

April/May
2023

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter

WHAT IS GOD TEACHING ME?

Rachel

The past two months have been very busy but I am thankful for the Holy Spirit's prompting to continue reading my Bible daily. My relationship with God is continuing to grow. I finished the Old Testament which included reading Ezekiel, Joel, Daniel, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi.



I learned many things throughout my last two months in the Old Testament. The strong followers of God like Esther, Nehemiah, and more served God with everything they had. They had to make sacrifices but made them with joy because our God is worthy of sacrifice. It was also heartbreaking to continue reading about the people blatantly living in sin. They are putting their hope in this broken and fallen world. Hope in eternity with God our Creator is so much more fulfilling. I continue to pray that I can share this hope of eternity with the people of Kenya.

Scripture

"...For he is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end. He rescues and delivers; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for he has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

~Daniel 6: 26b-27

MERCY Nairobi

April was a HUGE month for Mercy Nairobi Church. Many exciting things happened. On April 16, we had our launch team commissioning. We have been working on building this launch team since Bible Study started at the YMCA in September. Below you can see the entire launch team being prayed over in front of the congregation. We also signed the launch team covenant that will be framed and posted at the entrance of the church. This was a milestone we all enjoyed celebrating!



We also had our first family group gathering on a Wednesday night in April. We are meeting weekly as one large group with hopes to multiply into two groups in June. We will strive to keep family groups under 20 people so that everyone can be heard and well taken care of as church members.



Happy Easter



First 3 Baptisms!

Ranja
Salome
Phinoshey
(left to right)

We had our first Good Friday and Easter Sunday services as Mercy Nairobi Church. We also had our first three baptisms on Easter Sunday. We are praising God for these milestones and continuing to trust Him with the growth of the church. We are seeing first time guests, repeat visitors, and kids ministry grow each week. We are continuing to prepare for the new public launch date of June 4.

We continue to pray that Mercy Nairobi Church will be bold in sharing the Gospel message with the people of Nairobi so that we can see a Gospel awakening in Nairobi and to the ends of the earth.



MERCY *house*



Mercy House opened the doors on Saturday, April 29!
We were able to shower, feed, and sleep
8 women and 13 children that night.



We were all so excited to finally open the doors to Mercy House. That moment had been prayed over and waited on for many months. Getting prepared for the grand opening required many hours of hard work. -Five of us attended a three day trauma caretaker training. We all learned a lot.

-Mercy Nairobi Church commissioned us as a staff the Sunday before opening.

-We sorted through MANY clothes, shoes, toiletries, sheets, and more to prepare for the women and children.

-We welcomed more staff members to the team. Jacinta is the kitchen manager. Jamila is the counselor. Perpetua is the kitchen assistant.



RACHEL'S PERSONAL UPDATE

Caleb and I got married on May 21! It was such an AMAZING day. We loved being surrounded by family and friends as we celebrated on the beach. Caleb and I both love the beach and enjoyed being united in God's beautiful creation. We are excited to serve God together in Kenya and wherever else God takes us in life.

God was SO sweet! Granddad has been an incredible male role model in my life and his health was amazing on wedding day. I loved getting to make more memories with him.



Caleb and I went to Jamaica for our honeymoon. We had so much fun together and laughed a lot. We enjoyed getting to experience new things together. We swam with dolphins and would recommend that experience to anyone. I also went snorkeling for the first time. Caleb loves to snorkel so I decided to give it a try. It was very fun! We saw fish, coral, starfish, sea urchins, and a sea turtle. Once again, God's beautiful creation is just so breathtaking.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- peace during a season with many transitions
- For Caleb and I to find a home in Kenya in July or early August
- rejuvenating visit with family and friends
- support raising for third year

Caleb

- endurance as he finishes his current job
- IMPACT training for his Nairobi job June 24-July 1
- peace as he says goodbye to family and friends

Mercy Nairobi Church

- Public launch on June 4
- Kids ministry volunteers (current volunteer numbers are too low for the amount of children showing up on Sundays)
- multiple teams coming throughout the summer

Mercy House

- continued unity among staff members
- strength and endurance for the women as they work the program
- sense of peace and safety for the women and children as they adapt to their new home