

May 21, 2021

Dear Rachel & Dale,

First, I want to say that I am sorry that it has been long since the last time I wrote, but I know I will be able to pick right where we left off.

I want you to know that all is going well with me. My interest in building a better and a fairer society is growing day by day as I engage with some of the most pressing dilemmas facing the society around crime and social control. Encouraged by this passion, I was recently hired as a security supervisor in some private security firm in Nyeri town, Kenya. The reason why I chose the town is that I enjoy its existing startup ecosystem and the health conscious environment. But there is another underlying and important reason that influenced my choice of the Town. I believe this is where I discover quite a bit about myself each day.

I turned 24 about a month ago. I look around everything that I have experienced thus far and I can count more gratitude than complaints. This is one of the nicest things about growing older.

About four months ago, I completed my internship at Kenya Revenue Authority, which is the principle revenue collection Agency for the government of Kenya. My experience as an intern was one of the most significant learning experiences of my life. Over the course of my internship, I learnt a great deal of skills that made huge contributions into my professional development. At one time, I was made the leader of security and safety division as a result of my outstanding performance. My new role as a team leader brought in a lot of responsibilities since I had to gear up, mobilize and lead the team.

Like any other learning process, I encountered a number of challenges but they did not bring me down. My duty station comprised of many workers and dealing with each of their personalities was not easy. First, I had to learn their personalities to enable smooth interaction with them. An overall assessment of my performance by my supervisor was exceptional. I was very pleased to receive notification that I have been recommended for inclusion into the Authorities talent pool.

I want to share a story from about 5 weeks ago. I decided to try something different from my typical list of New Year's resolutions. I vowed to do a unique random act of kindness every week for the entire year. I wanted to feel connected to the community around me and help small moments of joy to others. That first week, I participated in a fundraiser to buy land for building a small church. During the subsequent weeks, I helped some school children cross the road, I spread encouragement notes online, I volunteered to work overtime at my job and most recently, I reached out to friends I hadn't spoken to in a while. I did not realize it at the time, but little by little I was weaving a web of community.

My year of kindness taught me many things. I learnt that I do not need a ton of money or time to have a positive impact on the world around me. All that I need is an open heart and a little creativity. I learnt that whenever I am in a grumpy mood, the quickest way to turn my day around is to be kind to someone else. My weekly routine of doing random acts of kindness was a comforting anchor. We truly are all connected!

I want you to know that I am proud of myself and everything that I have accomplished through your immeasurable support. I do not think it is possible for you to understand how much you mean to me and how much I appreciate you.

At any given moment, there are many miles between us. I know there may be more, or there may be less but what I know is that no matter what distance lies between us, I will never stop writing to you.

I love you so much,

Evans Kiprop