

July 2025

# KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

*Monthly Newsletter*

*dardenmissions.com*

## WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

*Rachel*

This month I have read through Obadiah, 2 Kings, Jonah, Isaiah, Amos, Micah, and Hosea. I will be honest that I had some fear about returning to Kenya. While in the States, I felt the healthiest I've been in a year. In my mind, Kenya was becoming the source of my sickness. But God has reminded me through the book of Isaiah that we are not promised an easy life. Whenever trials come, God stands beside me through it all. I am thankful that God helps me in times of trouble and provides comfort when I am fearful.

“For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.” ~Isaiah 41:13

*Caleb*

This month, we've been reading through Isaiah and some of the Minor Prophets. While Isaiah can be challenging to follow at times, I always find it deeply rewarding—especially when encountering the detailed prophecies about Jesus. It's incredible how Isaiah foretells events with such precision, including the role of John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3), the suffering and sacrifice of the Messiah (Isaiah 53), and even that the Messiah would be rejected by His own people (Isaiah 53:3). Seeing these prophecies fulfilled in the New Testament deepens my faith and reminds me of the trustworthiness of God's Word.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6



# MERCY Nairobi

At the end of the month, Mercy Nairobi Church hosted Vacation Bible School. On the first day, we welcomed 80 students, and throughout the week we averaged around 60 kids each day. Among them were children from the streets and a family of Muslim children. It was such a joy to share the gospel with them each day and show Christ's love through songs, games, and Bible lessons. Our theme for the week was "Magnified," and the memory verse was: "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8



# PERSONAL UPDATE

During our short visit home, Rachel and I had the joy of meeting the newest additions to our growing family! It was such a sweet and special time, and we're incredibly grateful for the moments we shared with our loved ones. We were able to spend the Fourth of July with both sides of the family—soaking up the sun, enjoying delicious food, swimming, and, of course, getting in plenty of baby snuggles. Every moment felt like a gift, and we're thankful for the memories made.



One of our priorities during our time at home was for Rachel to see a rheumatologist for a second opinion. This doctor had all the records from the general practitioner doctor in Kenya but wanted to start from scratch. She ordered x-rays, an ultra sound, and lots of lab work. The conclusion was that I do not have lupus but I do have an autoimmune condition. It was encouraging to hear her say that she would give the doctor in Kenya an A+. He was very close to the proper diagnosis and treatment. She has made a small tweak to Rachel's diagnosis and treatment. It has been a month since these changes and Rachel has already been doing better with fighting off viruses. However, the change in medication has caused her to feel more pain in her hands. These new meds can take up to 6 months to kick in. We are so thankful to have answers and even the support of a US doctor of the doctor we are seeing in Kenya.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## Rachel

-Praise: God has given me clarity about the curriculum changes!

-Praise that I haven't been sick since changing medications. Pray for the new medication to help with the pain.

## Caleb

-I'm still looking for strong primary sources for my research.

-Navigating the National Archives of Kenya has been challenging, so I'd appreciate prayer for patience and direction.

## West Nairobi School

-The first day of school is August 6! Please pray for a great school year as Rachel shares the Gospel with her students

-The elementary principal will be going on maternity leave this month. Please pray for all staff members that are sharing her duties while she is out.

## Mercy Nairobi Church & Mercy House

-Pray for the fruits of VBS to continue growing in the hearts of the children

-Pray for rest for the church staff after they have hosted many teams over the summer. God did many great things through these short-term teams in Nairobi.