



The Methodist Church

Jane Gray, Mission Partner, Kenya, March 2008

Dear Friends,

This is a slightly late Easter newsletter.

Since I last wrote there have been many problems in Kenya and I hope and pray that these will now resolve since the power sharing agreement has been signed between the Government Ministers. It has been quite peaceful in Maua but the deaths and huge number of displaced people has caused great distress and of course economic havoc to all the country. Perhaps one positive aspect has been the willingness of the people to try and help their own countrymen and not to rely on outside help.

I am settling in my work in the outreach clinics and the hospital wards - spending 2 days a week giving nursing care and the rest of the time working with the team doing home visits and seeing patients in the clinics. It is always a team effort and I'm on a steep learning curve. My hope is to improve the care of the dying patients but "quality of life" is not a concept that is very acceptable to the hospital staff. In a situation where so many die, life is fought for right up to the end. The British idea of a peaceful death - without drips and tubes - is thought to be cruel. I need your prayers while I struggle with the ethical issues involved. In the meantime I try to ensure that pain relief is given and give what care and comfort I can. I have a motto - " Do what you can, not what you can't " which I find helpful!

Life is not all work! I went to Kenya National Park with 2 friends and with a small team of guide, cook and porters we trekked, camped and climbed Mt Kenya. It was a fantastic few days - the scenery was breathtaking and the peace very special. The fact that we were the only people in the whole Park (there should have been several hundred visitors) shows the desperate state of the tourist industry but made it a very memorable occasion. We all managed to climb our way to the top of the mountain - though my fear of heights and the snow made it a challenge! Our borrowed equipment and thermal underwear were invaluable. My most memorable time was the start of "the summit" when we were walking in the very early morning - the moonlight and stars were just magical. I've also just come back from a few days retreat over Easter, which was also very special.

I feel very blessed to be here. There are good and committed people to work with, and the Kenyan people make everything worthwhile.

With my love and prayers

Jane