

## BRAVO NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation opened its doors to welcome some of the PLCC children to worship with them on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

What a Service!

Both services Kiswahili and English were full of life as the children sang in groups and danced their tune.

The congregants were impressed by the high level of discipline the children portrayed during worship and as they lined up to be served lunch, starting with the youngest to the oldest.

Thank you Rev. Mike Fonner, (pastor in charge) Rev. Balozi Mrutu and NILC council of Elders for participating in making the PLCC family smile; we do not take it for granted, it is the love of God in you.

May the Almighty God bless you all.

## TALKING FREELY ABOUT EXPECTATIONS

After finishing their exams, the primary school leavers had a meeting with some members of the PLCC staff. The departments that were represented in the meeting were: education, social work and Hand stretch. The main aim of the meeting was to give some guidance to these girls, given that most of them were being hosted at the centre, and now time had come for them to leave and join their guardians/parents. Therefore, it was very necessary to sit with them and listen to what their expectations were and from there, guide them and reassure them of our readiness to support them whenever there is a need.

The meeting was very successful because the girls freely talked of their expectations and what they will be doing as they wait for their results. After that,



each one of us gave his/her counsel and we agreed on a date for them to leave. At this point is when the reality dawned on us that two of the girls had no place to go to! This being a first encounter with this kind of a situation, we are yet to find the way forward.

*Ronald Bosire*



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# Pangani Lutheran Children Centre



# FRIEND

*A friend in need is a friend indeed.*

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*My dears PLCC friends,*

A fifteen year old girl, Vero lived with her mother and a step father before she was admitted at PLCC.

After some years the mother died leaving her with her step father and younger brother, who is also in another children's home.

The girl is among the eight children who finished class eight this year. She was supposed to have gone home to join the rest of the family members, like the others. It is within PLCC plans that the KCPE candidates go to stay with their relatives while awaiting results which determines whether they join secondary school or not. In Vero's case, PLCC feels it is not safe for her to stay with the step father whom she has been complaining of, even before her mother died. So she remains at PLCC for an unknown time.

This year Vero is not alone, Monica faces the same problem. Though with five elder brothers she can not join them because all live in the streets.

These are common stories during Christmas holidays. Sad season for those who have no place to call home and smiles on the faces of those with parents/guardian to come for them on the closing day.

Another scenario is that of the children who from January to the end of the year have attended school lessons but not

able to improve their knowledge in reading and writing. Reason being their past; the things the harshness of this world caused in their developing tender brain. While the PLCC social workers remain vigilant during admission, we are optimistic that for those with learning difficulties, a help is about to come; a school with special programs.

November 26<sup>th</sup>, this year there was a ground breaking prayer for construction of the school to start. Plans are to start operating in the second term of the 2015 academic year. Four children have been identified to be withdrawn from some public schools to join the new schooling programs, hoping that comes December 2015, the sad faces will be fewer.

Dear PLCC friends and well-wishers, while we serve our role responsibly, we continue to count on your generous support be it spiritual, material or financial, at PLCC, it is received with a lot of appreciation.

**Merry Christmas and a new year full of success.**

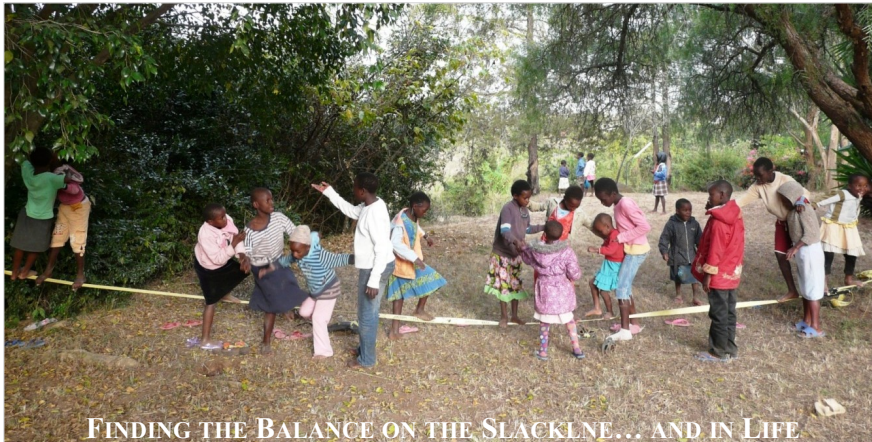
With warmest regards  
*Mary Mshana*



## A RESPONSIBLE PARENT AND A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS LADY

I was born in Mathare slums but now I live in Mabatini area .I have three children, Roxanne, Grivin and Genevier. I used to abuse alcohol and Bhang alongside other drugs. I spent my leisure time in night clubs where I chewed Khat, though it was not my wish. Through counseling and seminars at PLCC I managed to come out of drug abuse after joining the Hand Stretch Program (HSP). It changed my lifestyle. I was so

The business was successful and after one month I requested for another loan. My business prospered so I decided to open a hair salon because I had an experience of six months. In 2012 I applied for another loan to boost the salon's progress. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2013 things changed in our area .There were thugs at every corner, which made customers not to come to the salon as a result of fear. I decided to shift to an



happy when PLCC sponsored my daughter Roxanne. I remember my first meeting at the centre, parents were empowered and encouraged concerning the future of their children .They talked about the importance of education as the key to success. I remember after one month or so, they organized seminars and taught us about things like education, financial issues and cleanliness. A seminar in Jerusalem March 31<sup>st</sup> was about small business and loans. After the seminar for the first time I got a loan and started a small business of selling firewood.

other area in order to continue with my business. My main aim was to see my salon prosper. This is because I wish to excel in life. I wanted to expand my salon and have all equipments needed so that I can employ people to assist me, although I already have one. I believe and hope that one day God will help me have a training centre of my own. Apart from supporting Roxanne with education and supporting me through HSP, PLCC helps me a lot. I am now able to take care of the family needs like food shelter and health. I can now teach other people how to start →

## ITEMS OF PRAYER CONCERN

- ★ The continuing development of the plot in Ongata Rongai (classrooms for special program construction)
- ★ Christmas holidays when PLCC girls join their relatives
- ★ Orphans in the world
- ★ Children living with HIV/AIDS

## LET'S COME TOGETHER AND TALK

All the PLCC workers got an opportunity to go for a retreat on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Pastoral Centre Thika. During the retreat, they had time to discuss how children understand death and their reactions to grief.

The discussion aimed at equipping the staff with understanding of how to recognize and help young children with traumatic grief.

The fact that on the same week PLCC family had buried one of their own children, the discussions were very well received by all the participants.

After elaborating on how children understand death at different ages, common grief reactions and

traumatic grief reactions in children, Ms. Leslie Weed Fonner, a counsellor volunteer at PLCC, concluded by encouraging the social workers to consult a mental health professional with experience in treating traumatized children whenever they notice signs of traumatic grief in the children they care for.

The retreat ended with an outing to Fourteen Falls, Athi River which all the staff enjoyed.

*Mary Mshana*



→ a small business and manage to keep good records. With the seminars I have attended since 2006 to 2014 I have learned how to be a responsible parent and business lady who is able to support other needy people. May God bless

PLCC and the HSP, I am grateful to God for what He is doing through PLCC.

*Mama Roxanne*