

## January- February 2023 Prayer Newsletter

I have not (yet) struggled to do this Newsletter before as I have since the year began. Looking around and noticing that the struggles are all over, and the continually growing needs, I felt afraid of writing; but my heart is continually grateful for you for allowing yourself to be used of God to stand with us as the New Scent family. We have come this far because of your support. Thank you.

The sun is not only bright, but hot. The heat has hit several places in the country of Kenya. In most parts lives continue to beg for survival due to the drought and famine that continues to hit the nation. Kenya is experiencing an alarming food crisis. The drought, high inflation, dryness, etc. are affecting different areas of life. The drying of trees and vegetation; and dying of livestock, is actually a sign of dying hope in some areas. Food, transportation, and gasoline expenses have driven Kenya's annual inflation rate to a five-year high of 8.3%. Access to food is constrained among poor households, this is in addition to stagnant wages and declining income-earning opportunities in rural areas.

With schools re-opening in the last week of January 2023, and the new Junior High school starting; not to forget the secondary school Form ones, the sucking effect of the sun can be felt in the pockets of many common men and women. The hopes of many children also kind of setting as the hot sun sets in the evenings and many wake up again with only a dwindling hope that they will go to school. Tough times.



After the long school holidays, the schools re-opened in January the 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023. All continuing students and pupils resumed school. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the new chapter of Junior secondary school started too. The New Scent Family had children joining Junior secondary as well as Form one in High school. On the left, in white shirts and beige skirts/trousers are our junior high students. Thankfully, the government allowed junior secondary schools to be domiciled in the current schools where they studied before. Since we had not completed the construction of the school we hope to eventually use, this was a blessing indeed.



Due financial constraints, we have not been able to take the new Form one students to the schools where they were admitted. I could not raise all the money required to take them to those schools, pay for the continuing students in high and



still manage the rest of the big family at the Centre. So, I have thrown myself yet again, to the deep end of the swimming pool and started a secondary school in the incomplete school building that we have been working on. Truly, it comes with its challenges of getting teachers, ensuring all textbooks are

acquired, the desks and everything required. I have two teachers; I need two more teachers for a start as again I hope the school grows. With the constantly growing number of children in primary school, it is only prudent we begin this secondary school. It will be (eventually) affordable to maintain the children here than taking them to the various schools nationwide. Those in the different schools will remain in those schools until they complete. You're welcome to sponsor a child in this our school or even in various schools. Currently, those in high school are twenty-two (22). Our school building that was meant for the primary school and junior school is where we started the High school. So, this calls for another need to ensure the children continue their education. We are lacking an essential component to ensure that everything goes well- the science laboratory. Of course, we are hopeful of getting kids from the community who can join and be able to pay, hence somehow take care of some of the needs. Until then, we are on our knees as we ask God to help us in these areas. Some children who would love to join the school come from far hence the need for a school bus. Please pray with us.

Remaining on matters education, we celebrate the first group of five (5) girls from the New Scent who have been able to complete their high school education. We have four (4) of the girls at the Centre. We celebrate Teresia who qualified for university. Faith missed the university with a few points and the rest at least can-do vocational skills development. We thank God, and thank you, for walking this journey with them.



The need for rescuing girls continues to be real. These two girls were not just defiled but death faced them constantly. On the right, is Gladys, who had the tongue like part of her tongue in her throat cut off by her defiler before he abused her. Steph on the left was constantly defiled by her stepfather who promised to kill her if she said it. They witnessed their abusers kill other people and so they knew that for them the threats were not just threats but possible realities. They have now found a home at the New Scent Centre. We still have capacity to rescue more, but because I must consider their everyday upkeep, I cannot just pick them and not be able to feed them and take care of them.



Thank you for praying and as God enables you, standing with us.

In this New year- that is fast growing old; in the face of many challenges globally and locally, we look forward to what God has in store for the New Scent family. Last Sunday evening we reminded ourselves that we are a sisterhood brought together by not very good circumstances. The pain the girls go through is immense, and confusing to their young minds. However, my heart is quick to remember to praise God for the great changes I see in the lives of these children. We remembered how one of our Jacklines was dumped at our Centre as a mad girl- today she is thriving. You are part of this good story, to the glory of God.

We trust God for a school bus, for completion of the school and its furnishing, for everyday needs (food, medication, clothing, school related items, etc.), and even for the other areas for holistic growth and development. Bringing them up is a challenge as well.

Thank you for walking with us. God bless you and grant you a great year ahead. We love you.