



## Ministering to Adolescents Living with HIV

### Shifting Priorities

“Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.” Deuteronomy 30:19

We make choices every day. The most important one you will ever make is to follow God or not. But the choices don't end there because we are sinners, so we actually have to choose to follow God anew every morning. We are saved, yes, but the choices we make show just how in step we are with God's calling on our life.



I didn't realize how much getting married would change my ministry and my life. Adapting my ministry to my new life has been hugely challenging. I've made lots of decisions and later had to acknowledge that this new thing was not the right thing, right now.

And so here I am again, re-imagining the future of Maarifa in a way that I can more easily manage in this season of life. Understanding that fund-raising and traveling are difficult at best, I've made the decision (choice) to scale back Maarifa's presence on the ground in Kenya and increase my online presence in outreach and awareness of the Maarifa curriculum.

September will be the last month that I have workers in Kenya. The funds that I had used to pay them I will now use to print the Maarifa curriculum to offer to new sites interested in using it. This will also free up my time to cast a wider net online, while still communicating with the sites in Kenya who already use the curriculum.

Will it make things more difficult...probably, at least initially, but it will also take a huge weight off my shoulders. Stipends are a huge chunk of my budget that I am finding it harder and harder to raise. To their credit, Joshua, Jacquie and Esther are passionate about Maarifa and have all asked to keep working as they are able, to raise awareness about Maarifa because they see what a life-giving tool it is for adolescents living with HIV. I'm so grateful to them for their efforts and I know God will bless them in whatever career they choose.

Listening to what God tells you isn't always easy. This was a hard decision but one that I know is right for me and my family in this season of life I'm thankful for partners, like you, who show up and give with open hands, even in hard times, because there is still work to be done.

### Maarifa Update from Kenya

July activities created a lot of awareness for the Maarifa curriculum in Kenya. Joshua attended three youth trainings and speaking engagements that included a boarding school with 800 students (above). Around 500 parents also attended the event. Joshua spoke to them about stigma. Joshua also counsels individuals and families along with speaking, training and teaching the Maarifa curriculum.

Esther, our peer mentor, had an eventful month. A baby boy was born to a teen mom with whom Esther had interacted. The mom had a high viral load and birthed a healthy baby at home with midwives. However, she has challenges making ends meet since the father of the child abandoned his responsibilities.

Besides managing her administrative duties, Jacquie has been reaching out to children's homes to see if they would be interested in incorporating Maarifa into their program. She is also compiling a list of other organizations and children's homes we can reach out to.



# Steyn Summer in Review

We took a trip to MN for my cousin's wedding and lots of fun with friends!



Nadia loves playing piano with Nana, her friend Zachary and being the mini manager for the Mudcats!



I got to see my brother Tom while in MN! On the right is a picture of my friend Faye. I've also gotten to spend time with her this summer as she doesn't get out much!





## Remember this kiddo?

This is Ibrana, better known as Buddha, the nickname I gave him at six-months old that has stuck to this day! For those of you who don't know the story, Ibrana's mother was living in the states when she had him and did not have much support, so my family sort of adopted them. Ibrana went back to Kenya when he was 5. But we have kept in touch over the years. He moved back to Minnesota a year or so ago and came to visit us in North Carolina in June! We had a delightful time reconnecting and renewing this friendship!



## Keep the Kimani kids in school!

*I'm running this story again...until we raise all the funds needed! These beautiful children need to go to school! Please help if you can!*

James 1:27, "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God our Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress."

I would like to offer you the exciting opportunity to obey James 1:27 by providing stability and educational support for the Kimani kids in Kenya. My friend Susan "Njeri" Kimani who died in March, left behind 6 children, 3 of whom need to attend boarding school.

I promised Njeri, 6 years ago, before we left Kenya, that I would take care of her children if anything ever happened to her. She was in really good health at the time and we had no reason to believe she wouldn't be around until they were all out of school. Cecilia, Njeri's 24-year-old daughter, said she could care for them if the three youngest were in boarding school.

Cecilia found a boarding school for Ian (Above, left) and Isaac (Above, right) the 12-year-olds. I paid for the first term, and they started school on Wednesday, April 27. The 7-year-old will stay home and attend day school until she is 10.

School fees are \$800 per year per child. To get all three children through secondary school will cost approximately \$20,000. I am inviting you to be part of providing stability for these children in their time of grief and loss.

A financial commitment from you, your family, or community group can help provide for the physical and educational needs of Njeri's children. Your gift will transform the future for Ian, Isaac and Linnet from one of despair to one of infinite hope and possibility!

Your giving will go towards boarding school fees (tuition, room and board, transport, etc.):

Yearly tuition is \$800 per year, per child.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for all 3 children to finish high school.

A gift in any amount is welcome. Assisting Njeri's children is not part of Maarifa, therefore contributions are NOT tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to Jessica Steyn however, Venmo and PayPal are also options. I will deposit donations in a bank account set up by Cecilia which will only contain money for education. You can contact Jessica by email at [jessica@mymaarifa.org](mailto:jessica@mymaarifa.org) or by phone at 320-339-3699 for more information.

- Please pray for God's will to be done through the Maarifa curriculum.
- Continued prayers for HIV medication to be readily available in Kenya on an ongoing basis.
- Prayer for KENYA! They are holding national elections on August 9th. The country is bracing for violence but praying for peace! Please join them!
- Pray for me - I am planning a trip to Kenya and Uganda at the end of the year! I'm asking God to guide my planning so that I can do what I need to in a short amount of time! More on that in the next newsletter.

**In His Service, Jessica, Daniel, & Nadia Steyn**

## GIVING

Checks should be made out to **Globe International** (write Maarifa in the memo)  
P.O. Box 3040 • Pensacola, FL • 32516-3040

## ONLINE GIVING

[www.mymaarifa.org/donate](http://www.mymaarifa.org/donate)



[www.globeintl.org](http://www.globeintl.org)