



The last few weeks have been very difficult for all in Emmanuel Home and the UK Committee. On 28th October James, one of the Home's house parents – of very long standing – was taken ill and died quite suddenly. This was a huge shock and sadness for many people: his wife; his own five children; some orphans he helped and took responsibility for in his own village; the children in Emmanuel Home; the staff of the home, especially the manager Roy (for whom he was the 'right hand man') and the UK Committee, who knew that in James Roy had reliable back-up and support from someone who 'knew the ropes'. The above photo shows some of the young people (from or connected with the Home) who had just attended James' funeral. The manager is in the centre, with a white cap on. Here are some extracts from one of his recent emails:

... you are all aware that Emmanuel Home has been going through several challenges... We are proud to announce to you that God has been good to us and has been helping us overcome each and every challenge. However the greatest challenge we've ever faced as an organisation in the recent past is the demise of James Onyango Ayoki otherwise known as James2. He went to be with the Lord on Tue Oct 28th and was buried last Sat 14th Nov. This has seen us go through a very busy 3 weeks of great mourning, pain and loss....

Under normal circumstances, Christians in Africa are not encouraged to cry or mourn loudly but this did not stop tears rolling our cheeks and crying out loud, I'm certain that I've lost a great friend and leader, the person who used to handle most duties on my behalf. He'd worked alongside me and so he knew everything about the home and the leadership needed....

A couple of days after James' funeral in Kenya, our longest standing and very faithful committee member, Doreen Moxham, was in hospital having a heart operation for which she had been waiting a long time. The operation was completed successfully and Doreen was making a good recovery and due to go home on Saturday 21st November. On that very

morning she collapsed and her family were called in urgently. Sadly, Doreen went downhill rapidly and passed away just before the family arrived at about midday.

This again was a great shock to her family and to all of us who knew her; thankfully, as Doreen was one of God's faithful servants, we can take comfort from the fact that she has gone to be with Him in a far better place. Please pray for her husband Tim, children and grandchildren as they come to terms with life without her.

Doreen had a great love for the children and young people in the Home and went out to Kenya several times to visit them in the years before her health stopped her. She was a mainstay of the committee in the UK, giving time, energy and money to help the orphans we support. She will be greatly missed in many ways.

Despite the sadness of recent weeks, we can give thanks that the message of this season – 'God with us' – is true, and He is our comfort and help. Jesus came to bring life – life that ultimately conquers death, so we can still rejoice at Christmas time, and wish you all:

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AND EVERY BLESSING IN THE NEW YEAR!

Thank you for your much appreciated support – needed more than ever; five more children were brought to the Home recently because they were at great risk and in need of support.

From the UK Committee

We are again able to provide Christmas greetings gift cards if you would like to make a donation to Emmanuel Home as a 'present' to someone who seems to have everything. The cards will have a copy of the above photo on the front with some information about the charity and a Christmas greeting inside which reads:

This comes to wish you a

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

A donation has been made on your behalf to Kanyawegi UK, which funds Emmanuel Home in Kisumu, Kenya. Every penny of this gift will help the Home to provide orphans with clothes, food, education and a caring Christian environment.

WITH VERY BEST WISHES FROM

The amount of the donation is entirely up to you, and the above wording can be altered and 'customised' as you wish. For further information, or if you would like to do this, please contact: Gill Skinner, 35, Spring Ground Road, Paulton, Bristol, BS39 7RA. Telephone: 01761 751006. Email: gskinnermail@tiscali.co.uk.