

October
2022

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

This month I read the books Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Joshua. God is using these books to remind me that He will fight for His people, He is the Protector, and He is worthy of my obedience and praise. Just like the Israelites continued to sin and make mistakes, I too have a sinful heart. God is continuing to purge me of my pride, judgment of others, and selfishness daily. I thank God for Christ's sacrifice so that I can have a relationship with a holy and good God.

"You are to fear the Lord your God and worship him. Remain faithful to him and take oaths in his name. He is your praise and he is your God, who has done for you these great and awe-inspiring works your *Tori* eyes have seen." Deuteronomy 10:20-21

I am still reading the New Testament in chronological order. I am getting close to finishing the gospels. I am reminded of the LOVE Jesus had for Gentiles and how he would travel from town to town not only forgiving and healing Jews but Gentiles too. I see God has been moving here in Kenya - join me in praying for God to continue to open my eyes and lead my steps in His will and the work being done here.

"Don't you say, 'There are still four more months, and then comes the harvest'? Listen to what I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest. The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' John 4:35-37



MERCY Nairobi



**Meet our whole team
(pictured left to right)
Ebe, Eugene, Lee,
Jordan, Rachel, Tori,
Ric, Ashley, Jeremy,
M'Lynn, and Allan.**

Each Wednesday we drive the church van to the YMCA pictured above is Rachel and I's (Tori) first time driving. The traffic here is much different than the states. Most drivers like to make their own lanes and matatu's (public transportation) and boda boda's (motorcycles) like to bob and weave in front of you to get to their destination as quick as possible.



MERCY Nairobi

Wow, we have now met together for six weeks of bible study. We have around 30 to 40 people coming each week. This last Wednesday we shared our vision, mission and values. We prayed for unity and for God guidance for those attending to join us in what God is doing here in the city of Nairobi. Then celebrated with surprising everyone who has been attending, by giving them a free CSB Study Bible. Some even said it was their first bible! What a blessing that we were able to do that! God is continuing to bless each of us with friends we get to worship next to each week. Join us in praying for those feeling called to take the next steps as we continue to create a Mercy Nairobi Launch team.



Wednesday Bible Study
at the YMCA

MERCY *house*



Friday, September 23 was a busy day. We spent the entire afternoon and evening preparing for a day of street ministry for the following day. Tori, M'Lynn, Ashley, and myself (Rachel) went shopping at Carrefour (the store). We bought 4 cart loads of items (37 loaves of bread, 20 jars of peanut butter, 15 jars of jelly, 17 boxes of milk, 400 sausages, 200 water bottles 150 juice boxes, cookies, napkins, and 200 to-go containers). Then we came home and made 200+ peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The assembly line worked well! Two people were putting peanut butter on bread, two people were spreading jelly, and one person was putting the third slice of bread in between two PB&J slices. Kenyans like their sandwiches with 3 or 4 slices of bread. The last person (usually a kid) was putting the sandwich in a to-go container and then stacking the containers in a big plastic tub. We had music playing in the background and just enjoyed laughing together as a team as we prepared to serve the city.

Saturday morning, we arrived at the Waruhiu house early in the morning. We spent 3 hours cooking the 400 sausages and getting them packaged with the sandwiches.



We gathered together to pray over the outreach before we started passing out food. It was a huge blessing to have some of our regular Bible Study attendees join us. Hopefully these will be some of our launch team members for Mercy Nairobi.

It was time to start passing out the food! We all had different roles which helped us pass out the food in a somewhat orderly fashion. M'Lynn and I (Rachel) were in the van passing out the food. Two Kenyan men (William and Phinoshey) were outside the van making sure everyone stayed in line, only got food once, and received their liquids. Tori and Ashley were also helping monitor the line and the rest of the team was walking around the park letting people know that we had free lunch.

There were many mixed emotions during this time. The first was excitement as we were doing street ministry to help those in need. They were so happy to be receiving food. The second was sadness. There were so many people in this one park that were homeless and it made me think about how many there were in the entire city of Nairobi. The last emotion I was feeling was frustration. We have prayed for a building for Mercy House for months and the process is taking so long. I am so ready to have a place to bring people in need and help them get off of the streets. I know that God is sovereign and He has a good plan.

GENERAL UPDATE

An update from Tori

Habari my friends (how are you)?

Life is starting to get more and more settled and adventurous here. This past month I have been diving deeper into learning more Swahili during my personal development time. I am having sweet moments after Bible Study speaking and learn new words and phrases with new friends.

As you have already read I have learned to drive the streets of Nairobi as well. It has been a fun challenge to conquer and then encourage Ashley and Rachel to do the same. I would say we are all doing great and laughing a-lot when we turn on the windshield wipers instead of the blinker. I am looking forward to seeing how my brain will shift back to driving back in the states when I come back to visit.

Last weekend we even helped the Kohmans' move into their new home. I enjoyed being a fundi (like a handyman) and helping Jordan put together the beds.

Now they are all moved in and getting settled.



I made a new friend who is here working with Hindu wives in the area and teach ESL. She has invited me to do daily life activities with her several times and it has been a blast! I was invited to attend a market and Ashley joined us. It was fun to walk around and try different treats, jam, and get fresh veggies. We talked over coffee and she invited us to attend a Hindu birthday party with her the following week. Rachel, Ashley and I weren't sure what it was going to be like, but I had a great time getting to know three new ladies. The showed us how to make a type of pita bread. We ate lunch and talked, we are hoping to get together again real soon for tea.



I (Rachel) enjoyed some time with the Kohman family on a safari walk. There were many baboons freely walking around the park. We also got some exclusive "VIP" experiences. We got to see a female lion and feed a giraffe.



I have made a Kenyan friend! This is Triza (tree-zuh) and I met her at Bible Study. You can also see a picture of her precious son Belach (bee-lock) who is 2-years-old. Triza is full of joy and makes me laugh so much. I am excited to continue to grow our friendship.

Please pray for Triza as she is going through a difficult season in life. She got pregnant young and is now separated from her son's father. I am praying for reconciliation between the two of them. She went three weeks without seeing her son. She recently got some time with him but we don't know how long she will get to keep him.

She has been staying at our apartment with us on Wednesday nights after Bible study so this gives me more opportunities to pour into our friendship. I'm hoping to also disciple her and help her fall more in love with Christ.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- Steady and consistent sleep and rest
- Friendship with Triza and reconciliation for her, her husband, and her son
- Relationship with Caleb
- Caleb to find a job in Nairobi (teaching jobs will be posting in October/November)

Tori

- My new friend who is teaching english to Hindu priest wives
- My new Hindu friends
- Continued learning of Swahili
- God to continue to open my eyes to see what he is doing.

Mercy Nairobi Church

- For Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at the YMCA
- For the Kenyans who are praying about joining Mercy Nairobi's Launch team
- For Mr. Shah to agree to the offer we have sent for his building-

Mercy House

- For Mr. Shah to agree to the offer we have sent for his building
- 2nd street outreach on October 22: that we will begin connecting with women and children that we will serve once the Mercy House building is established