

April
2025

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

This month I have read Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, and some Psalms. Throughout these books there are stories of strong believers trusting in God's plan even if it doesn't make sense. But there are also stories of the Israelites choosing their sin over God. I continue to pray that I will trust God's plan, even in difficult times, and that I will say no to my flesh when it desires to turn from God. I love getting to read the Psalms of David in chronological order while also reading the narrative in 1 Samuel.



“But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.”

Psalm 59:16-17

Caleb

This month, I've been reading about Saul's downfall as king, David's journey to the throne, and the Psalms he wrote during that season. It's been a strong reminder to me of how important it is to follow God's word, as well as the clear difference between the lives of the righteous and the wicked.

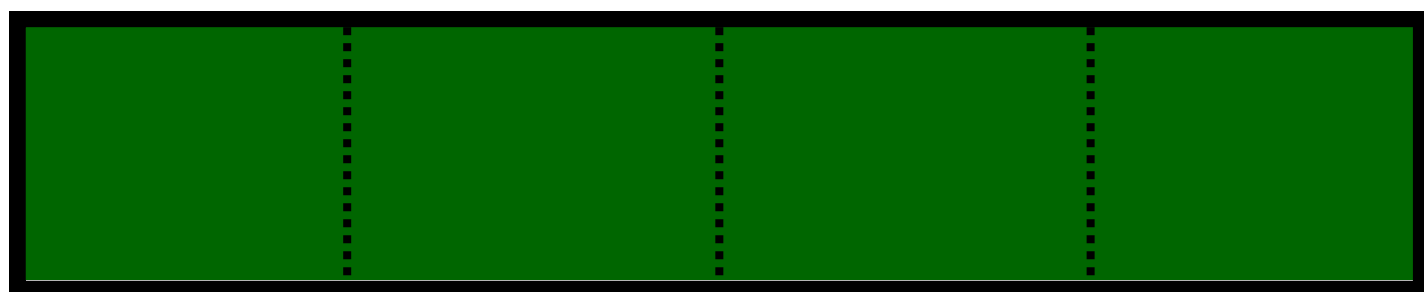
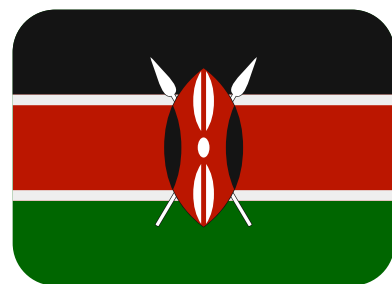
Psalms 19:14

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Darden Support Raising Progress

GREAT NEWS!!!!

God has provided \$3,000 through generous supporters. We had a meeting this month with the HR department at school and they have found a cheaper way for Caleb to stay in Kenya next year. The \$3,000 will cover this method. God is so good and always has a plan. Any extra gifts will help assist us with Caleb's school fees as he finishes out his program.



Start \$750 \$1,500 \$2,250 \$3,000

Donations can be made with the following steps:

1. Go to www.nics.org/donate.
2. Choose the amount you'd like to donate and select "One Time"
3. For the "Designation" box, choose "School Projects."
4. A comment box will pop up that says "Staff Name or Project Number." Type in "Caleb and Rachel Darden-Project #004425".
5. Complete the billing and payment information. You can use either a debit/credit card or a checking account.
6. Check "I'm not a robot."
7. Select "Review." If any information is incomplete or missing, it will not go to the next page. Make sure to go back to the top of the form and correct any incomplete/missing data.
8. Review the donation and choose "Donate."



WEST NAIROBI SCHOOL



This month we had our second Elementary Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) for the school year. We spent the week leading up to Easter focusing on the Holy Week. Students learned about the triumphal entry, the Lord's Supper, Judas' betrayal, the cross, and the resurrection. One special memory was students getting to participate in a Passover meal. One of our teachers led us through each element and what it represents to the Israelites. It continues to be a joy to work at a school that puts a focus on sharing the gospel with students.



We also had an elementary school carnival. Students were able to play many games and receive lots of candy. Rachel also volunteered to sit in the dunk tank. K4, K5, and 1st grade students had a lot of fun getting me soaked. She has enjoyed building relationships with the K4 kids this school year knowing that they will be her K5 students next year.

The assistant volleyball coach has been out for a few practices so Caleb has been helping coach Varsity Girls Volleyball. He has enjoyed it and is looking forward to some coaching opportunities next year so that he can continue investing in students.



We had the opportunity to chaperone West Nairobi School's High School Prom for the second year in a row. We loved helping to make it a memorable night, even with the nearly constant rain on the rooftop venue! It was such a joy to watch the students dance and splash through the rain, all while dressed in their best.



As we head into the last 4 weeks of the school year please pray for a strong finish. Caleb has been sharing the Gospel with one of his favorite students (shhh...we don't have favorites) who is a Mormon and is moving to another country after this school year. Rachel has been having frequent conversations with her students about the gospel and that human sin is a part of it. Pray that the Lord will soften the hearts of our students so they can see their sin and the need for Jesus as their Savior.

MERCY Nairobi



Mercy Nairobi Church held a Good Friday service and an Easter Sunday service this year in celebration of the free gift of salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). Both services filled the sanctuary, with Easter Sunday marking our largest attendance to date—310 people in total. We also celebrated two baptisms on Easter Sunday. That brings our baptism total to 16 so far this year. In another exciting milestone, MNC sent out its first mission team to Meru, a rural agricultural region about six hours from Nairobi.





Mercy House currently has seven women and eleven children in the House. The women are adjusting to life off the streets with hope, and the children are thriving in school, enjoying the safety and love of a stable home.



Praise Report: One of our ladies from our first group recently transitioned out of Mercy House and began working at a salon owned by one of our church members.



Above: Mwangi, Joseph, Valery, and Monica transitioned out last year alongside their moms and siblings. Now in high school, they continue to serve faithfully in the church during school breaks.

PERSONAL UPDATE

Caleb had the opportunity to show a mission team from Hands On Missions around Mercy Church Nairobi and West Nairobi School, help them exchange money, and give them a small tour of the Nairobi area. Hands On Missions provides opportunities to serve Jesus Christ around the world, and their ministry in Kenya is focused on supporting new church plants in Loperot township, helping with a community water well near a local school, assisting with scholarships for public education, and encouraging the Lokichar church in evangelism and discipleship. It was a blessing to reconnect with my friend, mentor, and the Executive Director of Hands On Missions, Stephen Hogge, while he was here with his team!



April was a very challenging month for Rachel with her health. She had a 2-week flare up that caused a lot of fatigue and weakness. She was sleeping more than 12 hours a night and could barely walk up a flight of stairs. The doctor has changed medications and we are hopeful that we will see results during the month of May.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- adjustment and relief from the new medicine
- strength and energy to finish out the school year
- opportunities to have gospel conversations with my students

Caleb

- Meaningful progress and continued opportunities to advance my dissertation research
- A strong finish to the academic year at WNS, with intentional moments to share the gospel
- Opportunities to share the gospel with my students for during the last few weeks of my time at WNS

West Nairobi School

- peace and comfort for our director as some hard decisions he had to make
- new staff being hired as they prepare to transition to Kenya
- staff members to finish the school year strong

Mercy Nairobi Church & Mercy House

- MH: the women that have transitioned out to continue to work hard and not fall back to their former way of life
- MH: current residents and children to trust the process and be open to growing