

Main Identity

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Subject: Giles and Annie Roberts Prayer Update January 2008

**CROSSLINKS****Giles and Annie Roberts****Prayer Update –January 2008**

Wishing you Happy New Year!

Houses burnt, roads blockaded, rape, armed mobs of youths, families burnt while sheltering in a church, rumours of genocide....

It is with heavy hearts we write this latest update.

Over the last few days we have seen this beautiful and peace-loving nation degenerate to the brink of civil war and all thinly veiled in the name of democracy.

As many of you will have seen and heard the Kenyan election was marred by accusations of fraud. The election process failed to convince the majority that it was free, fair and transparent. This has opened up old tribal wounds and led to violence at an unprecedented level.

Here in Turi we live amongst mixed communities consisting of various tribal groups which last week were living peacefully as friends but this week have turned on each other. Many of the workforce that Giles manages have been driven from their homes and several have had their homes robbed and razed to the ground. Some have had family members killed. Others have fled to the school with their families in fear of their lives to seek refuge. The workforce camp is bursting at the seams and is itself under threat from attack.

Giles, in charge of security, is in close contact with Turi village leaders, police and the army. We also have our own security force and guard dogs on site. So far the tension has not led to any violence on school grounds, and Turi village has been getting quieter each night, even though people have fled there from outlying farms seeking safety.

It's hard to believe that only two weeks ago we enjoyed a lovely holiday with Giles' Mum and brother delighting in the sights and experiences of this amazing country, yet this week we find ourselves in a country on the brink and amid extreme violence.

Things change very fast here, and we pray that in the few days that it takes this e-mail to get distributed things will have



**Raila Odinga, and President Kibaki.
Rivals fighting for the Presidency**



Crowds protesting election results



Homes burned

calmed down.

Praise

- That we had a brilliant holiday with Giles' Mum & brother before all this happened.
- That security at the school has been sufficient to keep both ex-pat and Kenyan staff on site safe from the troubles.
- That, despite the turmoil, electricity, water supply and phone communication have remained intact.
- That we have managed to source food and supplies for those living on site.

Prayer

- For the safety of the workforce (150 plus their families) living at school who are at risk from groups wishing to remove them from this area.
- For workers living off site as they attempt to keep their families and homes safe.
- For local and national leaders as they try and manage the crisis.
- For President Kibaki and Mr Odinga, and all who are working to mediate between these two men and their parties.
- For safety of the ex-pat staff and wisdom for the School Management as they plan and prepare for the various scenarios that could occur.

Thank you for all your love, support and prayers, and thanks to all those who have sent e-mails assuring us of your prayers at this time.

Love

Giles, Annie, Tom & Jake

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For more about the school go to www.standrewsturi.com



Authorities use guns and tear gas to control crowds



The church in Eldoret in which 30 people died when it was set on fire.

Pictures courtesy of bbcnews.com



The calm before the storm – on safari with Giles' Mum and brother. No it's not dead, just tame and resting!

Prayer Update is sent out by Geoff@Crosslinks.org or Geoff Barter, 45 West Front Road, Pagham, PO21 4SZ England. Please send me any address changes.