

Hello all members,

The 2011 Christmas holidays are over and the outdoor temperature is almost 50 deg F. Yesterday I picked two small pink roses in bloom close to our house. Strange!

### **School start packages**

We will admit 30 new students to the pre-school class in January, 15 will continue one more year. Until today we have received donations to 27 out of the 30, which is fantastic. Only three more are missing .....

### **The Kisumu Society will be 10 years old next year!**

On June 14<sup>th</sup> 2002 the Kisumu Society was founded by Christine Svensson, Mariette Rosenholm, Håkan and myself. We wrote the Society's byelaws and held the first official board meeting. A month later we became a non-profit Society. Albinus Odada was the inspirer of the newly founded Society and was named honorary member. During the first year we recruited members, collected membership fees (which even then was SEK 50 per month as a minimum) and thought about how to get a chance to travel to Kenya and start the first project: A pre-school for orphans in Kisumu. We also collected items, which could be used in the school or be sold to sponsor the project.

Christine, who was the real originator of the Society, was taken seriously ill and died in 2003. Odada and I had promised her to carry on the work to realize the pre-school. The Society then had about 40 members. In the fall of 2003 Håkan and I made the first trip of many to Kenya. This time we traveled together with Odada as our guide and my daughter Karin. Before we returned after three weeks stay, we had started the construction of the school. The course of events from then till now is a long story of successes and setbacks, but with a persistent ambition to complete the task, which we had undertaken; to build and operate a school for orphans in the western Kenya. Not in the city of Kisumu, as we had thought at first, but in Kabondo, one hour's journey south, in the area where Odada was born. Today the Kisumu Society has more than 500 members, the majority private Swedish persons but also some judicial persons, a handful of Kenyans and some from other countries.

**2012 will be a special year for the Society, and this will be observed in many ways during the year.**

### **Membership meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

At the end of 2012 the Kisumu Society has fulfilled its promise to build and operate a Primary school for orphans. The school is registered as a private school in Kenya and a foundation was created in Kenya as a guarantor for the continued life of S:t Christine school as a school open to orphans. We wish to invite all members to a membership meeting in the afternoon of February 4<sup>th</sup>, to get information about this and also to have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. At this meeting we want to have an open discussion about the future direction of our work. The membership meeting will be regarded as an advisory meeting prior to the annual meeting to be held at the end of April after the Easter holidays. The actual day for this is not decided. The board of the Society hopes that many members will participate in the important membership meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be announced at the end of January through letters and on the home page.

**With hope for a Happy New Year and many thanks for all donations to the children and the school!**