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## *Taking Torah to Africa*

April 2008 Newsletter

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### **ACTS for Messiah Family Extended**

We received Pastor Isaac Ochan and his family from Moroto in February to join us in fulltime ministry. Isaac is married to Aida and they have three wonderful little boys. Joshua, the first-born is five years old and Aaron and Jeff follow him. The family is now comfortably settled in a self-contained two-room apartment in Tororo. They are happily involved in all our activities including Shabbat fellowships and festivals. It is such a good feeling to work together with Isaac and his family in the ministry.

Isaac has already begun to reach out to the Karamojong communities in Tororo, Mbale and Busia town to do ground work and to find out how we can be of help to these helpless communities. His main aim has always been to reach the Karamojong people with a helping hand. So he is here to do all it takes to achieve this vision through ACTS for Messiah ministries. His harsh childhood experience makes him the rightful person to understand and share the burdens of those walking through the path he once followed.

### **Lauri – A Blessing in the Ministry**

Lauri has finally found a house to live in after a very long search for a decent apartment. She gladly moved into her new house at the end of February. The apartment she is renting is only a stones-throw away from our premises and we sometimes communicate to her by shouting ‘hello’ over the fence. She is fully incorporated into the family.

She has committed herself to help in supporting the families where our children come from when desperate need arises. Over the last few months, among other things, Lauri has put two little children from Robert Okware’s family into school and she provides food items for the children on a monthly basis. She has also been providing transport money for children in the house to go and meet their family members.

For the feeding and clothing project that pastor Isaac has in Moroto, Lauri has mobilized and secured a monthly financial support which she hands over to Isaac for the project every month. In the month of March she provided a bail of used clothes for the same project in Moroto and Isaac delivered it to the needy people in Moroto. She wants to thank all of you who are helping make this possible.

In the morning Lauri comes into the house to help clean up and put the house in order after the children have gone to school. She supervises and watches over the children when they come back from school in the evening and she helps Alex to learn how to read or do mathematics. A little help from any one adult person makes workload in the house a lot lighter.

## **Karamojong Community Project**

Pastor Isaac has been making consultations with the leaders and elders within the Karamojong communities in Mbale, Tororo and Busia districts in the last two weeks.

He has handed over to us a compiled report on the living condition of the people in those communities. We have come up with proposals and strategies of reaching and changing lives and living conditions in these communities. The proposals are being reviewed by the Missions Committee and a recommendation of where to start will be forthcoming. Please pray for the direction of this project.

## **Schooling of our Children**

The children will be home for a one-month holiday by the end of this month. Little Mary Ilukol has joined the same school where our primary school children go. She is now in primary one level. I was in her classroom two weeks ago to check on her performance in class. Her teacher gave me a very good report about her except that she is the noisiest and most playful child in class. I told her teacher that she is like that even at home and we kind of like it, plus she sings awesome songs especially when taking her shower in the bathroom too.

Johnson performed well in his senior six exams and he is able to join the university this year on private sponsorship. Stanley will sit for his Primary Leaving Exams this year. Gorreti, Tawula and Kenny are also candidates sitting for national exams this year. John and Alex are still struggling with reading and writing but we have arranged for special coaching for them during the holidays.

School fees will once again be due for the children in May. Your prayers and continued support are appreciated.

## **The household misses Emily**

Little Mary keeps asking me to know when Emily will be back so that she can go with us to the airport and see her plane landing. She hopes to enter into that plane too. The boys keep checking their mail to see if Emily has sent to them any mail. "Auntie Emily, wherever you are, we love you, we miss you and we pray for you every time we say our after meal blessing" This is a message from John to Emily on behalf of all in the household.

Wishing all of you a very blessed Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread!

Shalom,

**Russell**