

July 2024

# KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

*Monthly Newsletter*

## WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

*Rachel*

I studied Acts 1-5. Just in these five chapters, so many characteristics of the Holy Spirit have been shown. I am reminded that the Holy Spirit is promised for anyone who believes in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Holy Spirit is powerful and can truly save anyone, no matter how far away they are from God.



“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, each of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”

~Acts 2:38-39

*Caleb*

This month, I am reading through Acts several times. Thus far, it has been edifying to learn more about the beginnings of the Church, the Holy Spirit, and the Great Commission. Whenever I feel unworthy or ill-equipped to follow Christ and proclaim the Gospel, I remember that the men Jesus chose to send were all initially unworthy and ill-equipped. Hebrews 13:20-21 says, "Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep—through the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Acts 4:13 When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus.



WEST NAIROBI SCHOOL



New Teacher Orientation (NTO) started on July 19. We have enjoyed getting to know the new staff members through evening dinners and a visit to the Giraffe Center. A special part of NTO is each person sharing how God called them to Kenya and WNS. It was so encouraging to hear everyone's stories.

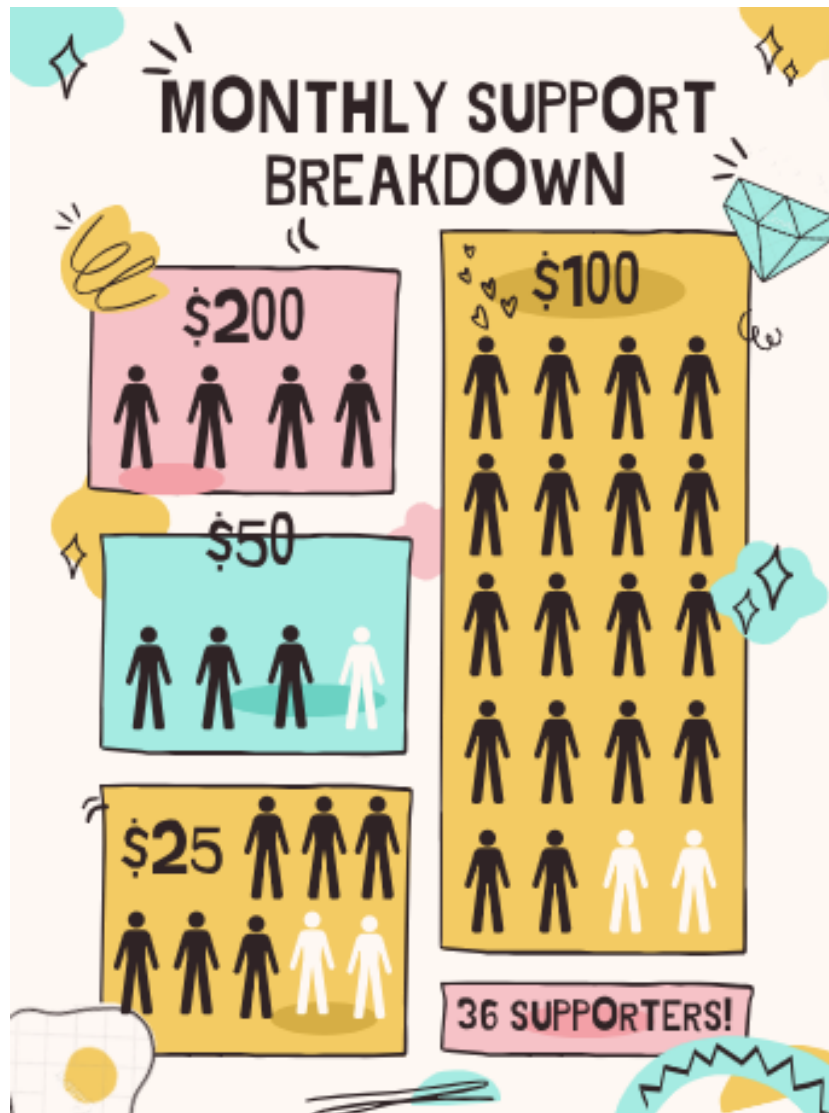
The picture to the right is Rachel's kindergarten classroom in the making. The school decided to tear down a wall and expand the room to make it bigger. Rachel is excited to have a large classroom, but the cement has yet to dry, and things need to be painted. Please pray for the room to be finished soon so she can get it set up and ready for learning.



Caleb's classroom is also under construction. He will be in a brand-new building! But they are thinking it won't be ready until a few weeks after school starts. Pray for Caleb as he trains from 5:00pm-1:00am for a week to teach AP modern world history.

# SUPPORT RAISING UPDATE

Only **FIVE** more financial supporters needed! God is SO good!



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

The chart to the above represents our combined support goal during our time at West Nairobi School. The dark figures represent commitments and the light figures represent what is still needed.

Currently, there are **31 of the 36 (92%)** needed supporters that have made commitments. We continue to pray and trust God that He will provide the finances we need during this season of life.

If you or someone you know would like to give, please email us at [calebmdarden@gmail.com](mailto:calebmdarden@gmail.com) or [racheldarden521@gmail.com](mailto:racheldarden521@gmail.com)

# MERCY Nairobi

We had four baptisms this month. It is encouraging to continue watching people in Nairobi move from life to death as they accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

This summer has been filled with teams from the States. We got an opportunity to visit a children's home with one of the teams. The little boy in Caleb's lap became attached within 2 minutes and wouldn't let Caleb put him down without crying. It was precious!

Pastor Jordan announced that his family will be moving back to the States in October. Pray that the transition will be smooth for people in Kenya and for his family.



## MERCY house

Our first Sunday back at Mercy Nairobi Church was filled with many hugs. Rachel was so excited to see the Mercy House women and children and they were excited to see her too. The women even gave Rachel a long group hug.

The women should be finishing up hair school soon which is a huge milestone to celebrate. The children will also be finishing their second trimester in school and have a break during the month of August.

Pray we can find a rhythm of visiting MH and continuing those relationships.

# PERSONAL UPDATE

One month after her birth, Rachel and I had the pleasure of meeting our Goddaughter, Amali. We were honored when Sean and Yvonne asked us to be Amali's Godparents, and we are committed to cherishing and supporting her for many years to come. She is truly adorable. Amali is the Swahili word for "hope".



This July marked Caleb's first year and Rachel's second year in Kenya. We celebrated with a movie and dinner at a new Asian fusion restaurant. It was a wonderful evening to reminisce and enjoy each other's company, despite battling jet lag.



# PRAYER REQUESTS

## Rachel

- Time and energy to set up my classroom once it is available.
- Confidence in the gift of teaching God has given me while I lesson plan and prepare for a new school year.
- Strong relationships with my new colleagues.

## Caleb

- Discernment as I begin teaching a new class, AP modern world history.
- Time and energy to set up my classroom once it is available.
- My up coming Ph.D. Courses and wisdom for a workable dissertation subject while in Kenya.

## West Nairobi School

- The new staff as they make their transitions to a new school and a new country.
- Parents and students as they prepare for the new school year (starts Aug. 7).
- All staff members to be refreshed and ready to share the gospel on campus.

## Mercy Nairobi Church & Mercy House

- Allan to have wisdom as he prepares to implement a leadership council in the church and also search for more church elders
- The women at Mercy House as they finish hair school and move towards independent living