

Dear all,

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. At birth I boarded a train and met my parents, and believed they will always travel by my side. As time went by, other people boarded the same train. They all were significant; siblings, friends guardians and many more. However, at some station my parents stepped down from the train leaving me on this journey alone. Others also stepped down over time and left a permanent vacuum. Some though went unnoticed that I didn't realize their vacant spaces.

The key to realizing a dream is to focus not on success but significance, and then even the small steps and little victories along your path will take on greater meaning. 16 years ago, I was taken to Mother's Mercy Home where my endless journey started. The fact that I was not in a position to know exactly the route I was taking someone did for me. Thanks to Kiriita mother's union coordinator in the year 2003 for seeing the need I had. This shows us the value of people who take a step on our behalf to help us become meaningful persons in life.

It has been a journey worth taking. Along the way I have learnt that fear can limit us and our vision. It serves as a blinder to what could be just a few steps down the road. The journey is worth it, but believing in your talents, your abilities, and your self-worth can empower you to walk down an even brighter path. How about transforming our fear into freedom? One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers and guardians, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum in mother's mercy and John Kaheni is a very necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child. Mother's Mercy Home and John Kaheni Youth Center have been great places to be. Day in day out I have grown to who I am today. There are realities we all share, regardless of our personality, language, gender or individual tastes. As we need food, so do we need emotional nourishment: love, kindness, appreciation, and support from others.

Finally, the train ride has been full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consist of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that I give the best of myself. The mystery to everyone is that we don't know which station we will alight. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave out seats, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will board next. Who has been the most important person with you on the train? No matter how big or small their role, remember to thank those who were with you on your journey.

Life is all about balance, and there are certain times of the year: birthday, anniversary, holidays that are meant to be enjoyed without guilt. That being said, this is a new chapter of my life "exit from the program" and I thank everyone for been part of my journey and I believe this is not the end we still will be in touch.

From your Son David Mungai

Thank you