

May 2024

# KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

*Monthly Newsletter*



## WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

*Rachel*

This month has been such a sweet time spent in God's Word. I have been able to finish Romans by studying chapters 9-16. These chapters have reminded me that God shows His love for us by sending Christ into this world as our Savior. Because of that love, we are also called to love others. I continue to pray that God will help me love others in a way that is honoring and glorifying to Him.



**“Do not owe one another anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law...and any other command is summed up by this commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself.” ~Romans 13:8, 9b**

*Caleb*

This month, as I revisited the book of Romans, I delved into the foundational aspects of the Christian faith. In this letter, the apostle Paul masterfully presents a systematic exposition of Christian doctrine. His words have been a refreshing reminder of the core beliefs that underpin my faith.

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”  
(Romans 1:16–17)**

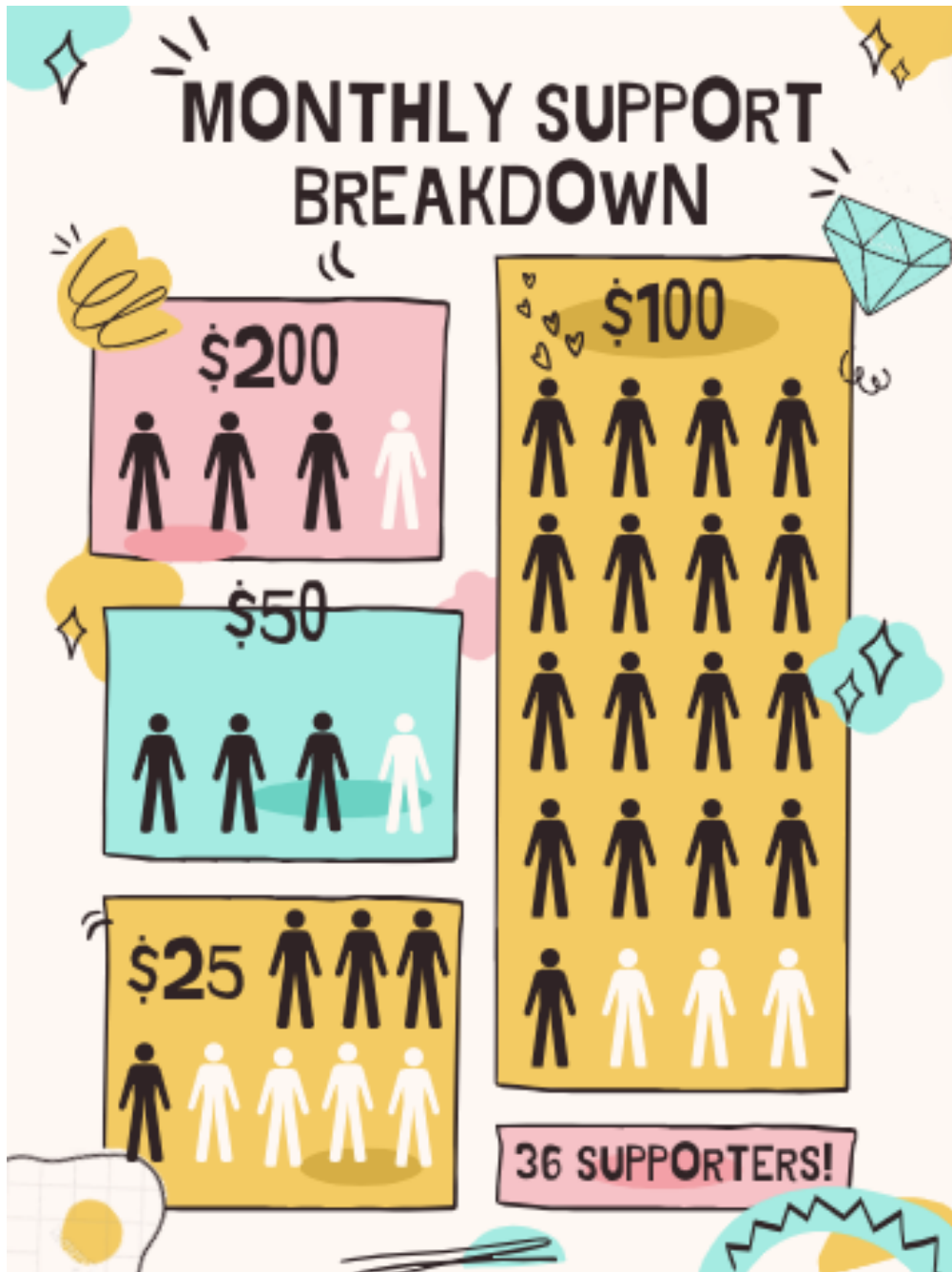
# SUPPORT RAISING UPDATE

Would you pray about financially supporting us at West Nairobi School?

## WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO OUR GOAL!!!!

We are in the single digits! We only need 9 more supporters to hit our monthly goal for serving at West Nairobi School. Would you please pray about filling one of the white spots on our chart?

If you or someone you know would like to give, please email us at [calebmdarden@gmail.com](mailto:calebmdarden@gmail.com) or [rachelyoung826@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelyoung826@yahoo.com).



# MERCY Nairobi



Caleb and I got an opportunity to serve with other members of the church to prepare 250 meals for victims of the floods. There have also been other opportunities throughout the month for members to serve flood victims at the various camps around the city. Over half of our church congregation has chosen to serve. We are so thankful to be a part of a church that values loving those in need around us through service opportunities.



We celebrated the first anniversary of Mercy Nairobi Church!! It's so amazing to see how much God has grown the kingdom and the church in just a year.

## **Recap of the what God has done in this First Year:**

- 200+ people attended the most recent service
- 19 people have accepted salvation
- 19 people have been baptized
- 7 deacons have been ordained
- 4 family groups are meeting weekly
- College ministry has engaged 12 students with the gospel



1

We also celebrated the end of mine, Tori's, and Ashley's two-year commitments with Mercy Nairobi Church and Mercy House. Allan invited the congregation to share stories of how we impacted them during our time in Kenya. It was a sweet time of sharing memories. At the end of the celebration, Pastor Jordan and Pastor Allan commissioned us all. They prayed for me as I continue to live in Nairobi and transition to working at West Nairobi School. They also prayed for Tori and Ashley as they transition back to the States and begin new jobs.



# MERCY house



On Friday, May 17, the staff and residents had a going away party for Ashley and myself as we finished up our time at Mercy House. It was sad to see the women cry as they feel the weight of this transition. But it was also a sweet time to celebrate the growth we have seen in them since we opened Mercy House. Even the fact that they were able to write thoughtful and detailed notes to us in English was a huge area of growth. I am thankful that this is not a complete goodbye and that I will continue to watch the women and children change their lives for the better. I pray that God will open their hearts to the love and salvation He has for each of them.



# WEST NAIROBI SCHOOL



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. – Romans 12:2

This month at West Nairobi School was bustling with activity, marking the culmination of a year's hard work and the anticipation of what lies ahead. One amazing aspect of working at an international school is recognizing that the impact we have at West Nairobi School can potentially reverberate throughout the world. The Picture top left shows just one graduating class and their next destinations. We are praying that they will shine the light of the Gospel as they go into their new communities.



I, Rachel, got an opportunity to go read to the K4 students at West Nairobi. Their teacher told me that they were getting excited about K5 and wanted to meet me. On one of my days off, I joined them for their circle time, prayer, and worship. I also read them a book and they had so much fun singing along with me and Pete the Cat!



All 6 of these students are planning to return next year. They were already hugging me goodbye after just a short time with them. I am very excited to be their teacher and see all the things we can learn with a small class size!

# PERSONAL UPDATE



We celebrated Tori's birthday. It was bittersweet knowing we may not get to celebrate in person with her for a few years. But we are so excited for her next year up ahead in the States!



Sean had a rooftop Gospel Remix DJ event. We had lots of fun eating delicious pizza and dancing to the fun music.



## ONE YEAR ALREADY?!?!

We can't believe it, but we have already enjoyed 1 amazing year of marriage. It has been an adventure learning how to be married in a foreign country but we are loving our life together. We were able to celebrate with an escape room, a nice dinner, and beginning some fun traditions together. We are excited to see what God has in store for year two of marriage.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## Rachel

- Restful summer break so that I can transition well from Mercy House to West Nairobi School
- Safe travels as we come to the States for the month of June
- Continued prayers for physical health

## Caleb

- Restful summer break
- Those leaving West Nairobi School this summer will have opportunities to share the Gospel all over the globe
- That I will be able to make my course for next year better with the knowledge gained this year

## Mercy Nairobi Church

- Continued growth as a church as we enter into year two
- That God will provide many Gospel opportunities as various teams from the States join us over the summer
- Prayers for Barbara as she leads our family group during our time in the States

## Mercy House

- Healthy coping for the women as they process Ashley and I ending our time at Mercy House
- Motivation for 3 women to finish their hair program well and 1 woman to finish high school and nail program well
- Praise: Children are back in school after all the flooding has resolved!