

DIAMONDS IN THE RUFF

The trip to Kenya has humbled me. I often look at the reasons why people are suffering so much in the world, we see the documentaries on the television and the impact it makes is powerful but to see it with your own eyes is the thing that would drive us all to despair. It is going to be a huge commitment and hard work on our part to help these orphans and women in prostitution. I met with the women who live in Majengo one of the slums in Nairobi, and for our own safety we had to be escorted into Majengo by someone who has lived there all his life, Simi. We met with 8 Women all of whom had a story to tell. Simi's house was the size of a box room with one tiny window and he had a double bed, a 3 seater settee, and a chest of draws – all their worldly possessions, Simi lives in this one room with his wife and 5 children.

We all had to fit into this room and we did. It is something I will never forget, meeting these women who don't have any choices. If they don't work in the commercial sex trade then they don't eat or have a home. These women are concerned for the younger girls, their daughters who are now in the same position with the same very limited choices due to no education because even though it is free there are limited spaces.

I felt so helpless and so frustrated at the simple things that would make a huge difference and it isn't rocket science or going to take millions of pounds to change.

When I travelled to Kisumu it was amazing to see the beautiful countryside but the poverty once again is an eye opener. I met with a lady called Mary Okumu who lives out in the rural area. She is a true lady, very elegant and attractive - a teacher by profession and she is due to retire shortly. She runs an organisation by the name of Kawere Widows. This is a group of women widowed because their husbands have died of Aids and also they may be HIV positive themselves. They are looking after their grand children and other children who are in need of ongoing support for schooling and food and much more. Mary has 2 homes next to hers that she would like to donate as orphanages - each one has 2 room's so all the children can sleep in the one house and study and have the kitchen in the other. They grow their own maize and other vegetables, but the water pump that they have has broken it would cost approximately £300.00 so that they can be self sufficient. Solar lights would be of great help as well as Solar cookers so that deforestation is kept to a minimum. The one thing that I noticed throughout the whole experience is that no matter how bad it seemed to me and it really was, they held onto their faith and smiled through their trials and tribulations.