

Kenya AIDS Orphans Spring Newsletter 2023

Runnymede United Church

Greetings to Friends and Supporters of the Obara Family! We continue to be thankful for all the activities of Obara family members and their contributions to their community.

Leonora continues as consultant and Andrew continues as administrator, both in the Village of Love program. Their oldest 11 children continue to be self-sufficient and to give back to their community. Andrew and Leonora are hoping to visit us in the fall, if they can get visitor's visas and donated airline tickets. It would be great to see them in person after several years of Covid and other delays.

Their 4 youngest adult children are continuing their paths of study, qualifying for their professions and looking for work in the difficult Kenyan economy.

All of this is through the generous support and encouragement from Runnymede United Church and all our donors. Monthly (PAR) donations provide stability to the students and the family in the unstable Kenyan economy. The already increasing living costs have continued to escalate and even more since the war in Ukraine. Africa buys Ukrainian wheat so the price of bread is higher than ever now. Cooking oil has tripled in price and is now considered "like gold". Through this and Covid restrictions, the Obara young people continue to use their opportunities for professional training to the fullest. They're keenly aware that our donations are their only way to pay for their education. We wish them well as they seek work in their chosen fields.

The Kenyan AIDS Orphans fund supports the work of the Obara family in educating AIDS orphans in their family, and [Village of Love Program](#) in Kibera, Kenya, the largest "slum" (informal settlement) in Africa.

For more information on the Obara family and the Kenyan AIDS Orphans fund please [link here](#).

To make a donation [link here](#) . When making your donation be sure to specify that funds are for the Kenyan Aids Orphans fund.

Below are messages from some of the children, and from Andrew on the political situation in Kenya.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support.

**Robyn Salter, John Rossall, Laura Rossall, Lynne Salt, Tom Axworthy,
Kenyan AIDS Orphans Project Council
Runnymede United Church**

[Messages from the Family](#)

Debora

"I have attained a valid practicing license from the Nursing Council of Kenya.

Currently, am working as a volunteer maternity nurse in a private health facility. I'm looking for paid work. I've had two interviews and I'm awaiting the results. Due to managerial challenges in the nursing college, our graduation is scheduled in December 2023.

Once again, I want say thank you for the financial support you offered to me. Without you this journey would have not been successful. Thank you.

Quote of the day

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

Thank you.

Regina (Reginalda)

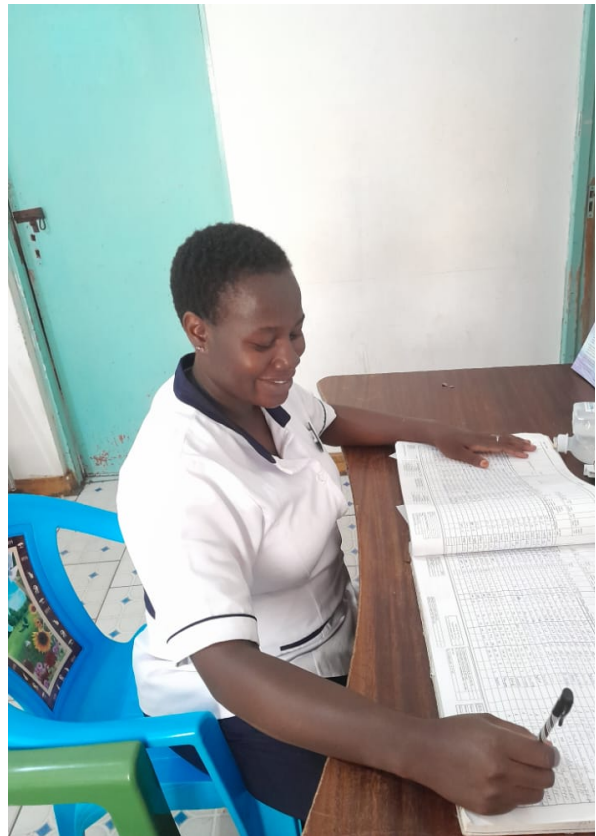
“I successfully passed all the nine papers for my Bar exams and graduated on the 16th of December 2022.

I practiced under the instruction of a duly certified Advocate from April 2022 to April 2023 in a law firm based in Nairobi.

I petitioned and met all the requirements laid by the Judiciary of Kenya and was successfully admitted to the bar on the 2nd day of March 2023.

I am currently seeking a job in a law firm to start my journey as a newly admitted advocate.

I am very grateful for all the support I have received from



Debora



Regina and Isabella, with Andrew and Leonora

the entire Runnymede fraternity. May God bless you all abundantly.”

Zak

"During my last term, working on my project, (Automatic finger blood sample collection machine), I made some changes which will reduce the cost of the machine by 60%. This will make it affordable to hospital facilities in remote areas. I replaced the power supply with a rechargeable battery. This enables it to operate with no need of constant power supply.



Zak

Job Update

Currently available jobs in Kenya require two to five years of working experience, I have made several applications to hospitals around Nairobi. Meanwhile, I'll take a short course in software engineering which will advantage me in the newly introduced field (Medical Engineering) in Kenya. I qualified for a fully funded program which starts on 13th of May.

I will be graduating later this year.
Thank you!”

Lauryne:

"After 3rd year academic term ended in December 2022, I reported, as an intern, to Baran Telecom Networks, an affiliate company of Safaricom PLC. I finished on 23rd April.

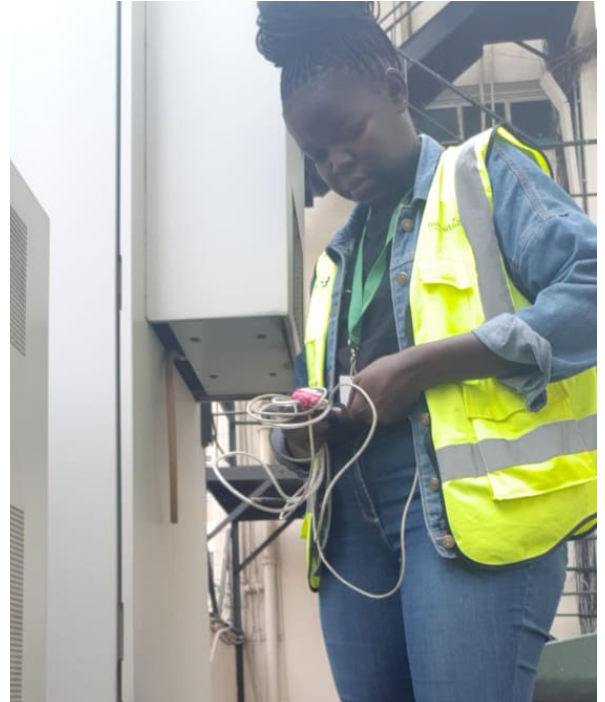
My 4th academic year begins on May 8th. This is the semester where we choose our areas of specialization. I am torn between power engineering and telecommunication engineering and doing more research to make a decision. The semester will run up to August. After a short break, we will resume for the last semester of the fourth year.

My training takes much longer because I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree while Zac is pursuing a Bachelor of Technology degree. The difference between the two is I end up as a design engineer and Zac ends up as a technical engineer. Design engineers come up with designs and prototypes. They design power systems, draw plans for housing and such while technical engineers implement the designs. It takes an extra year to train a design engineer.

Graduating in September 2025 is still the plan. I complete my coursework in December 2024. Then I start my project in 2025 January and have 6 months to complete it. After presenting the projects, we break for two months as we await the graduation ceremony.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. It means the world to me to be able to pursue my dreams and you have made that possible.”

Lauryne



Lauryne

Isabella, Human Rights Lawyer

"As shared in the last newsletter update, I am still the technical lead for legal advice and litigation at the organization for Human Rights. I recently had the success of winning a complex litigation case that we filed more than 18 months ago.

I have shared links here for anyone who would like to know more about my work and career.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/isabella-obara-300162b1/>

<https://www.imlu.org/team/isabella-obara/>

It is now over 17 years! Thank You for walking the journey with my family and I. Isabella”

Andrew, May 4, 2023:

"Kenya held elections in August 2022 and William Ruto was declared the winner by a small margin, 51% for him and 48% for his closest rival.

The loser filed a petition which was thrown out.

While campaigning, the current president promised to bring the prices of foodstuff and other items down. He also promised to avail cheap credit at no interest to the small traders and remove those of whom had been placed in CRB (BLACKLIST). He immediately prevailed upon the CRB to remove the names of the many defaulters.

Rather than lower the price of foodstuff, electricity and fuel he increased them and also reneged on his promise to give credit without interest.

Meanwhile the opposition, which did not agree with court's ruling, believed that there was external interference and wanted the counting servers that stored all the election information opened to confirm the winner.

The Incumbent did not adhere and the opposition, to force the Government to abide, called for mass protests that ran for almost

two weeks in the month of March. People died, businesses were destroyed, and the government lost a lot of revenue.

Kibera is one of the informal settlements that bear the brunt of such, as most of the supporters of the opposition reside in Kibera. It also has the highest number of jobless youths, and the most impoverished population resides there. Any time mass protests are held, nothing goes on there and should one dare open his or her small business they risk being maimed, business being burnt or looted.

There was one month's lull as the president and opposition agreed to form a committee to look into the issues, but nothing came out of it, hence the return of the destructive mass protests which began on Tuesday the 2nd of May.

Regarding our children, for Leonora and I, it is very satisfying to see their successes. Also gratifying is that our friends in Canada, who provided help in all forms, celebrate with us.

The Obara family thanks you so much for the support of making these young people attain their dreams and pray that you will be blessed abundantly.

God willing, we should be coming to Canada towards the end of the year and hopefully we shall convey our gratitude personally.

Warmly,

Andrew"