

August
2025

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter
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WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

I will be honest that I have not spent every day in the Word this month. I have had some heavy days and diving into Jeremiah was difficult. But on the days that I did read my Bible, God spoke to me through Jeremiah. God gave me a reminder that He has created me and is using me for His glory. I pray that God will continue to reveal His power, wisdom, and understanding to me.

“He made the earth by his power, established the world by his wisdom, and spread out the heavens by his understanding.”

~Jeremiah 10:12

Caleb

This month in our reading plan we went through the book of Jeremiah, with a short intro from the Bible Project to help frame it. For the first time, I felt like I really read Jeremiah with understanding and came away with so much more. I was reminded of how faithful God is, even in the middle of judgment, and how He keeps calling His people back to Himself. Jeremiah’s persistence in such a hard calling challenged me to stay faithful, even when it’s tough. And the promise of the “new covenant” written on our hearts (Jer. 31) was such a beautiful reminder of the hope we have in Jesus.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Jeremiah 31:33





WEST NAIROBI SCHOOL

It has been a busy month with a new school year beginning. Rachel started the school year with 11 students. During a family group discussion one night we were discussing the importance of sharing the gospel with the unreached people in the 10/40 window. That night I did some research and realized that I have 4 students that are all from different countries in the 10/40 window. It was a great reminder that God can use what I am doing in an open/reached country to spread his gospel throughout unreached populations. My prayer is that I can plant healthy spiritual seeds in my students' hearts so they can first and foremost can have their own personal salvation in Christ. But then that they can become ambassadors for the gospel.

Part of the reality of working at an international school is that there is a lot of transition. One of Rachel's student's families had applied for visas in Canada. The family had not heard back so this student started the school year at WNS. The visas were approved recently and so the student is moving to Canada. This was a student that Rachel was very excited to teach after getting to know him last year when he was in K4. It was a sad goodbye but also exciting because it now means that his family gets to be together now.



The “10/40 Window” refers to the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude. It's known for having the highest concentration of people who have little to no access to the gospel.

MERCY Nairobi

Mercy Nairobi Church has been diligently working this month. During the first weekend, a mission team from the church had the privilege of taking the gospel to Kithimani for two unforgettable days of evangelism. The sports outreach drew crowds of all ages, and on the field, 17 people made the decision to follow Christ. By the end of the weekend, a total of 70 new believers had been added to the Kingdom of God.

Later this month, the college ministry served incoming students and their parents at the University of Nairobi. Our volunteers provided shelter from the rain, helped carry luggage, and assisted them in finding their way. Amidst these simple acts of service, the gospel was shared, allowing the team to interact with around 200 freshmen—four of whom made the decision to follow Christ.

Some of those students even joined the college ministry hangout later that weekend. Over 20 volunteers dedicated their time and energy to make this outreach possible, and through their faithfulness, many seeds of the gospel were planted. To God be the glory for the work He is already doing among the students at the University of Nairobi!





Mercy House shared some exciting news from August! In the middle of the month, two high school girls joined their community, and at the end of August, another high school girl arrived. Please be praying for these young women as they adjust to a new home, transition into boarding school, and—most importantly—that their hearts would be softened toward the gospel.

August is also the school term break in Kenya, which means all of the students were home throughout the month. While this is always a joyful time, it can also be tiring for the matrons who care for the children.

Now that the students are back in school, Mercy House asks for prayer that the matrons would find rest and renewal before the school year concludes at the end of October. At that point, they will welcome all of the children home again for two full months.

PERSONAL UPDATE



This month we got to celebrate Rachel's 33rd birthday—and there's still a little celebrating left to do this weekend! On her birthday, she spent the day with her students, who absolutely showered her with birthday love. I've never seen so many gifts from kindergartners—turns out they're a pretty generous bunch! That evening we enjoyed some delicious sushi with her close friends, making it such a sweet and memorable day.

The Saturday before her birthday, I also got to “make good” on Rachel's 32nd birthday wish by finally taking her to the Ngong Hills zipline—something she had wanted to do last year but wasn't well enough to attempt. We spent the afternoon thrifting at a local shop before heading out to zipline, and it was so much fun to watch her get that adrenaline rush in such a beautiful, picturesque place!



PERSONAL UPDATE

The school year kicked off on August 6th, and I (Caleb) am back at West Nairobi School part-time. Over the summer, my dissertation supervisor explained that this research stage will take much longer than expected. I had previously been told by the head of the History department it might only take a year, but now it looks like the school's expectation includes a need to repeat the research course several times, bringing significant extra cost. After prayer and discussion, Rachel and I felt the best step was for me to return part-time at WNS to help cover these expenses.

Though not what we originally expected, I'm grateful for the chance to stay connected in the classroom, continue investing in students, and still move forward with my dissertation. It also allows me to keep having gospel-centered conversations with students, which I've deeply valued during my time at WNS.

Another joy this term has been helping coach the Middle School Girls' Basketball team. It's been over 15 years since I last played, but I've loved encouraging the girls as they grow both on and off the court. I've also learned a lot from their head coach, Kelli Pinion. My role is to assist with the practical aspects, allowing Kelli to focus on skills and strategy. This role has also opened doors for gospel-centered conversations with the team, which has been a real blessing.

Please pray for wisdom as I balance teaching, research, and ministry—and for energy and joy as I serve with the basketball team.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

-continued wisdom in using the curriculum and balancing doing what is best for my students

-pain management

Caleb

-I am still looking for strong primary sources for my research but having much greater luck.

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

West Nairobi School

-Continued gospel conversations, especially during the up coming Spiritual Emphasis Week.

-Health and safety for the Middle School Basketball team

-Gospel opportunities as Caleb coaches the Middle School Basketball team.

Mercy Nairobi Church & Mercy House

-Pray for the three new high school girls to adjust well, settle into school, and be open to the gospel.

-Pray for the matrons to find rest and renewal while the children are in school.

-Pray for strength and preparation as Mercy House welcomes the children home for the long break at the end of October.