



## Nothing But Grace

### The Story of Baby Benjamin



*Baby Benjamin adopts a lovely mum, or is it vice versa?*

Sometime before the early morning hours of November 1st, 2010, a woman gave birth to a baby boy and then dropped him into an eighteen-foot deep public pit latrine toilet in Muthua slum in Nyeri, Kenya. This baby would become my adopted son. No one knows who the woman was or where she came from. Most believe she wasn't a local. She disposed of the baby while it was still dark so that she would not face mob justice and the possibility of being burned alive.

Normally babies found in pit latrines, because of the weight of the placenta, are pulled down face first into the mire of faeces, where they are found suffocated to death. But not this special baby. Instead, somehow this baby landed on his back, face up. No broken bones or internal injuries were found. It was as if an angel slowly lowered him down. After the baby had spent hours in the latrine, a "Good Samaritan" heard his weak cries and spent the next two hours digging a parallel vertical hole for rescue. Onlookers told him to let the baby go, but he

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## Editor's Note

### Spotlight: Nyeri

In 2012, New Life News will cast a spotlight on its diverse programmes and centres throughout Kenya. This issue highlights **New Life Home Trust** in Nyeri, where baby Benjamin began his new life. Benjamin's story was covered briefly in the last issue, but it was such a powerful story, and so many people wanted to know more, that we decided to run a follow-up piece (pages 1-3). Finally, peace building through feeding programmes will close out our issue (page 4). We thank you for partnering with us in serving the vulnerable children of Kenya.

## NOTHING BUT GRACE

Baby Benjamin's Story  
Continued...



*(Continued from page 1)*

refused. Eventually both man and child emerged from the pit, alive but covered in faeces, flies, and maggots. Once the Good Samaritan had handed the baby over to a woman, he removed his shirt, washed off and went his way, never to be seen again.

The baby was then taken to Karatina District Hospital where the receiving nurse reported him weak and dehydrated with maggots still feeding on his skin and crawling from his orifices. Not believing he would live, the nurse chose to wash and clean him in order to give him a respectable death. However, after washing him thoroughly, force-feeding him, and pumping his body with antibiotics, he began to revive. The nurse called him "a fighter". After 3 weeks he was released.

In November of 2010, baby Kahonoki, meaning "Little One Who was Saved", as he was called by the hospital staff, was picked up by the **New Life Home Trust (NLHT)** staff and driven 20 kilometers to Nyeri where he was welcomed "home". Weighing a mere 2.28 kg, it was there that he was given the name Jacob Mfalme, "Jacob the King". After almost a week at the home the staff decided that the wound care (wounds caused by the maggots eating his skin) was more than they could handle and that he would be better off at **New Life Home** in Nairobi with the support of a full medical facility.

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# Pulled from the Pit

A Poem inspired by Baby Benjamin

*I waited patiently for the LORD;  
He turned to me and heard my cry.*

Weak and unmistakable cries  
echoed from the depths of a pit latrine.  
A baby buried  
must be rescued.

A Good Samaritan picked up a shovel.

*He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire.*

The baby's skin covered in earth and sores  
but he was alive!  
and rushed to the hospital.

"The little fighter", fighting off raging infections,  
was released to **New Life Home Trust**  
and christened "Jacob",  
born the first of November.

*He set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.*

Hundreds of miles away,  
a young couple cried out to God.

Infertility.

*God, please reveal Your grace and purpose!* they pleaded.

Jacob cleared for adoption  
and no family coming to claim him.  
From Mombasa to Nairobi,  
the young couple travelled to meet him.

*He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear the LORD  
and put their trust in Him.*

The sweet baby's face confirmation enough:  
this was their son.  
The couple startled to see  
the baby's birthday: November 1st –  
the very day they learned of their infertility.

One of their darkest days,  
now a day of celebration.

*reprinted with the permission of Mission of Mercy*



*A giggling Baby Benjamin  
with his new family!*

*(Continued from page 2)*

The **New Life Home** staff and volunteers gave him the special care he needed and showered him with love and affection. He soon turned into a chubby ball of cuteness. It was there in the infant room of **NLHT** that we first saw our son. It was love at first sight, and it was in those special first moments that the Lord so clearly and graciously showed us the “whys” of the dark pain we had recently gone through.

At the end of 2010, my husband Dennis and I continued to be confronted with the despair of infertility. We began praying that the Lord would direct us in what we should do about a sibling for our first adopted child, Anjela. We were definitely open to adoption again but hadn't yet decided the details. We dreamed of having a bi-racial baby that would look a little more like us but knew that would be practically impossible. However when we called a Kenyan adoption agency, they told us of a bi-racial baby at **New Life Home Trust**. Even before we

met him, Dennis and I knew this was the baby that the Lord wanted for us no matter what his condition was, or if he truly was bi-racial. We knew this was the answer to our prayers.

## **NOTHING BUT GRACE** Baby Benjamin's Story Continued...

The next morning after Dennis talked to the adoption agency, we hadn't yet told the news to our three-year old daughter Anjela. When she awoke she said, “Mama, I want to have a baby brother and his name is Benjamin”. I said, “What? Are you kidding?” Dennis and I looked at each other in amazement and said, “Well, I guess we will have to name him Benjamin”. It was then that we began calling him Benjamin Joseph Omondi.

When we first met Benjamin, we learned that his birth and abandonment date was November 1st, 2010. I began pondering how terrible that day must have been for him. “Where were we?” I wondered. “What were we doing while Benjamin was being born and abandoned?” Then it dawned on me: that was the week we visited the infertility specialist in the States. Looking in my prayer journal confirmed this. When I opened the pages, I broke down in tears, realizing that the day Benjamin was born and thrown into the pit latrine was the same day Dennis and I were told that our chances of conceiving children were “slim to none.”

On that day I cried out to God. I told Him that we really needed His grace in the days ahead, that we needed Him to help us to trust Him. But I also knew somewhere deep in my heart that He had a purpose and plan in all of this. I remember telling Him, “Okay God, if this means that there is a baby out there being born this day who needs us to be his or her mom and dad, then we need You to bring the baby to us!” And that is exactly what God did. We can't thank Him enough. It was for that special boy and for our sweet adopted daughter Anjela that the Lord had, in His sovereignty, closed our womb. We had no doubt about it: this precious baby was God's gift to us!

*Allison Omondi, an American missionary,  
lives in Mombasa with her husband Dennis, a Kenyan pastor,  
and their two adopted children, Anjela and Benjamin*



## **Partner with us in baby rescue.**

Show the story of Baby Benjamin in your church, youth group, business, or home. You can now view our brand-new, professionally-produced video at:

- [cnbc.com/id/45777370](http://cnbc.com/id/45777370) (3-minute video)
- [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) (search “**New Life Home Trust—subtitles**” for 18 minute video)

More info? Contact Jane Wells, CNBC Correspondent: [Jane.Wells@nbcuni.com](mailto:Jane.Wells@nbcuni.com)  
or **New Life Home Trust** in Nairobi: [info@newlifehometruster.org](mailto:info@newlifehometruster.org)

**Raising money. Raising awareness. Bringing new life.**

## The Koreni Refugee Camp: Sheltering Refugees, Uniting Communities



In the Lamu District of northern Kenya lies the Koreni refugee camp, a place of welcome for Somali refugees as well as home to the Orma and Warridei tribes of Kenya. Many of the people of Koreni are pastoralist, moving from place to place in search of pasture and water for their cattle, leaving behind the women and children.

In 2005, *New Life Home Trust (NLHT)* started a nursery school in the area. The community responded with an initial 30 children receiving early childhood education through the *NLHT* school. A few years later, a feeding programme was introduced and today more than 70 children are receiving education and daily meals. According to Miriam, the on-site cook, the feeding programme brings smiles to many faces.

Pastor Zed Dumimba, one of the local church leaders in Koreni, noted that at the beginning of the feeding programme, the children appeared weak and sleepy in class. So the children now receive “a cup of hope” in the morning in order to address this challenge. Each school child receives two meals per day, including the all-important cup of morning porridge to address the fact that some of the children go to bed without dinner.

Because of the success of the feeding programme in Koreni, the Kenyan government has now officially recognized the need amongst the community there. The government has taken action and built a permanent school for the area. Miriam and others from the Koreni community recently expressed gratitude to *New Life Home Trust* for “bringing a bright future to them”.

The work of the local *NLHT* leaders has also served to unite tribal communities that were previously experiencing conflict and division. For example, the Orma and Warridei tribes frequently fight over control of grazing and water areas. However, because the feeding programme involves the entire community, feeding children from both tribes, including Somali refugees from across the border, it has contributed to peace-building in the area. As communities no longer experience scarcity of resources, their incentive for conflict and war is diminished.

*Esther Dalano is NLHT's field correspondent in Kenya*

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

#### NEW LIFE HOME TRUST

PO Box 25341, Nairobi 00603, KENYA  
 Founders-Directors: Clive & Mary Beckenham  
 +254 (0) 20 722 406064  
 info@newlifelifehome.org  
 www.newlifelifehome.org

### USA OFFICE

#### BARNABAS MINISTRIES Africa & NEW LIFE HOMES, Incorporated

PO Box 16778, Golden, CO 80402-6012, USA  
 Chairman: Ken Jeffcoat  
 +1 (0) 425 241 8605  
 info@newlifelifehome.org  
 www.newlifelifehome.org  
 Section 501(c)(3) Registered Non-Profit Organization

### EUROPE OFFICE

#### BARNABAS MINISTRIES Africa & NEW LIFE HOME TRUST

PO Box 2540, Luton, LU3 9DH, UK  
 Chairman: David Powlson  
 +44 (0) 1582 654157  
 bmafrica.nlht@yahoo.co.uk  
 www.newlifelifehome.org.uk  
 Registered Charity No. 1089334

### NORDIC OFFICE

#### BARNABAS MINISTRIES Africa & NEW LIFE HOME TRUST

Österlyckan 4, 41507 Göteborg, SWEDEN  
 Representative: Mark Beckenham  
 +46 (0) 31 3205913  
 +46 (0) 70 5769615  
 mbeckenham@gmail.com  
 mark.beckenham@smyrna.se

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- ⇒ *New Life* is set to grow again in 2012? Before Easter, we expect to start building extensions to our Nakuru and Kisumu homes to house our older, not yet adopted children (currently in Bethel House, Nakuru & The Ark, Nairobi) and our children with special needs (currently in Amani Cottage, Kisumu).
- ⇒ We are holding our Open Day 2012 on 18th February at *NLHT* Nairobi? Come and celebrate our 18th Anniversary + the rescue of more than 1,300 babies!
- ⇒ *NLHT* is currently feeding 2,000 hungry children every weekday in the north coastal region?