

## JULIUS AND DORA CHILDREN'S CENTRE: Christmas letter December 2012



*The 'Julius and Dora' Children*

The children are looking forward excitedly to Christmas. They will be spending Christmas day and having a special party at Flossie's house (Flossie Adoyo is the overseer and manager of the J&D Childrens' Centre, and has a house in Kakamega, just a mile or so from the rented house where the Childrens' Centre is currently located).

Flossie has sent this newsletter, so what follows is in her words, though sometimes she writes from the perspective of Lulu and some of the other children. Explanatory comments (*in italics*) are added by Amiel.

"Greetings from all of us children - that is Moses, Baraka, Tumaini, Imani Daniel, Lulu Winfred, Emmanuel Shikuku, Riziki Rael, Neema Joyce, Zawadi Elizabeth, Zubeda Achien'g and Zubira Maryana. We are all fine here at Julius and Dora Children's Centre thanks to you and your unfailing support. We sincerely appreciate the support that you give for our sustenance and development. Your support ensures that our mum (*Flossie*) can provide us with good food, quality education and health care, good clothes and a nice home to live in. We thank God for you and pray that He will continue to bless you.



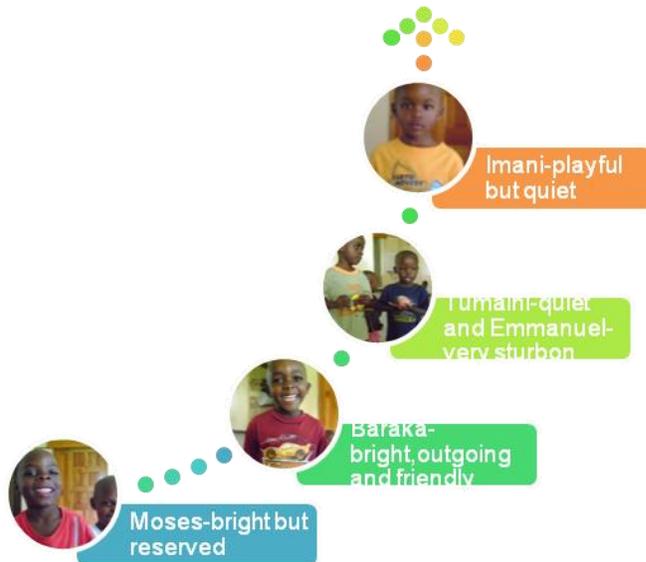
**Food – Riziki:** I will tell you about the food we eat in our home. We eat good food like rice and ndengu (*dried beans*), ugali (*maize-meal*) and meat, vegetables and fruits and we drink milk. That is why we are healthy and we are not sick all the time. Our mum plants vegetables in the garden so that we can have fresh vegetables every day. We also plant maize and beans so that we do not run out of food. In the last harvest season, mum harvested six 90kg bag of maize which I think is enough to take us up to the next harvest season but I am worried because I heard that there is a maize disease. The officer from the agriculture office came to our home and told uncle to uproot all the maize in our shamba and burn it. This is not good because my mum spent a lot of money to buy the maize seed and fertilizer. The officer is also telling all the farmers in the area to uproot their maize crop and burn it so I think that next year, there will be hunger. I hear that the disease is in most parts of the maize growing areas but fortunately for us, it has not spread to Maseno (*where the new site is being built*) where mum has planted some maize and we pray that it does not spread to that area.



**Education – Lulu:**

I will tell you about our education. Nine of us who are in Nursery school are doing well although some better than others. Zawadi, Emmanuel, Neema Joyce, Riziki, Tumaini and Daniel are all still in baby class while Moses, Baraka, and myself are in middle class. From Middle class, we should move to class one of Primary School next year. You can see our individual performance in the summer term below.

Name	Class	Position in class
Moses	Middle class	9 <sup>th</sup> out of 10 children in class
Baraka	Middle class	6 <sup>th</sup> out of 10
Lulu Winfred	Middle class	5 <sup>th</sup> out of 10
Imani Daniel	Baby class Blue	4 <sup>th</sup> out of 14
Tumaini Job	Baby class Blue	6 <sup>th</sup> out of 14
Emmanuel	Baby class Blue	8 <sup>th</sup> out of 14
Zawadi	Baby class Blue	7 <sup>th</sup> out of 14
Neema Joyce	Baby class Red	9 <sup>th</sup> out of 11
Riziki Rael	Baby class Red	3 <sup>rd</sup> out of 11



**Now I will tell you about each of us :**

Moses is bright but reserved. He needs a lot of reassurance, love and encouragement and because of this he is inconsistent in his school work. He does very well when he feels secure and appreciated and very poorly when he feels he is not getting the above (e.g. when he thinks that people appreciate Baraka more than him, he just gives up).

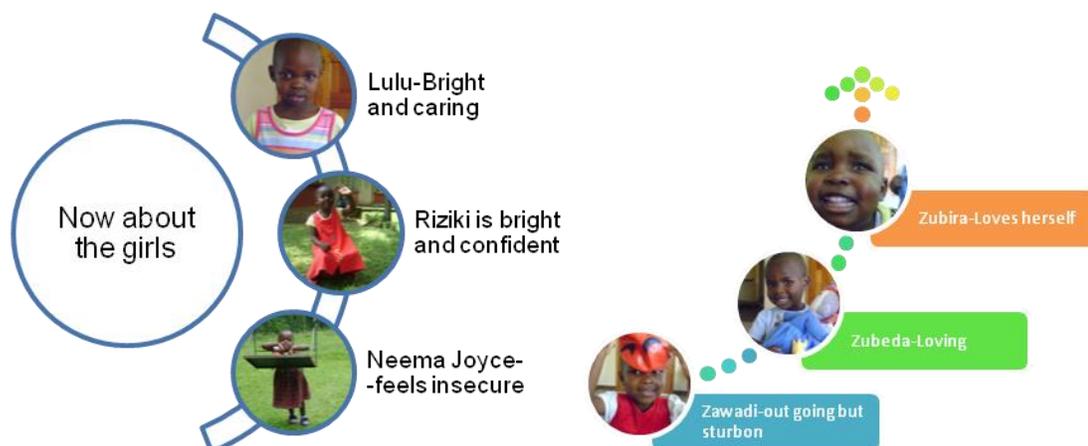
Baraka too is bright, fast at learning new things, outgoing and very friendly but because he gets lots of praise from everybody, he imagines that he knows everything and so does not put much effort in his school work.

Me, Lulu I am also bright, quiet and caring;

Imani is bright but very playful and needs constant follow-up and encouragement to do any school work. He is quiet but has a hot temper;

Tumaini is quiet and quite good at his work. He will work on his own without much supervision. He does not disturb anybody and does not like being disturbed by any of us or other children at school. He is happy on his own.

Emmanuel is the most stubborn and determined of all of us. He will only do his class work when he feels like it. In class he often does not pay attention to teacher and roams about the classroom - when teacher tells him to sit down, he tells her *"I will tell my mother to beat you up"*.



Riziki is bright, delightful, confident in herself and usually happy, but at times likes complaining when she needs attention. She usually blames Baraka for all her miseries both real and imaginary. She can work on her own without much supervision.

Neema Joyce for some reason which I do not know feels insecure and is always looking for sympathy. When mum or visitors are around she wants to be picked up and carried by them all the time instead of playing with the rest of us. She is slow at learning new things but mum has asked the doctor who says she will improve.

Zawadi is outgoing but can be very stubborn at times. Although she joined school much later than all of us, and she is the youngest of all of us nine children who attend school, she is doing much better than Emmanuel.

Zubeda and Zubira, the littlest ones, have not yet started Nursery school, but as far as they are concerned, they both believe that they know all there is to know and are always the first to bring out their books and pencils! By January Zubeda will be ready for school while Zubira will still have to wait for some time.

I was almost forgetting to tell you that last month, we all went on a school trip to Kisumu. It was very exciting. We went for a ride on a boat on Lake Victoria and also saw planes landing and taking off but I do not know where they come from or go to. This was the first time for us to go on a boat and see so much water and also to see an aeroplane.



*Baraka reciting a poem during a service*



*Riziki and class mates sing during a church service*

### **Church:**

The younger children were all baptized together recently at the Anglican Church in Kakamega. Our friend the Vicar, Revd Ashirutwa, took the lovely service. *(The godparents included Flossie's brother Bishop Boni – who is a Director of J&D - and his wife Adah, as well as some other Kenyan supporters of the Centre).*

Baraka and Riziki were invited to sing at Christchurch in Kakamega with some of our other school mates and Baraka said a poem that goes: *'As small as I am, I can read, I can write, I can do everything and above all, I can reason just like you'* and everybody clapped for him. After the service we were all given yoghurt to drink, even those of us who did not sing, and then we went home.



### **Health – Baraka:**

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drink milk. We also take cod liver oil which mum says helps us not to have chest infections but it is very expensive. We also put on warm clothing in the evenings and when it is raining so that we do not feel cold.

We really thank God because in the last few months none of us has been so sick as to be admitted into hospital, except that Zawadi had something removed from her nose which was making her mouth and nose smell very bad. The thing that was removed was a small piece of polythene which had been stuck in her nose for a long time. Now her mouth not smell any more. Mum says that we must not put things noses. I think that we are healthy because we eat fruits and

Now I (*Lulu*) will say bye and let my mum tell you about all the other things that have been happening”.

**Visits: by Rosie and Paul Gardener and the Mothers Union members**

Flossie says: "We were blessed with a visit from Rosie - my school mate and dear friend of many years and her husband Paul Gardener from Ireland. They spent an afternoon with the children, playing with them and giving them all the lovely things they had brought for them - toys, books, writing materials, sweets. Some were things the children had never seen before such as the jelly babies - Zawadi, Zubeda and Zubira were not too sure whether they were edible or just toys to play with!!! They had lots and lots of tricks in their bag and the children just loved it (Rosie works with deaf children in Ireland). Rosie and Paul also visited Maseno and planted some trees on the compound as seen here below (*the site where our new permanent Centre is being built*). They promised to reflect on more ways they could assist us.



***Paul and Rosie Gardener planting trees on their visit to Maseno in July 2012. They each planted a traveler's palm.***

The children were also visited by the Mothers Union members from Christ Church Kakamega (the Anglican Church) during the churches' talent week. The ladies brought the children some rice, milk, sugar, fruits and prayed with them. We were very grateful for the visit and gifts.



*Visit of the Mothers Union members from Christ Church Kakamega*

If any of you, our friends and supporters, would be able to come out to Kenya sometime and visit us, you would be very welcome.

**Construction on the new site at Maseno:**

We have now put in the doors and windows of the new building, and fixed burglar proofing in place as seen in the pictures below. It looks very good! We could not do any interior work until the building was secure because otherwise people would come along and steal the wiring and pipes etc. (Such things are so expensive in Kenya now, especially with the terrible inflation we have been having for the past three years, so stealing has become worse). Now we are about to begin on installing the plumbing.

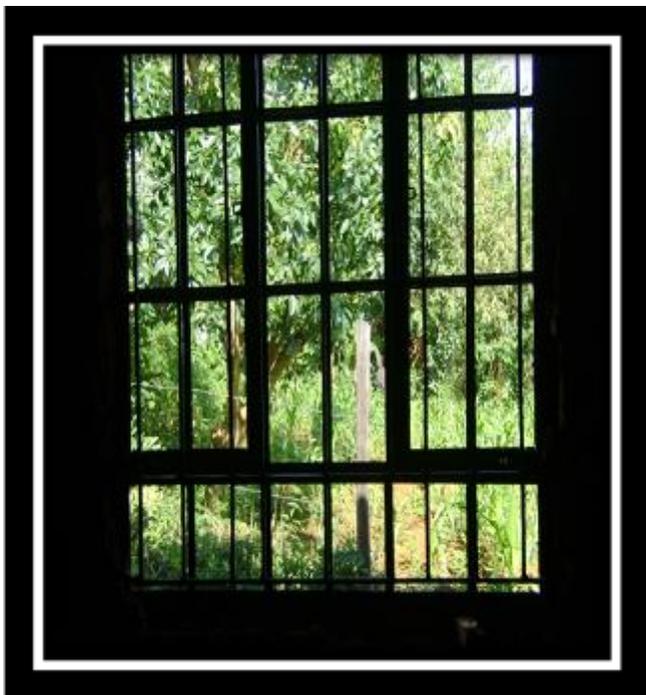
After that, when we can afford it, we will need to do the electric wiring, the interior floors and ceilings, plastering and painting the walls, and finally putting up a good fence around the property.



*The burglar proofing seen from the back of the house*



*The door leading to the sitting/dining room*



*Picture taken from inside one of the rooms at Maseno*

All of us at the Julius and Dora Childrens' Centre, wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

As the baby Jesus could find no shelter in Bethlehem, we are so grateful that we have been given shelter and a home. Thank you for helping to make this possible.

*With love from Flossie and all the children and carers at J and D.*

Christmas 2012

P.S. By the way, if you are buying Christmas presents or anything else online, don't forget that if you sign up to '**Give as you Live**', then the company will freely give a percentage of the value of your purchase to the charity of your choice, at no cost to you. (A large number of companies now participate in this). Just Google 'Give as you Live', follow the simple instructions, and put "Friends of Julius and Dora Childrens Centre" as your choice of charity.