

February  
2023

# KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

*Monthly Newsletter*

## WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

*Rachel*

I am loving my chronological Bible reading plan. It is called the Bible Recap and it also has a daily podcast to go along with the daily reading. It has opened my eyes this month to read some of the minor and major prophet books in the context of Israel's history. This month I have read Jonah, Isaiah, Amos, Micah, and Hosea while continuing to read through Psalms, 2 Kings, and 2 Chronicles. God is very clear throughout these books that our sin is cause for His judgment and Jesus' sacrifice the only way God redeems our relationship with Him.



"I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." ~Isaiah 44:22

*Tori*

I am currently reading through Acts. Acts contains one of my favorite aspects of the church; doing life together! My prayer for many years had been Acts 2:42-47. During covid the Lord answered that prayer with my community group back in the States. Reading Acts again has brought wonderful memories back with a sweet reminder of the Lord's faithfulness.

This month the Lord is teaching me about evangelism and discipleship. I just finished "The Master Plan of Evangelism" a book written by Dr. Robert Coleman. This book, rooted in scripture, has started to reshape how I look at what evangelism and discipleship looks like and how I should follow Christ's model.

"Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ." -1 Corinthians 11:1 CSB

# MERCY Nairobi

**God is moving and Mercy Nairobi is growing!**

## **Salvations!**

We as a launch team having been doing trainings after our studies on Sunday. A few weeks ago we headed out on the streets of the city to share the gospel. One of our launch team members shared the gospel with someone in their tribal language and he came to know the Lord!

We are continuing to meet with those who have signed up to join Mercy's launch team and a young man felt in his heart that he had not truly excepted salvation; Jordan and Allan walked through what it meant to be a follower of Christ and Sam came to know the Lord that meeting!



Last Sunday we were blessed to meet the whole family of one of our members, Niko. He was able to bring his wife and 3 daughters. The youngest is only 3 months old. We were able to welcome and pray over them as parents. We are excited to see Mercy grow not only in salvations but families growing.

# PRAY

Our building is still under renovations; pray for a timely completion and for our NGO to be excepted by the government soon!

**We have been in the process of interviewing potential worship leaders. Currently I, Tori, have been leading us in worship through Spotify. We are excited that through prayer and many conversations, we have offered the role to a band member from Bible Study last year! We are currently waiting to hear back from him and when he can start!**

# MERCY *house*

We held another outreach and this one was different than our previous ones. In the past, we have fed around 200 people. That allowed us to feed many people but it did not provide space to hold conversations. We are getting closer to opening Mercy House and are prayerfully considering which women we can serve. So we hosted at the YMCA and invited around 15-20 women that we have built relationships with over the past four months. Since it was a smaller crowd, we were able to sit and have conversations with the women. It also gave us an opportunity to share the Gospel with them. Salome did an incredible job leading a devotion in Swahili.



Please continue to pray for wisdom and clarity as we plan and implement our monthly outreaches.

I have been given my job description for Mercy House and I am VERY excited about it. I will be planning and implementing the kids program. I, Rachel, have been working on researching curriculums and daily devotionals that will be best for the children we are serving. I am looking forward to using the gifts God has given me to build these children up in all areas of their life (spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally).

# TORI'S PERSONAL UPDATE

It has been a fun packed Month! This month has been full of laughter and fun with friends....



I went bowling with friends! Since winning is not everyone's strong suit in this game; I made a competition on who had the lowest score; I came in 2nd. :) The true winning was spending time with this amazing group!



After a Mercy house outreach I went over to the Kohmans and spent time with new friends from their neighbourhood bonfires. It was encouraging to play games and talk about Jesus.

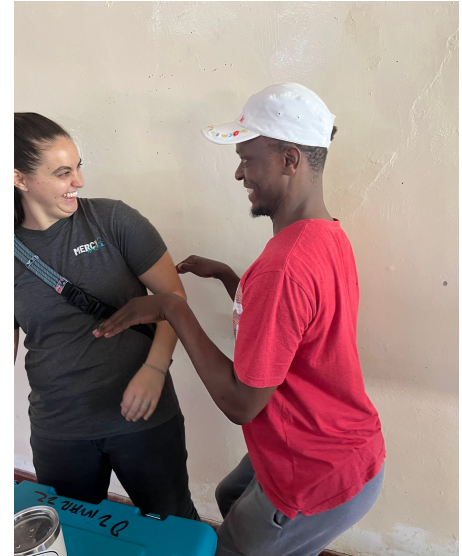
I love when my phone is blown up with this sweet girl's smiles and grunts. Olivia is growing so big; I cannot wait to kiss that sweet face in May! #proudaunt



We have game nights with the Kohmans on Monday nights. Before they left for Spain we finished an on going game of Mexican train. I love these sweet evenings with them.

# GENERAL UPDATE

It has been so life giving to have friends to spend our days with. Rachel and I, Tori, hosted a game day/night we played games from 2pm to 10pm and had a girls sleep over with Brenda and Faith! We also took the Waruhiu kids swimming, the water was cold but the sun was hot! We all had a blast splashing around! Our friends Sean and Y'vonne invited us over to have a traditional Kenyan meal. This was our first experience being invited into a Kenyan home. We are so thankful for these friends!



# RACHEL'S PERSONAL UPDATE

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Due to the generous hearts of some supporters, God provided enough funds to purchase a vehicle. Tori and I have been learning how to navigate the city of Nairobi. It is amazing how comfortable and natural it already feels to drive here. We are even traveling to some places without the GPS!



It's a long story but I got an opportunity to go to Spain with the Kohman family. Their trip was two weeks long and I joined them for four days of the trip. It was a very refreshing time and I loved getting to know them better. We visited the Mediterranean Sea, Park Güell, and Sagrada Familia. We also ate lots of yummy food and drank tasty coffee. I am so thankful they included me in their European adventure.





The virtual dates continue! I will be honest that there were tears on this date. It is becoming more challenging for me to be away from Caleb as we get closer to our wedding date. This season has been challenging but we have both grown a lot (spiritually and emotionally) and are thankful that we have great communication due to the distance.

But we are both looking forward to a break from long distance. Caleb is coming to Kenya for almost two full weeks. He will be here February 12-25. We are both very excited to have some time together in person.

During Caleb's visit we have lots of fun things planned to prepare for our future together in Kenya:

- visit West Nairobi School to meet the staff and take a tour
- view the townhome that we would like to rent and hopefully start a lease in March
  - introduce him to friends
  - take him to church
- show him the building and the progress that has been made
- enjoy fun activities together in Nairobi
  - let him drive
  - and much more!



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 towards mine and Caleb's future home, please go to

<https://ppay.co/e2dznzn3Tao>.

The goal is for me to move in and set up the home in March and April so that when we move to Kenya together in July we won't have that stress as we get Caleb adjusted.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## Rachel

-Praise: God has provided me with multiple Kenyan friends since our last newsletter

-Caleb will be in Kenya February 12-25...woohoo

-For three female Kenyan relationships

1. Mentor

2. Friend (Yvonne is a potential for accountability...pray for clarity on this for me)

3. Mentee

## Tori

- We have all decided to move to a new place; pray for clarity
- For my. time in the word; for the Lord to continue to grow me in His will
- To strengthen relationships with friends

## Mercy Nairobi Church

- For the NGO to be approved soon!
- The men who excepted salvation
- For the building to be completed on schedule

## Mercy House

- Building renovations to be completed by March 1
- NGO to be approved by the Kenyan government as soon as possible (we cannot house women until this is approved)
- Building trust with the women and children that we will serve
- Staffing needs (guards, administrative assistant, cook)
- wisdom for myself as I prepare the structure for the kids