

Sept./Oct.
2024

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter

WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

I have been studying the book of Philippians. I began with reading the entire book and some chapters in Acts to get the background knowledge on when Paul planted the church in Philippi. I really enjoyed making the connection to Paul's missionary journey and where the church of Philippians fell in that timeline. I am looking forward to diving deeper into each chapter of Philippians over the next month to see how Paul encourages joy in every circumstance.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

Caleb

Since summer, my accountability partners and I have been reading through the Pauline Epistles, taking time to read each letter multiple times. It's been both enlightening and joyful to dive deep into Paul's teachings on sanctification, justification, and salvation. These concepts were beautifully illustrated by a conversation I had with a mentor at WNS. He reminded me of the thief on the cross, who was saved simply by his belief in Jesus—no rules, no formal understanding of doctrine, just faith. What a powerful reminder that salvation is as simple as believing in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast.





WEST NAIROBI SCHOOL

We wrapped up the first quarter at West Nairobi School with Spirit Week, a pep rally, and a barbecue for the dedication of the new 900 building. Rachel and I enjoyed dressing up as pirates for Book Character Day, 90's apparel for Decade Day, matching for Twin Day, and wearing pajamas on Pajama Day. I also aimed to wear shorts all week!

With the opening of building 900, I finally have my own classroom! It's been a joy to set it up with historical flags and design it to promote conversation.

Rachel welcomed a new student from China about a month ago, adding diversity to her classroom. When this student came she didn't know any English. Within a month, she already knows all of her letters and sounds and is beginning to read. Wow! We also had our first round of parent-teacher conferences, partnering with parents to provide the best education for their students.



MERCY Nairobi

God is moving at Mercy Church Nairobi! This month, we celebrated eleven new baptisms, including two women from Mercy House. Our church has grown to 90 members, with about 190 people (adults and kids) attending on Sunday mornings. We've also launched a new outreach called 047 Ministry, focused on feeding, clothing, showering, and sharing the gospel with homeless people in Nairobi. There are at least 100 people coming to this ministry weekly. Please join us in praying for continued opportunities to serve and share the gospel.



Allan is currently the only elder at Mercy Nairobi Church since Jordan and his family moved back to the States this month. Allan does not want to be the only elder at the church. Therefore, the church is seeking two new elders by June 2025. Please ask for God to give His wisdom and guidance to Allan and the leadership council in this process. The leadership council is made up of 3 faithful church members. This council will help support Allan and the church staff with many different areas while the appropriate amount of time is being taken to find qualified elders.

MERCY *house*

It took longer than we wanted it to, but we finally had a free Saturday to go visit the Mercy House residents. One of the women finished her schooling for nail tech and asked if she could practice on Rachel's nails. It was fun to talk to her and even just see how much confidence she has built in herself and in her English. While Rachel was getting her nails painted, Caleb played with the kids. They have so much fun with him!

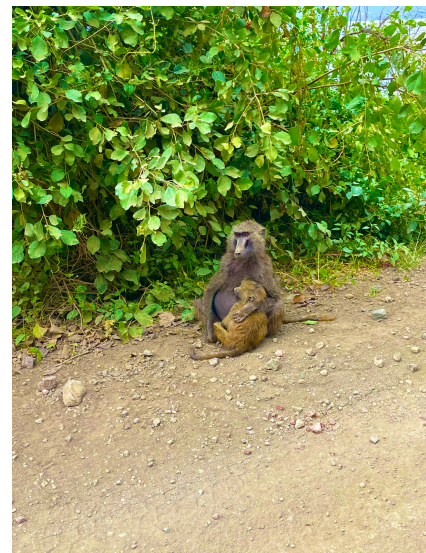
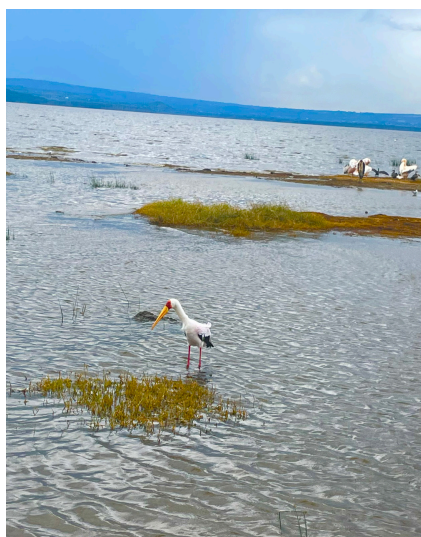
In the last newsletter, we said the goal was for the 4 women to be in independent living by December. They have reached the goal even faster! The women and their children will be moving to independent living on November 4. They are so excited about the apartments they have found and to begin working in hair (3 women) and nail (1 woman) salons.

Mercy House will still have guardianship over the two children that were left by their mother. But the rest of the house will be empty and ready for more residents. Mercy House is looking for 7-10 women from the church's 047 ministry to move in during the month of December and start their 18 month program.



PERSONAL UPDATE

In September, we traveled to Nakuru, Kenya's third largest city. We visited the equator, practiced our Kiswahili, and enjoyed haggling with local shop owners. At Lake Nakuru National Park, we had the unique experience of driving ourselves and spotted amazing wildlife, including a lioness, buffalo, and a flamboyance of flamingos. On our way back, we enjoyed the serene view of Lake Elementaita at Soysambu Conservancy. We felt blessed to witness more of God's beautiful creations in Kenya.





On October 4th, we celebrated Caleb's birthday with a trip to Nairobi National Park, the only national park located in a capital city. We had a blast driving through the park, seeing incredible wildlife up close. A jackal stayed close to us for a long time, and we were thrilled to spot multiple rhinos! That evening, we enjoyed games with friends and shared homemade candy apples

Unfortunately, Rachel has been unwell for about five weeks now, and I joined her in sickness this past week. After multiple visits to the doctor, Rachel was diagnosed with viral fatigue. We would be grateful if you could join us in prayer as we continue to wait for healing and get back to 100%.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- strength for my immune system to fight all the viruses my body keeps getting
- my parents are visiting for Christmas (please pray over their preparation)
- wisdom to support Caleb well as we begin this season of his dissertation

Caleb

- strength for my immune system to fight all the viruses my body keeps getting
- wisdom while praying over the decision between part-time at WNS or full-time student
- for an abundance of resources for my dissertation topic and research

West Nairobi School

- We had a 2nd grade teacher quit and now the other 2nd grade teacher has been left with 26 students to teach. Please pray for her to have strength, patience, and wisdom while navigating a bigger class size this school year.
- The hiring process for next school year will begin in November.

Mercy Nairobi Church & Mercy House

- Praise for the continued growth of believers in our church.
- Pray for the 4 Mercy House women as they begin their independent living on November 4.
- Wisdom for choosing 7-10 women for Mercy House