



# A Message of Hope at Christmas

## Nema Aluku, Kenya

www.crwrc.org

December 2009

**Nema Aluku**  
naluku@crwrc.org

**CRWRC Canada**  
3475 Mainway  
PO Box 5070 STN LCD I  
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8  
1-800-730-3490  
Fax: 905-336-8344

**CRWRC US**  
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560  
1-800-552-7972  
Fax: 616-224-8060

### Embrace AIDS

My awaited visit to North America started off on November 8, 2009. As I write this newsletter, my heart is filled with hope after interacting with my supporting churches, families, and CRWRC staff in North America.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our story about the work of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in East and Southern Africa. I applaud you for taking this step of faith to face the reality within our midst and to listen to our story of how we are facing this generation's Goliath—HIV and AIDS.

For the past five weeks, I have been a guest in your homes, communities, and churches as I visited and shared about the work of CRWRC in East and South Africa ministry teams. I have been reminded of the warmth that I experience in communities across East and South Africa as you welcomed me into your homes. I have become connected to your families. I have had an opportunity to learn from you and your families, and above all, I have had an opportunity to fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ here in North America.

The time has come for me to go back to my base in Nairobi, Kenya, to reunite with my family and colleagues. My interaction with you has brought out more hope for sub-Saharan Africa, the hope that more women will access voluntary counseling and testing services in their communities, that women and girls will continue to have access to life skills and to enhance their resilience in this era of HIV and AIDS. That people living with HIV and AIDS will continue to

receive care and support through the home-based care programs that CRWRC, through partner organizations, is implementing in the region. I leave with hope that CRWRC is in a position to scale up prevention and care programs, to scale up support to orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers.

I leave with the hope that staff capacity to integrate HIV and AIDS interventions into community development programs will increase in the coming year and that communities will experience health resilience through CRWRC technical assistance.

I leave with the hope of seeing most of you taking part in the HIV and AIDS tour in March 2010. I leave with the hope that you will experience first hand the transformation we have seen through church and community based programming in our region.

I am hopeful that many who have watched and intend to watch the 2000 Candles play will join us as we embrace AIDS and help make a difference in the lives of men, women, youth, and children living with and personally affected by HIV and AIDS. I am hopeful that the programs being implemented will continue to build on the local resources and knowledge and that communities will continue to experience Christ at work in their midst.



### What you can do...

- Pray
  - For the people around the world living with HIV and AIDS
  - For the people caring for and loving people with HIV and AIDS
  - For the staff and partner organizations of CRWRC—that they may continue in strength and confidence in their work
- Show your support by giving to CRWRC's work in the area of HIV/AIDS and health.
- Advocate for fair global economic policies.
- Support global justice initiatives such as the Micah Challenge.
- Send a letter to your federal representative asking for a bold national commitment to ending the AIDS crisis.

Make a commitment today by supporting the CRWRC Embrace AIDS campaign to bring hope to orphans and vulnerable children, widows and elderly caregivers and help us halt the further spread of the virus in East and Southern Africa. Help us make a difference.

I thank you.

Nema