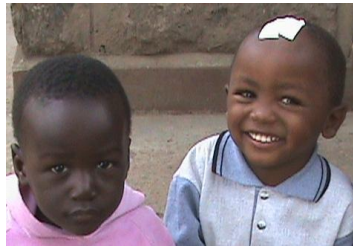


December, 2009

Friends and Family,

We send you greetings from the Brydges Centre family here in Kenya.



God has been very much at work at Brydges and we are excited to share with you a few of the ways He is at work.

### **Growth of the Centre!**

Perhaps one of the most exciting news we have to report is the purchase of five acres of land which is in the process of being developed into the permanent home for the Brydges Centre Compound complete with housing, clinic, library, chapel, school, skill centre and more! The property has already been fenced and a couple of structures put up to assist with the development. The borehole will be drilled soon so we will have water to take care of the trees that will soon surround the property! This is a major step in fulfilling a dream Rosemary had over ten years ago. That of having all the Brydges children living in one location.

### **One child's story**

Matthew\* came from a Maasai community near the Tanzania border and is now 12 years old and in class three. At a very early age Matthew lost both of his parents and instead of joining other children his age in school he took care of his uncle's cows.

His desire was to attend school and he wanted very much to learn all the things to help him improve his life. But instead he was forced to care for his uncle's livestock all day, and over time was initiated into the Maasai culture and traditional rites. As a young child he had his ears pierced, was forced to be circumcised, and suffered from domestic abuse. As he cared for the cattle many nights he slept with out food or shelter.

One night he decided to run away in search for a school where he could finally start being educated. After walking many miles he found a school and jumped the fence where he fell to sleep. When a watchman found Matthew sleeping he almost killed him thinking he was a thief. But Matthew cried out and said, "odon't kills but give me education!"

The next morning the watchman took him to the school office and narrated the story to the Headmaster. He was taken to the District Children's Officer, who then visited his elderly grandfather. Matthew's dream of getting an education was about to come true.

Despite his age Matthew was determined to learn no matter the difficulty. He was brought to Brydges Centre to become a member of the Brydges family. It was difficult at first adapting to a new family and home, but he quickly adapted. Matthew had never slept in a real bed, lived in a concrete house, or seen a flushing toilet or electric lights.

But he adjusted quickly. From the beginning he spent hours in the library, at first struggling to understand what was in the books, but as David, the Librarian assisted him he quickly started learning the basics of reading. Other staff joined in and Matthew soon was reading on his own. He joined school late but is now #11 out of 40 in his class. Matthew is a very honest and disciplined young man, always ready with a smile and is an incredible blessing to his family.

### **A snapshot of the Brydges facilities**

Brydges currently consists of six different properties where the teaching and caring of the Brydges children take place. Over all, in both residential and community program we serve and support over 150 children.

**Dandora**- (Known as BC-A) This is the "mother" of all the Brydges Centre branches as this is the place we began. Located in the slums of Eastlands, it is the "dumping" ground where most of our children have passed through. Our youngest child baby Dan\* was found abandoned here a few hours after his birth. He was wrapped in a sack and dumped at the door of the daycare. We have two staff members here who work with the pre-school children. For the past eight years we have rented this property, but thanks to a generous team member from the US we are now in the process of purchasing it.

**Kibiko** - (BC-B) This home is located in the Ngong area. It is where all the girls above age 12 reside. The children are raising chickens here and collecting eggs to assist with the nutrition for the Brydges family. We have two staff living here.

**Elpaso** (BC-C) This home is also located at Ngong and is home to our library which serves the children in their schooling. All the children below the age of 12 live here. We also have a pre-school here for the children. At this facility we have four staff assisting.

\* Not the child's real name

**Skills Centre** ó (BC-D) Our final location in Ngong, this is where we have our ðexitö program for older children. This is a skills training college which teaches basic living skills to enable students to get entry level jobs in areas such as catering, laundry and more. Our latest group of girls have just graduated and all have been placed with jobs!

**Bungoma A** ó This is a pre-school in Western Kenya. The property is also used for church and a community outreach program.

**Bungoma B** - This is home for our boys who are over age 12 when they are not in boarding school. Here we have two staff assisting.

*The hope and prayer is to consolidate most of these locations into the new Brydges Compound in the next 18 months.*

**Staff highlight** ó Brydges staff are a major part of the success of the home. Each one has a love of Jesus and reflect that in their care of the children. Each staff member is unique in their gifting, but in this letter we want to focus on David Mauka.

David has served Brydges for seven years and is a very committed to his work and the children. The Centre sponsored him for a schooling in Business Management and he graduated last year after earning his degree.



He started with Brydges as a guard, but quickly was promoted to a teacher and then the Librarian. David teaches Drama, Reading, Keyboard, among other topics. His support and mentoring of the children is evident in the way they excel in school.

We are excited that now David has earned the opportunity to travel to the US to further his education. He has been an incredible blessing for the Brydges Centre!

### **Prayers and Praises**

We have learned well the value of prayer and it plays a very large role in the lives of our staff and children. We invite you to join us as well.

Join us as we praise God for his protection and provisions for the children of Brydges. We have many well wishers who have come together to bring blessings on us.



- Please lift up in prayer also the following needs:
- Our rent is in arrears due to lack of funding.
- We need more sponsors for the children to ensure that they all get the opportunity to be educated.
- Our wonderful staff are many times without their allowances as they give them up to be certain the children have food.
- Many of our children will be entering Secondary School in January. We need God's guidance and provision as we find schools for them all.
- And finally we ask you to lift up our development project on the land. We have a long way to go and again will need God to give us much wisdom, provision and discernment as we navigate the bumpy path to complete the project.

### **In Closing**

We invite you to visit our new website [WWW.Brydgescentre.net](http://WWW.Brydgescentre.net) to keep updated on the most current events and activities.

We especially want to thank you for your love prayers, and support.

May God bless you greatly,

The Brydges Staff