

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

I want to thank all of you Friends of J&D who support and pray for us, and work so tirelessly to raise the funds which make it possible for our children to be rescued and given a new life. We at J&D sincerely appreciate your generosity and all you do, and I pray that the Lord will continue to help us to be faithful stewards of the resources he has entrusted to us here at J&D.

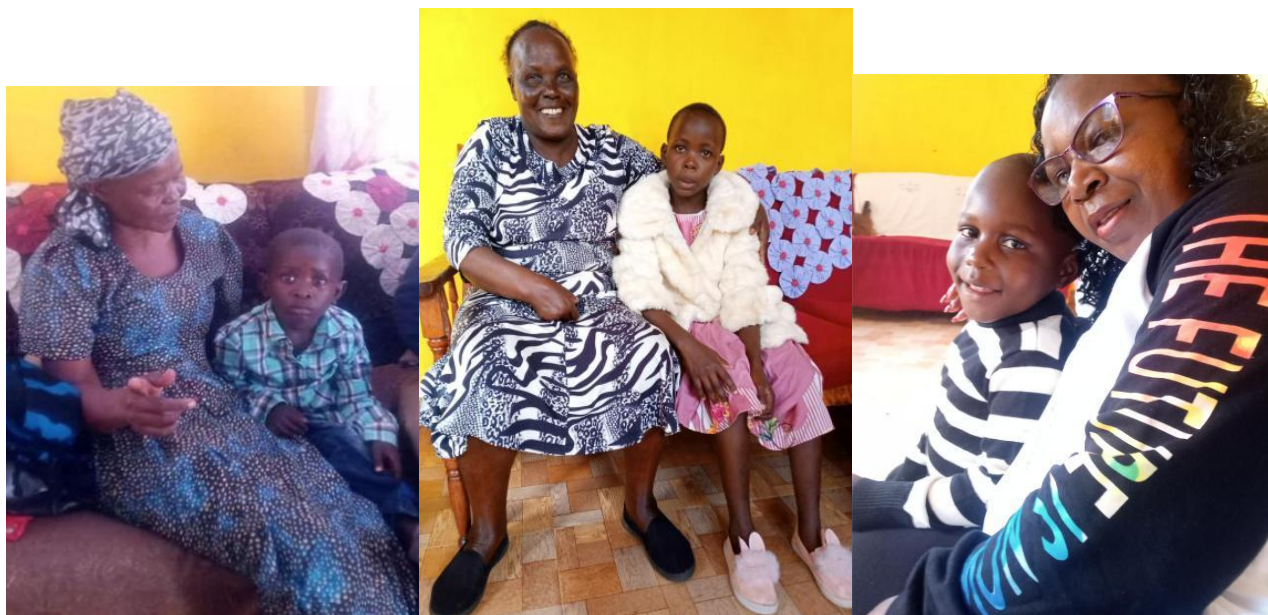


*Here I am with (left to right) Davis, Miracle, Justice (both sucking their thumbs), Blessing and Maxi....all trying to sit on my lap together!*

It has been lovely (and very busy!) having all the children here at home for the past few weeks on their short Summer holiday. As they are growing up, they have developed such good brother-sister friendships, even though of course they are not really related. The ones who are at boarding school enjoy telling stories of what they have been doing, and the younger ones are impressed and envious! All the older ones will be going back to school this week (the last week in August), for the third and final term of this year. We will miss them!

## Adoptions

Four of our children are being fostered by four different families, with plans for the families to fully adopt the children. These children are Jonathan Bahati, Janell Mukamiti, Abigael Ondiso and Elvis Wajala. Below are their pictures with their prospective adoptive mothers.



*Left to right: Elvis with his adoptive mother; Janell with her adoptive mother and Jonathan with his adoptive mother. Photos taken when they visited us at J&D. Abigael Ondiso and her mother are not in the pictures. So far, the children seem to be doing well and their adoptive parents are very happy with them.*

## Newcomers to J&D

This year four other children have been committed to our home by the Children's Department. These are Alexander Odhiambo, Christopher Okwaro, Ashley and Taji (these last two do not know their second names). I mentioned them briefly in my last letter, but now I can give you more information about them:

**Alexander** is the eldest - about twelve years old and is in Primary grade seven. He is disciplined and hard-working.

**Christopher** is about nine years old but looks like he is six. He is stunted and had never been to school before he came to us. He was in a different children's home but ran away due to lack of adequate food. He was found roaming about in the market-place and was brought to us by police. He is now in Primary grade one at school.

**Ashley** is about four years old and extremely unruly. Her mother broke her arm and has been punished by temporary confinement. (The mother was only 16 years old, but already had another child aged 2, was expecting a third child, and did not have any known relatives). The police say that once the mother is released from her confinement, she will take Ashley back. I hope so as Ashley is quite difficult!

**Taji** is an adorable four-year-old. He was abandoned because he was a twin. His mother was a Maseno university student. She gave birth to twins and her boyfriend deserted her because he said she must have cheated on him since there are no twins in his family. She went to her parents' home with the twin boys and she was thrown out because her tribe believe that it is a curse and a taboo to give birth to twins as first-born. She ended up on the streets and one of the twins died. She was found near our premises here crying - she said she had lost all hope in life and was contemplating killing herself and her baby boy. I

asked her what other plans she had apart from killing herself and her baby, and she said she wanted to find any work and save money so that she could go back to university and finish her studies. I said to her that her baby boy could live with us if she found a job. Fortunately, she got a job as a house-help in Nairobi. She left Taji with us and off she went after she wrote an agreement that she would come back for him. I told her to try her best and save every single coin she could get so that she could go back to university and not waste herself. I just hope things will work out for her.



I haven't sent you any pictures of our youngest infants this time, but they are doing well under Auntie Grace's care. Here is the news of our older 'babies / toddlers:

### Our "Baby Class" at J&D

These 3 are nicknamed The Three Musketeers ("All for one and one for all") - Justice, Blessing and Brooklyn. You touch one of them, and you have touched all of them.... they will all come at you with full force! They always play together. Blessing - in the middle and the youngest of the three - is the group leader. She is very assertive and protective of Justice since she thinks he is a baby.

*To the right are Davies and Brooklyn.*  
The children say: "We want to say a big 'Thank you' to you on behalf of our older sisters and brothers who are all at school. We are very grateful to you all for all the support you have given us since we were infants. It is due to your unfailing love and support that we are well looked after and are growing into strong girls and boys. Thank you and May God Bless you very much.



The Baby Class and the Pre-Primary (see next page) are all being taught at J&D. Our beautiful new Dining Room makes a very good spacious classroom, and we sit outside on the grass if it is fine.

*(Left)* Our Primary Teacher **Eglen Akoya Mukara** who joined us at J&D in January this year, is doing very well and the children are happy with her.

**Maximilla Asami** is a bit older than the others. Her teacher Eglen says; Maxi is a bright and attentive learner who grasps new concepts quickly. She is eager to explore all learning areas and is doing well. She writes with confidence.



### Pre-Primary two (PP2)

In PP2 we have **Philip Etale (Kipchoge)** and **Rayson Adams Otieno**. Both Philip and Rayson are doing well and should be ready to join Primary Class One next year.

Eglen writes:

“Rayson (*right*) is very good at numbers and maths. He is a positive and enthusiastic learner who enjoys being in class, and has made considerable progress. However, he requires support to thrive, so I am working closely with him”



“Philip (*left*) shows steady improvement in all learning areas. He has a positive attitude and is highly motivated. He quickly grasps new concepts and shows curiosity about learning new material. Philip is a happy child and a joy to teach. He is ready to join grade one next year.”

### Primary School

**Naomi Ruth and Christopher Okwaro (Abednego)** are both in Grade One but are not doing too well at school. **Naomi** is 8 years old. It took her a very long time to learn to write. We kept her in the J&D Pre-Primary class for over four years. We were not supposed to take her to Primary school before she could read and write, but eventually they agreed to take her anyway. Her saving grace is that once she learns something, it sticks with her. Her best subjects are Swahili, English and reading.





**Christopher** is 9 years old. He has really tried hard because before coming to us at J&D he had never stepped in a classroom. He did not know even how to hold a pen. He attended our classes here at J&D for about four months but has now had to join main-stream Primary school because otherwise he would have been too old to be allowed to join.

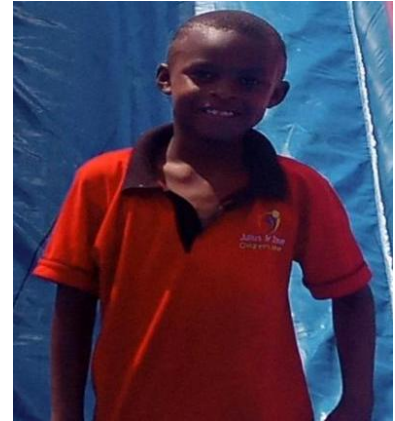
Teacher Eglen gives both Naomi and Christopher tuition on Saturdays and every afternoon (they do not go back to school in the afternoon) and they are improving steadily in their school work.



*Left - Edward Neli (Shadrack);  
Right - Fabian Mushindi (Meshack).*

They are nick-named Shadrack and Meshack because they stick together and support each other in all circumstances!

Edward and Fabian are both in Primary Grade Three. They enjoy it, work hard and are doing very well academically.



Primary school classes are very big (theirs has 103 children in it!), and competition is high, but Edward and Fabian are able to keep up with the rest of their class mates due to the firm foundation they had here at J&D before joining the public school. If a child starts primary school in grade one without knowing how to read and write, then it is very easy for them to be left behind and just fall in between the cracks because the classes are too big for the teacher to give individual attention to any child.

### **Alexander Odhiambo - abandoned**

Alexander is a young boy in Primary Grade Seven. He came to us at the beginning of 2025. His mother died and his father married a second wife who chased him away. He was found roaming about in Maseno having walked about 50 kms from his home. A 'good Samaritan' took him to the police station and he told the police that he was on his way to Mombasa (having no idea how far Mombasa is from Maseno – it is actually 863 kms!!). He'd been told he has a relative living in Mombasa, but whom he had never met. The police called the Children's Office and he was brought here to J&D's while they investigate his case. However, at the mention of his father or home, he breaks down into tears. Alex is a very good child who is very helpful here at J&D and works hard at school as well.

### **Junior Secondary School**

Marianna Subira, Zubeda Achieng, Emmanuel Shikuku and Collins Andala are all in Grade Nine. They will be sitting their national examinations to enter Secondary School at the end of this year and hopefully will transit to Senior Secondary....though I am concerned that Marianna, Zubeda and Andala are not doing very well academically. However, at least Marianna and Zubeda are very kind, helpful, and pleasant in character, which is more important!



**Marianna** (*left*) is 'Meeting Expectations' in English, C.R.E and Agriculture, but not so good in other subjects.

**Zubeda** (*right*) is 'Meeting Expectations' in English, C.R.E, Life skills, and Agriculture+nutrition.



**Andala** is doing very well in Maths, and is Meeting Expectations in all learning areas except in Kiswahili.

**Emmanuel** is Meeting Expectations in English and Kiswahili but is low in other subjects.

## Senior Secondary school

This year, we have seven children in **Form Two** of Secondary School. That is:

**Neema** Milakon at Kipsigis Girls High School, is doing very well. Her best subjects are Religion (CRE), English and Geography. Her average mark is 76%

**Winifred** Tamara, **Joyce** Neema and Elizabeth **Zawadi** are at Limo Educational Center: Zawadi is doing well – her best subjects are Geography, English and French. She is 3<sup>rd</sup> in a class of 58, and has been made a prefect.

We have not received Winnie's or Joyce's marks yet.

**Daniel** Imani at Nyangori Boys High School. He has done best in Agriculture and History+Government. His average is 50%, and he has improved further over the past term.

**Job** Tumaini at Esalwa Boys High school, His average mark is 50%, and like Daniel he's doing well in Agriculture and History+Government.

**Moses** at Ekwanda Secondary School. He is not academically motivated and is 82<sup>nd</sup> out of 159 in his class. However, as long as he can stick at school another 2 years to complete his Fourth form, he could join a middle level college and study a technical subject of his interest such as a Certificate in Agriculture which he is interested in. He is skilled with his hands and is a good singer.

## Form Four

Form Four is the final year of Secondary School so there is a lot of pressure on the students.

**Baraka Obama, Riziki Rael and Steven Musheba**

are all taking their final national exams next term. This will determine whether / where they can go to University or College, and what careers they may be able to follow.

Looking at their performance and considering the good schools they attend, they should all do well – they are focused on their studies and doing their best. I am proud of them. We pray that God will give them good understanding.

On the next page I have inserted their marks for the term for each subject.

(e.g. Under the heading "Rank in class", Riziki is 29<sup>th</sup> out of 58 students in English. The number in each class varies a bit according to how many are doing the subject).

Subject	Riziki Rael			Baraka Obama			Steven Musheba		
	Marks %	Grade	Rank in class	Marks %	Grade	Rank in class	Marks %	Grade	Rank in class
English	58	C+	29/58	56	C+	49/67	53	C+	
Kiswahili	69	B	26/63	65	B	27/68	50	C	
Mathematics	29	D	21/64	63	B-	24/68	28	D+	
Biology	65	B+	7/65	56	C+	32/67	31	C-	
physics	--	--	--	58	C+	13/68	--	--	
Chemistry	35	D+	4/64	55	C+	17/68	20	D-	
Geography	--			--	--	--	53	C+	
History and Government	--			68	B	34/68	68	B	
C.R.E	87	A	12/52						
Agriculture	40	D+	11/15	66	B	11/14	--	--	
Computer Studies							63	B-	
Mean		C+			B-			C+	
Total marks	383/700			432/700			346/800		
Total points			55/84			56/84			46
Stream position			22/65			28/68	23/66		
Overall Position			22/65			204/533	112/433		

Here are Riziki and Baraka doing their home-work using the computer at J&D. Baraka had just arrived home for the holidays and Riziki wanted him to show her something on the computer



## The children's hopes and dreams for the future

During the holidays I always make sure that I spend a good amount of time with each of the children one-to-one, asking them about how they are, their concerns and hopes etc. We

also discuss and agree what targets they want to set themselves for their school-work in the coming term.

This holidays I had interesting discussions with the older children on their dreams and hopes for the future. On the next page are some of their school performance targets, dreams, hopes and interests.

Some of them may be a bit over-ambitious – time will tell - but it is good for them to have high hopes and aims! Do pray for their futures.

I asked the children why so many of them seem to be interested in being lawyers, and they said they look at trends and see where they can fit into the needs of society. (Kenyan society is in turmoil at the moment with frequent riots against the injustices and corruption of the government. In many cases it is the lawyers who are making a stand for justice and daring to criticize the government, so they are seen as heroes by the young people).

Several of our children also seem to be very interested in the medical field i.e. as doctors or nurses. It is encouraging that our Bishop has recently managed to raise the funds to re-

open our local Maseno Hospital which used to be a mission hospital, and it has been given permission to train nurses and medics.

Our children are good singers and Riziki (who has got a really beautiful voice), Steven, Moses, Zawadi and Neema Milakon all sing in our Parish church choir when they are here on school holidays.

Name	School Performance Targets, 2025	Future hopes & desired career	Talents	Interests & hobbies
Baraka	B and above	1. Civil Engineer, 2. Lawyer 3. Agriculturalist 4. IT		1. Listening to music 2. Reading 3. Watching films 4. Exploring new things and fields 5. Food... eating!
Riziki	B and above	1. Doctor 2. Mass media 3. Lawyer	Music. I have got a very good voice	Singing
Steven	B and above	1. Lawyer 2. Nurse or 3. Journalist	Music.	Dancing and singing
Moses	C+	1. Agriculturalist 2. Lawyer 3. Police man	I have a good voice and I am in both our school choir and Parish choir	Singing
Tamara	B and above	Not yet decided	---	--
Neema	A	1. Paediatrician 2. Neurosurgeon 3. Lawyer	I am a peer counsellor at school. So I think I can be a preacher	Singing, Farming. I am active and do not like being lazy
Joyce	C+	1. Nurse 2. Paediatrician 3. Child care giver 4. Airhostess		Looking after small children
Zawadi	B+ and above	1. Engineer 2. Doctor (Cardiologist) 3. Actress	Music, Acting	1. Singing, 2. Dancing 3. Dressing up and looking pretty
Daniel	C+	1. Agriculturalist 2. Lawyer 3. Nursing 4. Chef 5. Journalist	I think my hands are talented. I massage Mum's feet and she feels better. I'm the only one in the family who can.	1. Playing football 2. Going for walks 3. Poetry
Job Tumaini	C-	1. Nursing 2. Journalist	--	Playing football
Zubeda	B and above	1. Fashion Designer 2. Air Hostess 3. Tour Guide	I am good with my hands. I can make all sorts of things like bracelets, necklaces. I can sew, embroider etc. I also like cooking	I take good care of myself. I like being neat.
Marianna Zubira	C+	1. Nurse 2. Tour guide 3. Doctor	Sports	Sports
Emmanuel	C+	1. Agriculturalist 2. Sportsman 3. Chef		1. Cooking, 2. Keeping poultry 3. Agriculture
Andala	B			1. Listening to music 2. Singing 3. Cooking

## The children's Health

This past few months we have had quite a lot of illnesses especially amongst the older children. This has been a challenge because hospital / medical fees and drugs are very expensive. Several of our children were sent home from school because they were sick and needed medical attention:

**Riziki** had flu-like symptoms. The doctors thought that it could be due to the cold in Eldoret (which is at a high altitude). She was given some drugs and I bought her an extra jumper and a duvet and sent her back to school. She has been alright so far.

**Winnie** Tamara's right hand and face became swollen and she had serious tooth ache. For the swellings she was given some drugs and stayed home for four days while a doctor monitored her progress. We thank God that the swelling subsided and has not reoccurred so far. As for the tooth ache, the dentist found cavities in two of her teeth, so she received fillings and is now okay.



**Zawadi** (left) hurt her foot while playing football at school. The matron took her to hospital in Eldoret on my behalf, and they put her leg in a cast. Anyway, the cast is now off and her leg is perfectly alright.

**Andala** (who is our only HIV-positive child) was also quite sick last term and I was called by the school Principal to go and pick him up and take him to hospital. One problem with Andala is that he does not take his antiretroviral medication unless forced to do so, and often screams at the teachers. A bigger problem is that in Kenya the antiretrovirals have so far been provided via US AID, but now this programme has been cut by the American government. Soon when the remaining stocks of drugs have been used up, only very rich Kenyans will be able to afford to

buy the drugs. I don't know what we will do then for Andala.

**Moses** also spent a few days last term in the local Maseno hospital with bad malaria. Boarding schools fear to keep a sick child at school in case the sickness gets worse or the child dies, and the parents might sue the school. So whenever a child is sick, they ask the parents to go and pick them up.

## Manager Kennedy is excellent!

I am so grateful that we have been able to find and employ Kennedy as our Manager at J&D. He is a very good organiser and as an ex-headmaster has taken over liaison with all the schools which our children attend. This includes the many occasions when 'parents' (us) are expected to visit the schools, and have to travel long distances to get there. He is overseeing our other staff and building a good team. He is also making good relationships with the children and it is especially helpful for the boys to have a positive male role-model around.



## Riots in Kenyan schools

Towards the end of last term (early July) we had serious problems in Schools in Kenya, causing most schools to close and send the children home 3 weeks early.

This is what happened:

- 1). The Government of Kenya (GoK) usually contributes a portion of school fees for each child in who is in public secondary school. The other, much bigger amount, is paid by the parents (in our case, by us at J&D). Last term the GoK failed to send these extra funds to schools. This was because most politicians and bureaucrats in Kenya embezzle a lot of money, and the Dept of Education had no funds remaining. So schools all over Kenya (especially boarding schools) ran out of money and could not buy food to feed the students.
- 2). Because the students were hungry, many started to riot and to go on strike. They boycotted classes and many destroyed school property. They did this to force their school to close so they would be sent home.
- 3). Parents all over Kenya are angry because they had already paid the school fees for the whole term. We didn't get a refund – in fact many of the schools are now demanding that the parents pay for the cost of rebuilding / restoring the damaged school property!

There were riots at **Steven's school**, Mbale Boys' School. Steven is in his final year (Form Four) and because Steven and the other older boys tried to stop the rioting, they and the staff were attacked by the angry younger children. Several buildings were burned down, including the library and all the computers. Luckily Steven was only slightly hurt.



At **Neema's school**, the girls broke dormitory windows and doors and walked out of school in the middle of the night. The police were called in and they herded the girls back to school. The next day the school was closed and the girls were sent home before they could burn down the school, which some had threatened to do.

I'm glad to say that some of our children's schools did manage to keep going until the end of term: Mbita High School where Baraka is learning, and the Edward Limo Education Centre where our four girls (Riziki, Zawadi, Joyce and Winnie) learn.

We hope that the Government will send funds to schools for this coming term, otherwise the same problems and riots will happen again.

Luckily it is a shorter term – most children will come home in mid-October for the long Christmas holidays. Only the final-year students at Secondary Schools (Form Four) will remain in school to sit their final national examination.

We have **Riziki, Baraka and Stephen** preparing to sit for their final national examinations in October/November this year. Please pray that there will be no more disturbances in our schools that might disrupt these examinations, and also pray that our three candidates will feel calm and perform well.

With much gratitude to you all

*Flossie Adoyo*