

June/July
2023

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT IS GOD TEACHING ME?

I have been in the New Testament for the past two months and have read many books already. These books include Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, James, Galatians, 1 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, and Romans.



I have really enjoyed reading about Paul's missionary journey in chronological order. I will read Luke's account in Acts and then read Paul's letter to the church. I continue to pray that I will have as much zeal to share the Gospel as Paul did on his missionary journey. He knew that no matter what his circumstances were on this earth, his purpose in life was to bring glory to God's kingdom.

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

~Romans 5:1-5

MERCY Nairobi

Mercy Nairobi Church has had a full summer hosting various teams from churches across the United States. It has been a refreshing time for the local staff and church members. They have partnered with Brenda, the Mercy Nairobi Kids Director, to put on various VBS programs with the local elementary schools.



Caleb enjoyed our first family group gathering together. Family groups have grown since May and needed to multiply into 2 groups. Praise God! We are excited to grow together in Christ with these fellow believers.



MERCY *house*

Mercy House has spent the last two months getting the women and children settled in. There have been many exciting things happening. The women are attending school four days a week to work on their education. There are also other weekly activities happening including group counseling and Bible study. I returned working at Mercy House on July 31 with the five children that are 3 years old and under. While I was in the States, the children were using their time during the day to play together and get adjusted to Mercy House. Starting in September, I will begin a preschool program with my co-worker Victoria. Please pray for us as we teach these children, not only educationally, but also spiritually, emotionally, and socially. I am excited to see how these kiddos progress over the next year!



I will not be able to share faces or names of the Mercy House kids that I will be serving. But please enjoy these cute photos above and please pray for P(3yo), V(2yo), N(2yo), A(2yo), and M(1yo) as we learn and grow together.

RACHEL'S PERSONAL UPDATE

The past two months have mostly taken place in the United States so this update includes more personal updates than Mercy Nairobi and Mercy House updates.



I met my sweet nephew Oliver who was born in March.

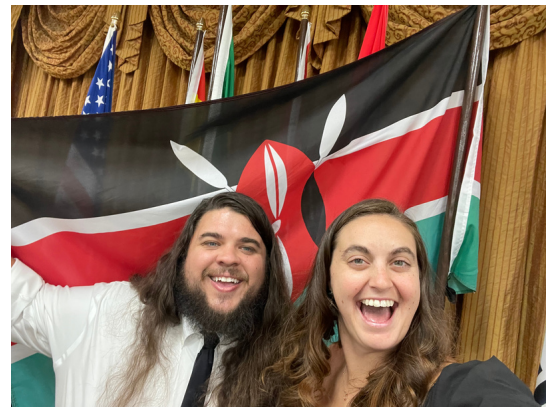


My brother and I enjoyed a cooking class with mom for her Mother's Day gift!



Caleb and I celebrated our first month of marriage!





We spent the last week of June in Mississippi to attend IMPACT training to prepare for Caleb's job at West Nairobi School. We met so many amazing people who were excited for their journey to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The left picture above was our advising group during the week. We got to know 4 other couples that are serving around the world. Our group was serving on 3 different continents! This week helped grow our excitement to serve the Lord in Kenya.



The week at IMPACT training also gave us an opportunity to meet the new West Nairobi School staff members that Caleb will be working with this year. It was amazing to see how God can call people in many different stages of life in order to serve Him.

The beginning of July was spent saying our goodbyes to family and friends. We were thankful for all the love, support, and encouragement as we packed our MANY bags and began our journey TOGETHER to Nairobi, Kenya!





We made it to Kenya safely on a Wednesday and began our to do list immediately. We were able to look at apartments on Friday and sign a lease that day. We got the keys on Saturday and began ordering everything we needed for the apartment. It took us a while to get settled but we tried to make the most of our evenings when our bedroom was our dining room, living room, and bedroom.

Please see the photos below of our apartment as we piece it together



Living Room



Dining Room



Master Bedroom

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- Smooth transition into my role teaching the young children at Mercy House
- Learning Swahili
- Prioritizing rest
- Continuing to build a Christ-centered, healthy marriage

Caleb

- His transition into Kenyan culture and living over the next few months
- School starts with students on August 9 at West Nairobi School
- Finding a reliable car
- Continuing to build a Christ-centered, healthy marriage

Mercy Nairobi Church

- Consistent discipleship for new believers in the church
- Strong conversations during weekly family group gatherings

Mercy House

- School for the women
- School for the kids
- Spiritual conversations and salvation for the women and children
- Healthy emotions with the younger children