

March
2023

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter

WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

This month I have read Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Lamentations, and Jeremiah. I also finished 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. I will admit the book of Jeremiah was very challenging.

Jeremiah had a lot of persecution and difficulties as a prophet. Reading about the repeated sins of the Israelites and how poorly Jeremiah was treated was difficult. But God's character shined through the pages. He is a just God who also has mercy on His people.



"The Lord is good, a stronghold in a day of distress; he cares for those who take refuge in him." ~Nahum 1:7

"Lord, there is no one like you. You are great; your name is great in power." ~Jeremiah 10:6

Tori

This month I am still reading through the New Testament. As well as, I am learning how to lament. Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide my heart through how to share all my feelings with Abba. It has been a sweet time learning to navigate through how many ways God understands us more than we even know ourselves.

"For it was you who created my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you
because I have been remarkably and wondrously made
Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well."

-Psalms 139:13-14

MERCY Nairobi

Exciting News!!!

We are so excited to announce that we have received our church registration. That means in the eyes of the Kenyan government we are officially a church. This helps us get more settled in, and are now able to open bank accounts and our team is able to apply for missionary visas and not have to leave every 5 months for a new visa.

*Below are a few pictures of our team and our first Sunday in the building.

That's not the only thing that is exciting; We worshipped in our building for the first time on Sunday! We have also hired a Media/Tech and Outreach leader (Phinoshey); to help lead ministries we are continuing to develop. It was an amazing experience to be able to reflect on what God has done in the 7 months we have been on the ground and see how God is using us to reach this city!





We are getting closer to being able to open Mercy House. We are all so excited and eagerly waiting. We are still waiting on the NGO (non-governmental organization) to be established and for the building to be completed. We were hopeful that the NGO would be established this month and that the building would have been completed at the end of February. Neither of these things happened. Please continue to pray for both so that we can open our doors to the women and children that we are ready to serve and show the love of Christ.

While we are waiting on those two things, we are working diligently on everything that we can. We have started the interview process for some of the women. We have an intense intake process to ensure that the women are ready for the strict program. We have finished step one in the interview process. This is what intake looks like for Mercy House.

Step 1: Interview with our Mercy House matrons

Step 2: Interview with M'Lynn as the Mercy House director

Step 3: Mental health evaluation and physical examination

Step 4: Review and sign the resident covenant

I apologize that there are not any pictures for Mercy House this month. I hope that the next newsletter is filled with photos as we open our doors.

TORI'S PERSONAL UPDATE

This past month has been a whirled wind of change and fun! I have been living with Ashley and Rachel since we moved here in July. With Rachel getting married in May, we thought it was a good time to end our lease and look for a new apartment. We ended up finding a complex that had 2 apartments in our individual budgets. I signed a lease at the beginning of the month and am now officially moved into my new home. Rachel will be staying with me for the month of May. I am so excited to have my own space here in Kenya to make a home. I am looking forward to hosting many game and movie nights with my friends. We have been in the apartment for a week now and have already had 2 friends stay overnight with us. I am thankful to have found a place close to bus stops that our friends use and they have an easier access to come hang out! With moving has come some extra expenses; apartments rarely come with fridges and ovens here and we all split items evenly. I have purchased a couch, table, oven, and fridge to furnish my new home. Would you consider sponsoring part of an item below to help with moving cost? I have converted the cost back to USD.

Fridge: \$373

Oven: \$318

Table: \$315

Couch: \$590

Kitchen items:

\$150

Curtains: \$80



Mercy Nairobi Foundation

TB MS001

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

TORI'S PERSONAL UPDATE

Working for Mercy Nairobi continues to point me to my need for Jesus each day. I am blessed to working with a group of believers; who love the Lord before anything else. Not everyday is easy and I have been home sick more lately. But, I am thankful for my friends here in Kenya and visits from friends from the States. My friends and I been living life together visiting Friends of Creation where we walked the tea fields, had a picnic dinner and star gazed under the African sky. We went to the National park and walked the wildlife area, and have attend friends musical gigs. God has blessed me with a great group of friends. Pictured below are some of them; Rachel and Caleb (Caleb came to visit Rachel from the states) Faith, Brenda, and Phinoshey.... and even more friends not pictured.



RACHEL'S PERSONAL UPDATE



Caleb's two week visit was so refreshing and fun for both of us. We were able to go on a Valentine's date and celebrate 8 months of being together. We were also able to visit West Nairobi School. The staff was incredible and we are both so thankful that God blessed Caleb with this job. We also got to experience a picnic out in a tea village called Tigoni with some friends. We have less than 50 days of long distance left. We are both thankful for God's providence throughout long distance and we can see how it has grown us both in a positive way. But we are ready for this season to be over.



Thank you for the prayers as I have searched for a Kenyan mentor, accountability partner, and mentee. God has answered one of those prayers. Yvonne and I have been hanging out on a weekly basis and talking daily. We are also meeting bi-monthly for prayer. Sean and Yvonne got married in November. Caleb and I are thankful to have friends that are in a similar season of life as us. The four of us had so much fun hanging out.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- Peace as I live "unsettled" in many different homes in the next 4 months
- For two more Kenyan relationships:
 1. A young woman that I can disciple
 2. A wiser woman that can disciple me

Tori

- For my heart when I get homesick
- Work/life balance during this busy season of moving into the church building
- For missionary visas to be approved quickly when we apply

Mercy Nairobi Church

- For continued work on the Worship Hall
- Our Team to continue to bond and grow together
- As we continue to build our ministries; and sharing the gospel

Mercy House

- The NGO to be approved by the Kenyan government ASAP
- The building to be completed
- Wisdom during the intake process as we choose which women will be accepted for the Mercy House program