



13th December, 2019

Dear Rosalie, Kevin, Hugh & All,

Wishing you a Joyous and Peace filled Christmas. It has been a year to Thank God for so many Blessings. I was extremely happy to return to Kenya end of April, as I had been rushed home due to a health scare which took me to Ireland in mid-January.

All this year the numbers of Trafficked victims has risen astronomically. Sometimes the sheer numbers leave me wracking my brain: 'how can I help' and wondering how to cope? Being very overwhelmed at times I can only trust in God and do my best. Being able to keep 40 students in education is no small feat but Thanks to you, I was able to make it!! Three of them sat for 'Kenya Cert of Secondary Education' (KCSE) and hopefully later next year they will be called to various colleges. I don't see a way out of it as some other young ones need to enter secondary education (Form 1) in January, 2020. Our year has been packed but we take one step at a time.

The Trust I formed last year ("**Counter Human Trafficking – East Africa**") is now well established and blossoming. I have busied myself on many fronts including making presentations at two International Conferences held in Nairobi "**Talitha Kum**" (Rome based) in July and "**Santa Marta Group**" (London based) in October. In the meanwhile I am preparing for a **Training Conference** in Nairobi in April, 2020 for MMM Sisters in East Central Africa (ECA) health units – hospital through to smaller clinics. I realise that we have a vast outreach to hundreds of thousands of people through our medical facilities, My desire and hope is that Human Trafficking can be included same as any other health issue.

To left is during my presentation to "Santa Marta Group"



We have continued with thousands of **Awareness** workshops to inform people on the reality of **Human Trafficking** these were mainly among youth both in

and out of school. Today we had 49 youths aged 15 – 20 years old and all of them are HIV positive. They attend a specific HIV/AIDS clinic run by a catholic mission dispensary. They are mostly from the slums and life is harsh, over one third of the girls are teenage mothers. With clinics like this the staff try very hard to encourage the girls to come early to Ante-natal clinic and use the special ARV drugs to give them the chance of having a baby born free from HIV infection. But they must start it no later than 32 weeks of pregnancy.

These times we are getting many victims from an area of Uganda called Karamoja, it lies next door to Kenya and is very underdeveloped. There are only a handful of schools in a vast semi-arid region, some girls are as young as 10 years old and taken here to Nairobi for sexual and labour exploitation.

Recently we had a very successful repatriation of two Tanzanian children aged 8 and 6 years. To effect the reunification George went into Tanzania to find the father. The Court Judge did not trust the Kenyan police to take them home as she feared they could be trafficked again at the border. It was a marathon journey and took 2 days and nights – cost over Euro 400.00. I went to the courtroom and the Joy of parent and children being reunited was unforgettable. A few days later we witnessed the Tanzanian lady get 30 years in a Kenyan jail.

On that note and meeting ‘Lizzie’ (who is still in counselling) in the picture below, I wish you a happy Christmas and a promising New Year 2020.

Love & Prayers. Mary

Meeting a victim of trafficking at Nairobi International airport 26th July, 2019. She received brutal treatment in Saudi Arabia.

