, write well and do arithmetic well enough for their level.

Below are Fabian,

Fidel

and Edward.



Fabian has issues with his health so we have temporarily removed him from boarding school because he has to attend medical clinics regularly.

Home schooling at J&D

Home school for the younger children is doing well, led by Teacher Grace. We have eight of our own children in the home school who all enjoy their lessons very much.

In addition, we now have five other children from the local village who have joined the group. These children enjoy being in the group so much. Their mothers are all single mothers who are working hard at menial jobs in Nairobi, which is about 10 hours travel away. The children therefore live in Maseno area with their grand-mothers and are mostly quite poor. For this reason, we only charge them a minimal fee of Ks.2,000/ per month for their lunch, snack and writing materials. We hope to expand our early childhood school because it is becoming quite popular.

Moses and his broken leg

I mentioned in my last newsletter in May, that just 2 days before I wrote to you, Moses had a serious accident and his leg was crushed by a car. Thank you for your concern and prayers for him.



He had gone out without permission on our Workman's bicycle one early morning to go and fetch milk. (We don't allow our children to fetch milk because to get to the farm which sells fresh cow milk, one has to cross a main road. It is the duty of our workman to fetch the milk). Moses tried to cross the road on the bicycle and was hit by a run-away speeding car. The police came and took Moses to Maseno Mission hospital and then called me to inform me of the accident.

The accident could have been fatal but thank God that Moses survived, though the bones in his right leg were shattered and crushed. As I mentioned before, all Government doctors in Kenya were on long-term strike, but one of our trustees gave an

emergency donation and we managed to find a private doctor who agreed to operate. The money covered Moses' treatment including the operation and surgeons' fee, the metal pins and plates, post operation care, hospital stay, physiotherapy and purchase of crutches. His leg now seems to be healing well. At last he is able to walk around without his crutches and has no pain in his leg although he still has to attend a regular clinic at the hospital for checkups.



It was a very worrying time, but God seems to be using this experience to change Moses for the better. The accident has been a wake-up call for Moses – it has shaken him up, made him reassess his life, and turned things around for him.

Before the accident, Moses had become very unruly and 'teenager-ish' (he is 16). He would skip school and he was very disrespectful, especially to the staff here at J&D. He was attending a local Secondary day school, and in the mornings he would leave home dressed for school, but instead he would go loitering around the market with his drop-out friends getting into trouble, and come back home in the evening pretending that he had been at school. His teachers had given up on him. As for me, I was getting very discouraged because I had organised several counselling and mentoring sessions for the children and although the other children seemed to benefit from these sessions, Moses never seemed to benefit at all.

After the accident and operation, Moses and I had several long talks about his feelings and behaviour etc, and he seemed to want to make a fresh start in his life. Moses has now had to become a boarder at his school because he couldn't get to school each day – he was on crutches and we couldn't afford a daily taxi. Being a boarder has had the good effect that it has cut him off from his drop-out 'friends'.

Now I think Moses realizes that he has been given a second chance by God and has really changed for the better. He even apologized to me for all the bad things he had been doing including



stealing from me, skipping school and being rude to everybody. He shows more appreciation for all those who care for him. He is also less angry and more gentle when dealing with the other children, especially the younger ones. In brief, he has really calmed down and it is like he has 'seen the light'. He has really changed his attitude towards life.

Before this, he had wanted to drop out of school completely, but he is now very positive and focused on his studies. He is even talking of studying hard enough to go to college and become an agriculturist. So, the accident, although it was traumatic, costly and worrying, has had a positive side to it. Thank you to those of you who have prayed for him, and please join me in praying that this change in him continues.

Kesley's progress since his operation for cerebral palsy

As you may remember, last December Kesley (who was born with cerebral palsy) had a major operation on his spine and leg to enable him to learn to walk. He is doing well although he still has the splint on (*see photo on left*). He will have an appointment soon with the doctors who carried out the operation, on 27th of this month - August.

We are just praying that all will be well and that Kesley will be given a clean bill of health and the splint will be removed. He continues to attend his normal clinic (for cerebral palsy) once a month. Kesley is still not able to talk and we have been advised to find a speech therapist for him. However, there are very few in Kenya, they are extremely expensive, and the nearest is 130 miles away.

We are now looking for a suitable specialist boarding school for him, where they can help disabled children. I'll keep you updated of progress.

Thank you!

I thank God that apart from Moses and Kesley, we have not had any other serious sicknesses amongst the children at J&D over the past few months.

I have not given you news of the babies and youngest children this time, but they are all fine. In fact all the children seem to be well and happy!

I am enjoying spending time with them all at the moment as the ones at boarding school are here for the holidays until the end of August.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for them – they are such precious children, and are a joy and a blessing.



Please could you also **pray for our country Kenya**? As you may have seen on the international news, for the past two months there have been huge, serious protests and demonstrations almost daily all over Kenya. It is mostly students and younger people who are protesting against the terrible deep-rooted corruption and the lack of job opportunities here. Most of the corrupt politicians and government employees are trying to squash it and many protesters have been killed. There is some hope of change, but it's a challenging situation for our J&D teenagers to be growing up in.

May God bless you.

Flossie