

# NEKESA - "The Harvester" November, 2008

## Meet Andrew Wanjala.

Andrew was separated from his parents at such a very early age that when we found him at age five he didn't remember the names of his parents, his second name or his ancestral (tribal) home. He didn't remember having any parents. All he knew, his world and home, was life on the street where he grew up like a wild weed. The boys on the street had only one rule – take what you needed to live. They felt freedom to do whatever seemed to them to work; they were extremely independent. Like all the street boys, Andrew was viewed with hostility and survived neglect, hunger and exposure to the elements. The demands of survival on the street left no room in him for tenderness, decency or pride of identity.

When the Lord moved upon us to help as many of the street boys as we could, Andrew, together with eighteen other boys, was uprooted from his street home. Taking the boys from street life to life in a loving, caring family was not easy. We began to minister to them spirit, soul and body. We developed a relationship with them by feeding them food and ministering the Word of God daily. We got to know them, cared for their other needs and gave them new clothes as we could. Some of the boys refused to give up their independence to receive our loving care. Andrew was one of those who responded to our outreach and we were able to place him in the home of Jacton and Getrude Wanjala who became his foster parents.



While we help them with the expense of caring for Andrew, they have become so close to Andrew that he now has received their family name as his own heritage and identity. It was extremely difficult for Andrew to submit to the restrictions and responsibilities of family life at first. But God, through eleven years of patient, prayerful parenting and counseling, has given Andrew a new spirit. He has taught him to control his flesh by living by the Spirit. God has doubly blessed us for these years of nurturing Andrew: a born again brother in Christ and fellowship with a very obedient, submissive sixteen year-old young man who has discovered his destiny and purpose in life.

Andrew expresses his gratitude for all that has been sown in his life at home by helping with house chores, running errands and working on the family farm. He expresses his gratitude to God by devoting himself to ministry. He serves as an usher and in the praise and worship team at Kimilili Worship Centre where he attends church regularly.

Andrew took the standard eighth grade exams in November. He passed and is eagerly waiting to begin high school in February 2009. He believes God has provided the \$510 that he needs for tuition for the whole school year. Student tuition includes room and board.

Andrew says, ***"I am most grateful to the Almighty God who used the Bungoma Bible School to fish me out from the street, and to my foster parents for tolerating me when I was in such a mix-up, and all of you who prayed for me and sacrificially gave to help me be what I am today by the grace of God"***. Andrew says that, ***"I desire to continue with my studies and one day become a great man who surprises the whole world."***

Andrew Wanjala is, in every way, a spectacular demonstration of what God is able to do with anyone. Thank you for co-laboring in the harvest with us; this is an example of the fruit of your labors. *The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few so pray to the Lord of the harvest to force out and thrust laborers into His harvest.* (Mat 9:37-38). God bless you.