

NEKESA - "The Harvester" June, 2008

We recently received Joseph Oduor and Amos Otieno, both of whose parents died of HIV/AIDS, into the Jane Olson Memorial Children's Home. We'd like to introduce them to you.

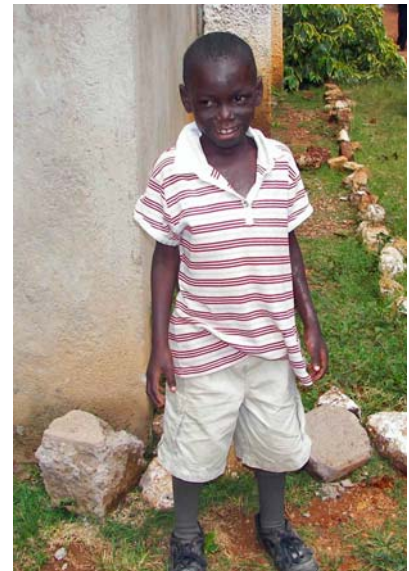


Joseph Oduor is from the Luo tribe and of age to be a first grader. He is the first-born child of his parents although his mother had 2 other children from an earlier marriage that failed. As soon as Joseph's brother was born, the father died. The father had not been well off. The family lived in a grass-thatched hut and the local people bought a plot for his burial. The penniless widow decided to marry his younger brother – a tribal tradition. Soon after they married, she became sick, died and was buried beside Joseph's father. The jobless younger brother now was responsible for caring for the 4 children on just a half-acre of land. He commented that they hardly had food to eat and they could not afford schooling for any of them. When we got Joseph he was very skinny and had been so dirty for so long that his whole body was covered with scales.

Amos Otieno is from the Luo tribe and is of age to be a pre-schooler. His mother had two children in earlier marriage. When it failed their relatives took the children away as tribal property. She married again and had 2 boys. Amos is the youngest. When Amos was one year he was left in the house alone while his mother was working for

somebody to get her daily food. He crawled towards the fire, which was lit to cook porridge and was burned seriously. His mother came later in the day only to find him burned beyond recognition.

The father was the first one to die, his tribal origin was not known. After his death, people contributed money to buy a place for burial. The mother lived in an unfinished grass thatched house for sometime. Life there was very difficult and, when she became sick with AIDS, she returned to her brother who tried to treat her. When she died he buried her and cared for her children. Her unemployed brother was now responsible for twelve children (including Amos and his brother) and his abnormal elder brother. The whole village lives in extreme poverty. Amos' uncle thanked us for relieving him of the financial burden of raising him.



BIBLE SCHOOL REPAIR UPDATE

We have made progress in the repair of the Bible School building and have the roof on. It cost more than our original estimate because:

- We secured the runners to the rafters with pieces of iron similar to the hurricane braces used in the US. Because we couldn't get screws long enough to fasten them here in Kenya we brazed the iron pieces together to fasten them to the wood.
- We also found the original roof builder had spaced the timbers too far apart so we had to purchase more timbers to get it properly repaired.
- We used heavier gauge gutters that are also shaped like a shield to prevent wind from getting under the roof.
- We will replace the inner wooden and pasteboard partitions with brick ones that will limit noise, look nice and be permanent.
- We found the electrical wiring was so damaged on the second floor that it had to be replaced.

We were so blessed to have been able to remove all the instruments and equipment from the second floor before the ceiling collapsed from the weight of the water.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Justus Ochuro