

April
2022

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter

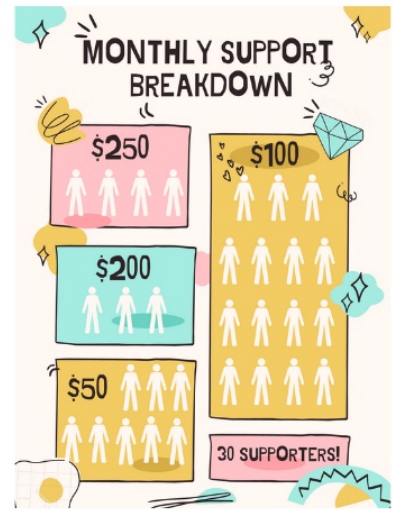


Countdown to
Moving Day!!!!

79
Days

SUPPORT
RAISING
PROGRESS

110%



WHAT IS GOD TEACHING ME?

Scripture Reading

I just started a new study in the book of Joshua. The focus of the study is to choose victory and overcome defeat. Spiritual warfare has been very prevalent this month. I have been stretched to put my strength in the Lord and wear the armor of God every day.

"No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you."

Joshua 1:5



UPDATE FROM THE MONTH

This update may be a little wordier than the past newsletters but I wanted to give a transparent update about the past month. It has been a challenging month to say the least. I have been facing burnout with teaching and also grieving as I start to make changes to prepare for Kenya.

Let's start with teaching. I love building relationships with students and then watching them grow academically. I have had this passion my entire life. However, we are very short staffed at work (including the fact that my assistant principal is on maternity leave and my principal's last day was April 14). Due to the staff shortage, I often have to teach multiple classes at once for long periods of time multiple times a week. The lack of support and added responsibilities is starting to wear on me. I just leave school every day feeling physically tired, emotionally drained, and exhausted. I absolutely love my group of students this year and have been sad that my time with them is constantly getting interrupted. I'm praying that my last 6 weeks with them will be fun and enjoyable.

Next, I am starting to grieve as things are changing. I am definitely grieving the loss of teaching. I have decided to not renew my National Board certification because I do not have the capacity for it right now. While my teaching license will still be valid, I have been processing the fact that this may be the last year that I teach in a classroom setting. I know that God will still use my gifts but it will just look different. I'm also preparing to sell my car, rent out my house, and move all my items into storage. I know it is just "stuff" but it is still hard to let go of pretty much everything. Also, just to be honest I have been grieving the picture I had for my life (foster care, marriage, being a mom). I'm getting closer to my 30th birthday and I did not imagine being single and changing everything. God is teaching me to let go of control and my plan. I am leaning into His plan for my life.

All this to say, it has been a hard month. I logically know that God needs to strip me of all these things so that I can be a blank canvas for Him to use in Kenya. I am so excited for what is up ahead and how God will get the glory through these things. But just because my brain understands it all, doesn't necessarily make the emotions go away or be easy.

Finding God's Blessings in Hard Times



My community group has been one of the biggest blessings in my life. I prayed for 7 years to have a group of people that I could be friends with but also dig into the Bible and hold each other accountable. This group of friends has been there for me for two and a half years and I couldn't ask for a better group of friends. We have laugh, cried, sang, prayed, watched, played, traveled, and read together. I am thankful to have deep meaningful friendships with this group of believers. The top picture is a night when we went out to support our friend Caleb with his improv. The second picture is a few of us on Easter Sunday. God is faithful and His love is so evident.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- God will prepare the hearts of those we will work with in Nairobi
- Endurance and joy for me as I finish this school year
- Healthy grieving
- That I will use my time wisely the next 79 days (balancing rest and being productive)