

An act of love that restored faith in humanity

"I feel grateful for you guys. How you came through big time for this boy. How you heeded his call for help. Humanity has shown its hands today and in the most profound ways. God has shown his kindness and grace." Biko

We are evolving into a "me generation" as Twenge suggests in one of her books. A generation too self absorbed, that we no longer care about each other's welfare. People are willing to do anything to get what they want, be it breaking promises, stepping on others people's toes, giving bribes, offering substandard services and goods and even killing.

This self-centeredness has brewed conflict and hatred in the world. Indeed, TV, radio and newspapers are filled with lashings about injustices and treachery in the world. Signs that we are losing humanity-that which makes us human. However, amidst this chaos a ray of hope flickers. Reminding us that compassion and kindness is alive.

Over the past two weeks, the Kenyan news have been filled with events that leave me wondering whether we are losing the title of being the most civilized species in the universe. A clash over church leadership left 3 people dead, several injured and property destroyed. I consider the church as a symbol of reconciliation. In times of war the church offers a safe haven to war victims but this time round, it was the source of war.

The news also highlighted the effects of employees who failed to uphold work ethics, by either being negligent or misusing their positions. In Busia, a nurse's negligence almost left 28 children paralyzed after giving them a questionable injection. A policeman who had arrested teenagers in possession of drugs posted nude photos of one the female minors on social media. Bearing in mind these employees might be a parents, their lack of concern is worrying.

Even children have been caught up in the "me generation ". High school students set their dormitories on fire so as to boycott exams. Their thoughtlessness unfortunately left 3 of their fellow students dead. If this is the generation we are raising, we can only leave it to the imagination what they are capable of as adults.

Although, these events can leave us feeling cynical, human beings are also capable of doing the most selfless acts. Within these two weeks, a story of compassion made headlines. Kenyans came together to support Emmanuel Jadudi a brain cancer warrior in a campaign dubbed hash tag #1milliforJadudi. For anyone whose faith in humanity is fading away the response to this campaign should restore it.

Emmanuel Jadudi a 23-year-old man, needed money to travel India for a fourth brain surgery. His plight was highlighted by the blogger Biko Zulu in his powerful blog *'This Thing In Jadudi's Head'*. Marking the beginning of a campaign appealing to Kenyans to contribute as little as 130 shillings to help Jadudi. By the

28th hour Kenyans had raised 6.1 million shillings, surpassing the initial 1 million target.

Refreshing news, a sign that humanity exists. When people come together to support a person who they do not know, a person who is no position to return a favour, proves that compassion and love exists.

The environment we live in has fostered this self-centered and narcissistic behavior. Harsh economic times and the pressure we have to get better jobs make more profits and seek fame and power is driving us away from humanity. I (and I imagine you too) have had moments where I have been too focused on my goals, that I failed to notice someone who needed my help. This has to change.

We need to preserve our humanity by making deliberate efforts to perform acts of compassion and kindness. Give your house help a day off. If you are a top-notch businessman offer your skills for free to a young entrepreneur. Volunteer at a school in need of teachers. Let us get out there and be that ray of hope.

If we seek love, and care enough for the living we shall heal the world and make it a better place for us.