

November
2024

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

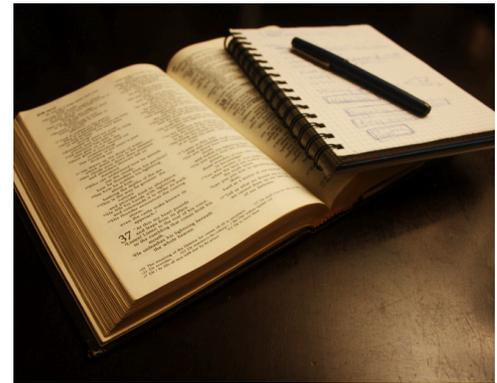
Monthly Newsletter



WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

I have continued my study in the book of Philippians. This month I was in Philippians 2. During this season of sickness, it was very easy to adopt an attitude of complaining. However, Philippians 2:5-11 has reminded me that no matter what life throws at me, I need to keep an attitude like Jesus had when He walked through the challenges of this world.



“Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus,” Phil. 2:5

Caleb

As I continue reading through Paul’s epistles, specifically 2nd Thessalonians and 1st Corinthians this month, I am reminded of some really important truths. Even when we’re going through tough times, we can hold on to the fact that God’s grace has saved us through Jesus, and that gives us hope and strength. These books also challenge us to look at every part of our lives through the Gospel, making sure the way we live reflects Jesus’ love and truth. It’s a good reminder of how life with Him isn’t always easy, but it’s so worth it.

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31



God has been so kind to us at West Nairobi School. During Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW), we went through the book of Jonah with the goal of helping students see that "I Am Jonah." Each of us, in different ways, can run from God, prefer that He not show mercy to those we think don't deserve it, and get upset when He doesn't follow our plans. The focus of SEW, like all our chapels, was the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We're convinced that all Scripture points to Him, so we work to help the students set their minds' attention and hearts' affection on Him.

By God's grace, we had some great discipling conversations with the students, both during and outside of discipleship time. Just before SEW, one student came to faith, and this week was a perfect opportunity to help him grow. I also overheard students talking about Jonah outside of chapel, wrestling with questions about whether they would go where God called them and their reasons for or against obeying Him.

In all of this, we trust that the Spirit of God is working through the Word of God to draw His people to Himself. We keep planting the seeds of the Gospel and praying to the Lord of the harvest to send His Spirit to save, sanctify, and send these students to the ends of the earth for His glory and the sake of the Gospel.



Elementary SEW (Spiritual Emphasis Week) had a VBS feel to it. The theme of the week was Jesus in His Hometown Nazareth. For 3 days, students rotated through different stations that allowed them to learn more about Jesus as He grew up. We had opportunities to debrief each day and I was amazed as my kindergarteners talked about how Jesus was fully man and also fully God. They were also able to share how they want to serve others (one of my students is now begging to wash my feet like Jesus washed the disciples feet...too cute). I have two students in particular that I believe are truly wrestling with who Jesus is to them and how their sin affects their relationship with God. I am continuing to pray for salvation for my students, and not just Biblical head knowledge, as we go throughout the school year. We dressed up in our Bible times attire, learned to write in Hebrew at the synagogue, enjoyed a Korean fan dance, visited Mary's house each day, played games, and so much more!

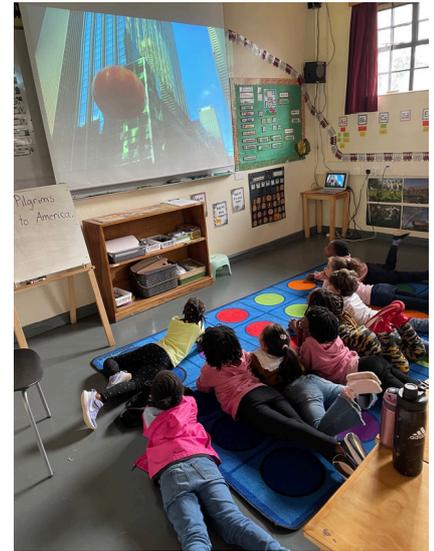


WEST NAIROBI SCHOOL



Most of my students had not seen a pumpkin before. We had fun exploring the pumpkin with our 5 senses. They all LOVED the pumpking seeds. We also did some math with the seeds.

Our Holidays Around the World unit has been a big hit! We've learned about Diwali, Thanksgiving, St. Nicholas Day, Las Posadas, and Hanukkah so far. Students loved getting a gold chocolate coin in their shoes for St. Nicholas Day! And we watched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.



We also had our Elementary Club Exhibition. Clubs take place once a week during our school day. So many clubs were able to preform for their peers and parents including ballet, drama, taekwondo, and more!

MERCY Nairobi

This month the church faced a challenge, but God was sovereign through it all. A fire broke out in the kids' ministry bathroom, causing significant damage to the children's classrooms, but despite this setback, God's work continues to thrive. The adversity didn't stop His plans—November has been a month of incredible salvations in Nairobi, with many individuals coming to faith across various ministries. In addition, the church has seen remarkable growth, now expanding to five family group locations. The fire may have temporarily disrupted the kids' ministry, but it hasn't dampened the spirit or the momentum of the church. It even allowed us to have a family Sunday with children in the entire service. Watching children praise God is always so encouraging. God is moving powerfully, and His work is evident in the lives being transformed and the continued expansion of the ministry.



We have also been studying the book of Philippians as a church and reading through the book "Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships" by Edward T. Welch. This study has prepared us as a church for having joy in all circumstances because of the foundation we have in Christ. If you would like to listen to the sermon series, you can search "Mercy Nairobi Philippians" on Youtube and all the sermons should be there.

MERCY *house*

On November 4, the residents of Mercy House transitioned into independent living, marking an exciting step forward in their journey. It has been so encouraging to see these women continue to grow and move forward in the ministry. During November, the focus has been on deep cleaning Mercy House and preparing it for the next group of residents and in December, four new women and their children will move in, beginning a new chapter of hope and transformation.



As we continue to witness God's work at Mercy House, let us lift up the residents and their children in prayer, asking for His protection, provision, and guidance in their lives. Pray for refreshment and rest for the staff, who pour so much love and care into this ministry, that they would be strengthened and renewed in their service. Also, pray for M'Lynn as she leads with wisdom and grace, navigating the challenges and joys of overseeing this vital work. Above all, let us pray for the salvation of the residents and their children, that they would encounter the transforming love of Jesus Christ and experience new life in Him. May this ministry continue to be a place of healing, hope, and restoration for all involved.

PERSONAL UPDATE

November was a challenging month, as it was still filled with infections, hospital visits, missed work, and lingering illness. While we're doing better than before, neither of us are back to 100% yet. Thankfully, by Thanksgiving break, we felt about 80–90% better, allowing us to enjoy time with our wonderful friends. We went on a safari to Amboseli with a group of first-year teachers and went to Amboseli National Park. With Amboseli's breathtaking early morning views of Mount Kilimanjaro and herds of up to a hundred elephants, it was indeed an unforgettable experience. Finally, we got to host a Thanksgiving meal with our family group, which was such a joy. It's always fun to share American culture with our Kenyan family and celebrate together.





PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

-Continued prayers for health

-My parents are coming from Dec. 17-27. Please pray for travel mercies and an enjoyable time while they are here.

Caleb

-Continued prayers for health

-I have 2 weeks left in my current PhD course. Pray for wisdom and endurance to finish strong. I will continue my dissertation writing in May 2025.

-Kenya's research facilities have not been easy to work with. Pray for me to have access to what I need.

West Nairobi School

-For the Christmas season to be a great opportunity for students to hear and receive the Gospel.

-The interview process for the 2025-2026 school year has begun. Pray for the leadership team as they decide who is the right fit for each position.

Mercy Nairobi Church & Mercy House

-Please pray for Allan and the leadership council as they make critical choices concerning the building repairs and budgeting in the aftermath of the fire.

-Pray for the Mercy House residents to stay on track as they continue their independent living.