



# R.O.C.K. Ministries International

Reaching Our Children in Kenya

November 2009

Dear Partner in Ministry,

ANOTHER MIRACLE!!!! When ever we receive a child into our home who has no background information, it is on a temporary basis until the Children's Ministry Department can find a link to a family somewhere. Our previous temporary placements came in as babies and are now four and five years old and have just come through the court process and we are their legal guardians. Once in a while God brings a miracle and a family connection is found. Such was the case with Baraka, our deaf child who has been reunited with his family.

In April 2008 we had another child brought to our home because her father had just died a week before and she was brought to us with no known family. The Children's Dept. would "work on her case and get back to us". Eunice had just turned eight when she came and was very quiet and shy, but quickly opened up and is a delightful, and cheerful little girl and is now anything but quiet. Recently she began talking about her home and things she remembered and said she could show us how to get to her home. The area is very near our home so one Friday afternoon, one of our staff members asked if she would like to go for a walk and Eunice jumped at the chance and asked if she could take her to her home. She had lived in one of the local slums, with a teeming population and shanty's set up where ever there was room, forming a maze with a winding, endless path. I could never find my way in and out by myself.

As they neared the entrance, Eunice spotted an uncle who was a boda boda (bicycle taxi) operator and called out to him. He was obviously shocked and asked where she had been. Our worker said he seemed a little inebriated so they continued on and Eunice took her direct to her home where she was met with another aunt who was keeping Eunice's two older brothers. The aunt is a widow and has four children of her own plus Eunice's brothers. The aunt came to our home with Eunice and our staff member and the story unfolded.

Eunice is the youngest child in her family and on the day of her father's burial, some neighbor offered to take care of Eunice and it was not until the evening when things had settled down, that Eunice was found missing. The lady that took her was questioned and she refused to give any information saying she was in a safe place. Simply put, Eunice had been abducted and most likely sold, to someone in a home in our area. Apparently when the person receiving her found out Eunice had



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been abducted, and there was search on for her, she called the Children's Dept. who then called and asked if we could take her. The aunt had been looking for her for the last year and a half. We agreed to continue boarding Eunice so that she will be guaranteed her education and she can have home visits during the holiday. The aunt is very much relieved as she is overburdened maintaining the six she has but feels she can continue to manage on her own.

Eunice's story is not unique or unusual in the African culture where every one is 'auntie or uncle'. Children are often shuffled from one home to another or left for an undetermined time as someone else picks up the responsibility for caring for them. Often these situations turn to abuse and then the children run to the streets. When life becomes difficult with too many mouths to feed, it is just easier to leave a child alone on the street knowing someone will come to their rescue. Usually that is an over crowded Rescue Center.

We have much to be thankful for as caretakers of vulnerable children. It becomes evident in many ways, that God is watching over his precious ones where ever they are. We are blessed to be a small part of His plan for their lives. Our children are very familiar with and have memorized Jeremiah 29:11. "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

I know in the American 'culture' we set aside a day for THANKSGIVING once a year and I celebrated with other Missionary families here in Kisumu, but we have the opportunity for THANKSLIVING daily as we offer thanks for all our living Lord has done and is doing. We are so thankful for the response to our financial needs in recent months as God chooses to use you to meet those needs. I know you have given sacrificially and I pray God's abundant blessings over all of you and wish you a very Happy Holiday Season as you pause to remember the blessings of this past year.

Much love,

*Elaine*

