

September  
2023

# KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter

## WHAT IS GOD TEACHING ME?

*I have started The Bible Recap chronological plan again. I enjoyed this plan as a whole. This time I am looking forward to diving deeper in the Word. Last year, I focused on reading. This year I am going to focus on studying it and going even deeper. I am excited to look for key words in the text and also learn more about the character of God.*



*This month, I have read Genesis 1-11 and the book of Job. We are also in a Genesis series at church. I have enjoyed diving deeper into a book that I am familiar with. It is a great reminder that there is always something new to learn about God and His character.*

*As I read through the story of Noah in Genesis 6-9, I was reminded that God is worthy of our praise in all situations. When Noah got off the ark after many months, the VERY FIRST thing he did was build an altar and worship the Lord through sacrifice. I continue to want my first priority in life to be worshipping God, my Father.*

“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”

~Genesis 8:20

# MERCY Nairobi

We have officially been publicly launched as a church for over 100 days now. Time is flying! In that time there have been 5 baptisms, 4 salvations during service, and over 100 salvations during outreach. It is amazing to see how much God is already working in such a short amount of time. We look forward to watching God save the lost in the city of Nairobi. Our vision is to see a gospel awakening in Nairobi that is carried to the ends of the earth. We know that this vision can only happen with the help of the Holy Spirit. He can do it!



Caleb and I began hosting a family group on Wednesday nights. The church currently has two family groups and our goal is to have 20 family groups by the time Mercy Nairobi Church is 5 years old. Please continue to pray that current members will prioritize building community with other believers. Please also pray that recurring attenders will become members and join a family group.

# MERCY *house*

There has been some sadness and challenges with Mercy House this month. At the beginning of the month, one of our residents decided to leave. Each woman we serve is an adult with free will and can make the decision to leave. This was especially difficult for me and Victoria, because two of her children were in Mercy House Preschool. I left on Monday after teaching five kids and came back on Tuesday to teach three kids. It was very abrupt. She is currently asking for forgiveness and wanting to return.

Please pray for leadership to have wisdom and clarity on what her consequences should be, what her plan should look like, and how Christ would treat her. Please pray for her (Resident A.) to have motivation to follow expectations and complete her plan. Our biggest mission with Mercy House is to share the Gospel with each woman and child. Please pray that this will be a Gospel opportunity, not only for her, but also for the other residents and children at Mercy House.



Mercy House Preschool has been going well. We've officially been up and running for a month. We are having Bible story time everyday following by a corresponding coloring sheet. The kids are really enjoying learning about Moses. One mother even told us that her daughter is telling her the Bible story after school each day.

We've also seen tremendous improvements in other areas including social skills, attention span, English knowledge, and following directions. We had our first parent teacher conferences and it was so encouraging to hear that all the mothers are grateful for preschool and have seen improvements in their children. It is such a joy knowing that these women trust me to help raise their children.

# PERSONAL UPDATE

Towards the end of September, Caleb and I are finally starting to feel settled. We are starting to build some routines that we are really enjoying. We have continued to bond with Sean and Yvonne, so one of our new routines in spending time with them on Tuesday nights. They come over to our place, we make them an American dinner, and then they are teaching us Swahili. It is so fun to have a couple that we trust and get along with well to learn Kenyan culture and to share our American culture.



Sean is a DJ so we enjoyed going to his studio for a Friday night show.

To celebrate Caleb's first 2 months in Kenya, we went on a weekend getaway. We enjoyed our time away from the hustle and bustle of Nairobi. We explored a beautiful nature trail, ate delicious food, and enjoyed uninterrupted time together. It was a restful and uplifting weekend.



# PRAYER REQUESTS

## Rachel

- Learning Swahili (being immersed daily with 2-year-olds has been exhausting)
- Opportunities to share the Gospel with Mercy House women and children
- Strength, energy, and positivity for ministry Mondays through Thursdays

## Caleb

- Opportunities to share the Gospel with students
- Time to get planning and grading completed during work hours
- Learning Swahili

## Mercy Nairobi Church

- Unity between ex-pats and Kenyans (there isn't disunity, but we don't want culture to get in the way of being unified in Christ)
- Family groups to continue growing
- Allan & Jordan as they shepherd a growing church plant

## Mercy House

- Wisdom as a decision is made for Resident A.
- Mercy House Preschool to have a strong 5 weeks before the women and children are home for "end of class" break
- Funding for the children to receive counseling