



## Saved By God's Grace Newsletter

### December 2014

Hi Friends,

**Let me tell you what we are doing to prepare for Christmas.** While the US and other developed countries are getting ready for the biggest holiday spending spree of the year, we are doing something totally different...trying to simply give people hope for the holiday. In Kenya where we are and in the areas we serve, the holiday doesn't bring to mind lights, shopping, nor even Jesus sadly. What happens is people try to get whatever they can to buy a little extra for their meal on Christmas day...they want to feel "normal" (however you define that). When you live in a 10x6 metal shed, sleep on a mud floor where insects crawl on you and you are watching for snakes, eat cooked weeds, and can't get your child in school because you can't afford the fees of the "free education", and now you are "expected" to do something special with your kids and you simply do not have the resource, then Christmas becomes kind of depressing and a burden. Now I am not trying to bring you down so you won't enjoy your celebration, but I want to tell you the truth which is in many parts of the world, there is not enough money to just "do life" and Christmas turns into an event where people will resort to anything to get money for Christmas. They vandalize the electrical service to steal the fluids in the transformers to sell to get money for Christmas (which puts communities in the dark for days). The crime rate goes up as people will accost others to get money for Christmas (even people who would not normally do such a thing). You use money you have been given for January fees for your kids to be in school so you end up begging for funds two weeks after Christmas. Packages from the post office are stolen to get stuff for Christmas...Happy Birthday Jesus. The pull and urge to be "like everyone else", even in poverty stricken countries, is a hard haul...especially if you have kids who don't understand why others have chapatti for a meal (a special treat for Kenyans) at Christmas and you don't have anything. So, what do we want to do to prepare for Christmas?...see the next paragraph.

**I am giving you an update on my Christmas list.** In the last newsletter I made a Christmas list for things I would like to happen during the Christmas holiday. I want to let you know what has happened. First, we have made our goal for feeding the kids we serve during the holiday with the special meal of chapatti. This will be so exciting for them. It will make the day special and one they will remember. They will be told and shown God loves them and sent His Son to save them. Thank you for everyone who assisted in this endeavor. We also had people contribute to buy another cow (which was on the list). Now this made me very excited until one of our cows died and so instead of increasing our stable, we simply replaced it with the donated funds. I am so grateful for this contribution, but now we still are looking for the "final" cow. So, if you would like to help us in this self (God) sustaining project, please remember us with your holiday giving. The projects I listed in the Christmas list are not yet funded (finishing the study areas for the kids and getting a table tennis game). If you are in a position which can help us get this done I would appreciate the support. Lastly was a gift for the employees of C4KK (the children's home we run in Kenya). They are paid what we can on a monthly basis (ranging from \$100 to \$250/month - good money for Kenya), but to give them a little extra to allow them to celebrate Christmas with their families would be appreciated. So, there you have it. Thanks for what you have done and what you continue to do for the glory of God through this ministry. If you can make a donation, please click [here](#) and go to our website donation page. Once again, thanks for whatever you can do. I am simply being a pass through of your generosity...I won't even be able to see the smiling faces of the kids because we won't be able to travel to where the celebrations will be. I will be smiling (and most likely in tears) as I see the pictures coming in that day as I sit with Tammy and simply thank God for the ability to serve Him as He calls and be a part of giving hope as He calls us to do. For your

sake and the sake of the children, be a part of this side of the world's celebration of Christmas. It may sound simplistic to you, but it means the world to the kids and families we serve.

**This time of year is always so special no matter how you celebrate it...there has never been a more amazing event in the history of man.** God saying I love you so much I will die for you. A Being who created the universe and everything in it telling us He loves us so much to step into our lives and reconcile us to Himself...all in the form of His creation. Don't tell me you don't think that is amazing. I truly wish we could embrace what happened more fully and continue to meditate on it all year round...it would certainly revolutionize your life...I know it has mine. My life is now one of hope, even in the darkness. It is one of purpose when it seems so little can be done. It is one which is defined by loving others and serving them as best I can so they can see hope. It is about longing to go "home" when my time of service is done to meet my God, Savior and King and hear "Well done Son".

May the joy, peace and hope of this season be yours now and always as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Merry Christmas.

Serving with you only by His grace,

Chuck

Missionary to Kenya

