



Sunrise of Africa School News

A newsletter about a school organized by Christian Scientists in Nairobi, Kenya

"Again loved Christmas is here, full of divine benedictions and crowned with the dearest memories in human history—the earthly advent and nativity of our Lord and Master.We count our blessings and see whence they came and whither they tend."

Excerpts from "What Christmas means to me" by Mary Baker Eddy.

Very Dear Friends,

We, the Sunrise children, teachers and Board wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year! We are so grateful to every one of you for your generosity over the last year. Please see the sweet Christmas cards made by us, the Sunrise Waithaka children.

In our last newsletter, we primarily described all the wonderful progress that is taking place at our Garden Grove School in Kitengela as well as our hope for a dining/kitchen facility whenever

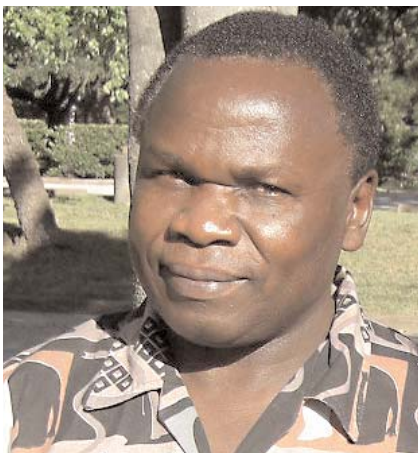


Christmas cards made by Sunrise Waithaka students

possible to feed some 300 kids and staff. As you will read below in a diary excerpt by Heiko, our current volunteer from Germany, the two school environments are very different. Waithaka families are less fortunate, struggling to find a job, feed their families and send their kids to school.

Sunrise Waithaka exists to help these families by the grace of God along with the good will and generosity of donors like you. This year has been tougher than usual. We

keep our school fees (which cover tuition, food and books) at rock bottom levels (US\$ 17 a trimester) and even so only 35 out of 175 families are currently actually paying. Other schools lock the children out when the parents are no longer able to pay. We are trying not to do that, but we need some help in order to be able to pay teachers' salaries. We know that 'THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS HIRE.', and we are working to demonstrate that truth.



Co-founder of Sunrise takes a Sabbatical

Thomas Mugeru, co-founder and mentor of Sunrise of Africa school sent this email to the Sunrise Board and a few supporters.

"I am taking this opportunity to inform you that I will be taking a one year leave from 1-11-2011 to 1-11-2012. The purpose of this leave is to enable me to concentrate on my Christian Science practice. I will

not be involved in any day to day running of the school. Thank you so much. Best regards, Thomas"

We are indebted to our colleague and friend, Thomas Mugeru for his dedicated work throughout the years, from the time of starting Sunrise at Waithaka in 2004 to the

continued -

SABBATICAL *continued-*

present time for our two Sunrise schools.

Thomas spent much time and energy telling our American friends and donors about Sunrise. He was always ready to carry out all prayerful and practical tasks as the two schools were being built. The Waithaka school was in a dangerous area during the 2008 election violence, but he stayed and protected the school through his presence and his prayer. He organized the building of a good road in the premises of Garden Grove, to avoid vehicles getting stuck in the mud! He and his wife, Janet graciously hosted many volunteers. He was an inspiration to many in his tireless work for the schools. We wish him a prayerful and uplifting sabbatical, and thank him sincerely for all his work for Sunrise.

Even though Thomas will be missed, Co-Director, Sammy Aloyo and I continue to be fully involved. I am now assuming the duties of the Chairman of the Sunrise of Africa School Board. It has been a priority over the years to hire and train excellent staff to run the schools, the headmasters, teachers and bookkeepers at each school. I thank everyone for their commitment as we progress enthusiastically to the New Year.

Corinne E. Corvin
Director and Vice Chairman
Sunrise of Africa School Board

Donations- Donations for Sunrise of Africa School, made out to **Friends of the Sunrise in Africa, Inc.** are tax exempt. Please mail checks to the address below or you may make a credit card donation by visiting www.sunriseofafrica.com.

For more information about our new school, contact:
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Log from Heiko Kuestner about Waithaka



Heiko Kuestner with Waithaka students

“ I spent three days in October at the Sunrise of Africa school in Waithaka. During this time I made Christmas cards with the 3rd up to the 7th grade.

The main difference between Waithaka and Garden Grove, Kitengela is very easy to see due to the more primitive conditions in Waithaka.

Waithaka is a poor underclass area and Kitengela is an upcoming middle class area. Therefore, the whole surrounding of Waithaka looks less developed than it is in Kitengela. Also the kids are, on account of these conditions, more surprised to see a white person, so that I ended up with all kids from baby class up to the second grade, trying to give me at least their hands or to be lifted up by me, which was quite an experience.

The kids were also less accustomed to the art materials I brought from Germany, so that some of the materials found their way into the mouths of some extra brave kids.

Another new experience for me was that the whole school in Waithaka looks a lot less developed than the school in Kitengela. So that in Waithaka every building is made of iron sheets and that throughout the small space of the school, the smell of the toilets sometimes finds its way into the classrooms.”

We wish you all a Merry Christmas. And thank you for thinking of us halfway around the world. May God's Love and the love of all mankind encircle and comfort each one of us. From the sweet children of Sunrise of Africa School, Waithaka



children in prayer

Corinne Corvin comments on Heiko's Waithaka log: As Heiko mentions above, he brought these lovely art materials to make Christmas cards. The children's eyes nearly popped out of their heads and all crowded around him in their excitement to start working. Heiko's love, care and time with them just "made their day!" Their eyes shone. These same kids sometimes are abused at home by drunken parents, or don't have enough to eat, live in huts which leak (during the November heavy rains), don't have gumboots and have to struggle along very muddy paths to get to school; some don't have warm clothes. Such acts of kindness and excitement given by Heiko mean so much in their lives. We also attach a picture of the little ones praying in the morning. We don't want to send these sweet children home. They love Sunrise as they find home and happiness here.