

January
2023

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

Since my November newsletter I have read through 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. I am currently reading through 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, and Psalms. There will also be some minor prophets this month. I have grown a lot in my knowledge of the southern kings of Judah and the northern kings of Israel. It is difficult to read about all the kings of Israel that followed evil instead of the world. But it has been encouraging to know that God is the King of Kings and the ultimate ruler that I love and serve.



"He said: Lord God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below, who keeps the gracious covenant with your servants who walk before you with all their heart." ~1 Kings 8:23

Tori

This January I have been reading in Mark a chapter a day. It has been encouraging to read and study the gospel of Mark. I have been noticing how much Jesus "went away" to pray. Which has sparked a new prayer routine. I have an app downloaded that walks me through a morning and evening prayer time. It opens with a prayer for the time of day, confession, scripture readings, praying through the Lord's Prayer and finishing with a closing prayer. It has been special added time with the Lord, starting and ending each day with Him.

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying."

-Mark 1:35 CSB

MERCY Nairobi



Mercy Nairobi has had its first launch team Sunday service of the New Year! We had 27 adults attend with 24 of them being committed launch team members and several children. We worshipped together and studied John 15. We broke for Chai, Mandazi (think donut) and fellowship, then said goodbye to our guest and studied "What is the Gospel" together as a launch team. We are currently meeting in office space in the city. Walking distance from where our building is being renovated. We are excited to be in the building, tentatively, in March. With an Easter Sunday Service opening to the public!



Do you remember Brenda? Back in September she was baptised! She is in college to be a PE teacher. The Lord has gifted her with the love of children and sharing Jesus with them. I am happy to announce that she is our first hired staff member. She will be overseeing Kids coordination in a part time role.

MERCY Nairobi



RENOVATION PROGRESSION PICTURES



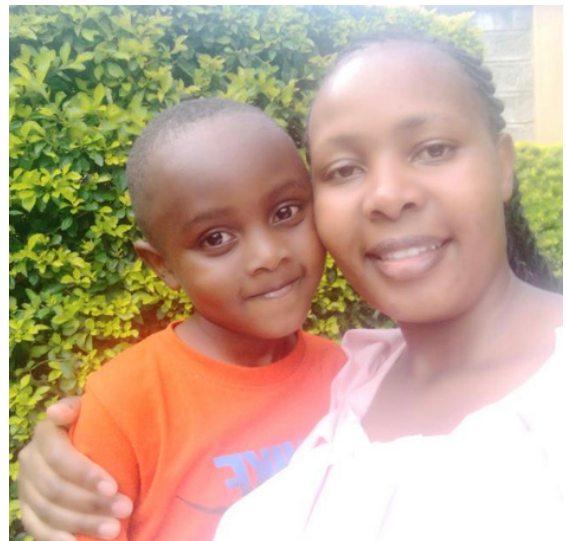
MERCY *house*

While Mercy House has not opened yet, there is still planning happening behind the scenes. We had a staff planning day where we created many things including the daily schedule, classes for the women to participate in, policies and procedures, and much more. We are eagerly awaiting the renovations of the building to be completed so that we can get all the furniture set up and begin serving the homeless women and children in Nairobi.

One exciting announcement is that we have hired our first two Kenyan workers for Mercy House. The goal is to train and equip Kenyans to run Mercy House without the aid of Americans. I am excited to work along these two women. Both women are hired as resident matrons. They will switch off every 24 hours to help the residents of Mercy House follow the program and more importantly be pointed to Christ.



This is Mary, also known as
Mama Allan.



This is Salome (Suh-low-may)
and her son Eli.

Our next Mercy House outreach will take place on January 21. Please pray for the women and children that we will be serving will continue to build trust with us and that their hearts will be softened to hear the good news of the Gospel.

TORI'S PERSONAL UPDATE



I have been home in Kenya for almost two weeks now. It has been good to get back into a rhythm and am now adjusted back to EAT (East African Time), melatonin has been a good friend to me. I do miss my sweet niece, Olivia and request videos and pictures often. She is just the cutest! I am one proud Aunt!

HEARTS

In the coming weeks I have the opportunity to go bowling again with some of our friends and have a meal with a new friend named Maddie. I am excited to continue to build relationships with those around me. Be praying for my friend Rehab; I have not seen her yet since I have been back we are having dinner together on the 19th. Pray that I am able to show her Christ love and care. I am praying that God opens the door to be in discipleship relationship with her in the coming months.

TORI'S PERSONAL UPDATE



With all the excitement going on back home, Rachel getting engaged and me anxiously awaiting for baby Olivia. Rachel and I didn't see much of each other while in the States. Then I came back weeks after her to Kenya. We were in need of some friend time!

So we got dressed up, I curled Rachel's hair, she braided the side of mine. Then spent a whole afternoon together and got Indian Food and had one on one time. It was nice to recap how good God has been in 2022 and how we can encourage and pray for each other in 2023! It is amazing to be able to serve in Kenya along side my best friend!

Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. The work being done is all with your help through prayers and financial gifts.

To give a one time gift or to support monthly the ministry happening here in Kenya you can scan the QR code to give directly to me or use this link. (you may need to copy into you browser)

<https://ppay.co/4OEV4oq4z-M>



RACHEL'S PERSONAL UPDATE

This past month was filled with many social events. It was nice to come back from the States and return to a community that feels like family.



The Waruhius hosted a World Cup Final viewing party. Those of us on the left were cheering for Argentina (whoop whoop). Those on the right were cheering for France. We had so much fun!

The Waruhius also hosted us for Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. To the left you can see us roasting marshmallows on New Year's Eve. We played lots of games together and made Kenya feel like home during the holidays (except for wearing shorts in December).



I was able to meet up with Triza twice since I returned. She told me that she was ready to start growing our friendship and also growing closer to Christ together. I was very excited about this opportunity to disciple her. We made a plan to read through the book of Matthew together. However, this last week, she has stopped responding to my text messages. I will be honest, this has been discouraging. Please continue to pray for her heart to be opened to growing together.



Caleb and I have jumped back into the rhythms of long distance dating. There have been times of laughter together, but there have also been times of sadness. I will be vulnerable with you all that it has been more challenging on my emotions to be so far away from Caleb as his fiancé than it was as his girlfriend. We are both trying to stay focused on where God has us right now but also counting down the days until long distance is over.



God is so good! Thank you to those of you who have contributed to the car raising fund. I am so encouraged by your generosity. If you would like to give a one time gift, please go to <https://ppay.co/e2dznzn3Tao>.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- For continued spiritual growth during this slow season
- For patience and contentment while being in a long distance engagement
- For three female Kenyan relationships
 1. Mentor
 2. Friend
 3. Mentee

Tori

- Back in full swing of ministry.
- Dinner with a new friend, Maddie
- Time with Rehab
- Time in prayer

Mercy Nairobi Church

- Looking to hire a Worship Coordinator
- Brenda has she helps launch Kids!
- Building being finished on schedule

Mercy House

- Building renovations to be completed by March 1
- NGO to be approved by the Kenyan government by January 31 (we cannot house women until this is approved)
- Outreach on January 21
- Building trust with the women and children that we will serve
- Staffing needs (guards, administrative assistant, cook)