

Sept./Oct.
2025

KEEPING UP WITH KENYA

Monthly Newsletter
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WHAT IS GOD TEACHING US?

Rachel

I have been finishing up the Old Testament. One question that people often struggle with is “Why would a good God allow bad things to happen?”

The books of Habakkuk, Lamentations, and Ezekiel have helped me find Scriptural support to answer this question. God truly desires for a personal relationship with everyone because He has created everyone. Sufferings and trials can happen when we turn from God and choose things of this world. God hurts when He sees His people hurting. He wants us to live freely with Him!

“For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.” Ezekiel 18:32

Caleb

This month our reading plan has taken us through the first half of the Gospels. It has been a joy to dive deeply into the words of Jesus and to read about His birth, early ministry, and how His influence grew. One story that struck me in a new way was from Luke 13:10–17, where Jesus, while teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath, noticed a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years and healed her instantly. When the religious leaders objected to Him healing on the Sabbath, Jesus called out their hypocrisy, reminding them that freeing this “daughter of Abraham” from bondage was far more worthy than the routine act of untying and feeding an animal. It struck me that this was one of the few occasions when the people responded with joy at the miracles of Jesus.

“Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.” Luke 13:13





WEST NAIROBI SCHOOL



During September and October, Caleb has enjoyed continuing to coach the Middle School Basketball team. It has been a blast getting to join Kelli in encouraging these young ladies—reminding them that their identity is found in Christ, not in sports, while also striving to give their best effort on and off the court. Our theme verse for the season, which all the girls have already memorized, is 1 Timothy 4:8:

“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

September and October have been challenging months for Rachel. She was sick for 5 consecutive weeks with different viruses and symptoms.

While being sick she still had to complete first quarter report cards, parent teacher conferences, and obviously teach. She is so thankful that the Lord sustained her through that time. Due to her weakened immune system, Rachel will now be masking up for the remainder of the school year. She wore a mask for the past two weeks and is starting to feel better health-wise for the first time in over a month.

The month of October is a busy season for West Nairobi School. Invitation to return conversations happen this month for the following school year. We are up for contract renewal so we have to provide our decision for next school year by November 3. Then on November 7 the decisions of each staff member will be announced to the staff, open positions will be posted, and the hiring process for next school year will begin. Please pray for all staff members whether they are staying, undecided, or leaving. No matter what the decision is, each staff member is affected by the transitions each year.

MERCY Nairobi

Greetings from Pastor Allan!

God continues to do incredible things here in Nairobi! Just a few weeks ago, during a communion service, our church witnessed something truly special. The leader invited those who have not yet trusted in Christ to seek God's forgiveness, and five teenage students from one of the schools we serve responded by giving their lives to Christ that very day.

The following Sunday, 25 students from that same school joined us for worship. After more than a year of faithfully discipling students twice a week, it has been amazing to see the gospel begin to take root in their hearts. We're overjoyed and eager to see what more the Lord will do in the months ahead.

28 Baptisms This Year!

This past Sunday, we celebrated the baptisms of one brother and two sisters in Christ. The brother, originally from Congo, reminded us once again of how beautifully diverse Mercy Church Nairobi has become—our congregation now includes over 15 people groups from more than 7 different countries!

So far this year, we've celebrated 28 baptisms, each one a clear reminder of God's grace and faithfulness. One of the baptisms was a current resident of Mercy House. Please join us in praying that many more would come to know Him and take this next step of obedience.

A Story of Persistence

We also had the joy of welcoming a new visitor named Gilbert, a barista at one of our favorite local coffee shops. For over two years, many of us—including Pastor Spence from Mercy Church Charlotte—had invited him to visit, but he always declined. This Sunday, Gilbert finally came! His story reminds us not to give up praying for and inviting those who seem far from God. You never know when the Lord will move in someone's heart.

PERSONAL UPDATE

To celebrate Rachel's birthday, we hosted a Murder Mystery party! For those who haven't played before, it's a themed game where each guest takes on a character role and, together, everyone works to solve a "whodunit." Clues are revealed along the way, and the fun comes from trying to figure out who committed the crime before the night ends. Though we couldn't invite a huge crowd, we had such a wonderful turnout with many dear friends we've made here in Kenya. Between the mystery-solving, great food, and endless laughter, it was a birthday party to remember.



Another highlight was getting to attend a concert featuring American Christian rapper Lecrae, co-founder of the hip-hop collective 116. Our friends DJ Sean and Ranja had the opportunity to open for him, and it was such a joy to see them on stage. Afterward, we got to watch Lecrae perform live—a surreal moment since his music was such a big part of our lives growing up. The place was packed, the energy was high, and it was a memorable night of music and encouragement.



Caleb's research is still ongoing. In fact, in October he traveled to the Mombasa branch of the Kenya National Archives to continue gathering sources for his dissertation. While the visit didn't yield as much useful material as he had hoped—largely due to archival disorganization and limited document availability—it was still a valuable learning experience. We're finding that research in a developing country is certainly proving to be more challenging than we initially expected, but we haven't lost hope. We're praying that Caleb will uncover more helpful sources as he continues his work at the Nairobi branch of the National Archives and later moves on to the British National Archives to explore their Kenya collections.



Some of our close friends Sidney and Peter are expecting their first child. It has been such a joy to come alongside them during this new season of their marriage. We recently had a game night where we found out the gender. They are having a baby girl! Please pray for Sidney, Peter, and baby girl as they prepare for her arrival in February.



Rachel signed up for a 10K when she was feeling healthy. She wasn't going to let 5 weeks of sickness stop her from finishing. During the last weekend of October, even though she had to walk it, she completed the 10K.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rachel

- for the mask to be the solution for good health
- continued wisdom with implementing the new ELA curriculum to do what is best for my students
- renewed energy spiritually, socially, emotionally, mentally, and physically

Caleb

- I'm still searching for strong primary sources for my dissertation research and would appreciate continued prayer for fruitful discoveries.
- Navigating the National Archives of Kenya continues to be a challenge, so please pray for patience, clear direction, and access to the right materials.

West Nairobi School

- For all the staff members that are praying about contract renewal
- For the leadership team as they receive everyone's decisions
- For the hiring process that begins in November

Mercy Nairobi Church & Mercy House

- For Gilbert to find salvation through Christ alone
- For God to soften the hearts of the Mercy House residents and to see a true change in the resident that has received salvation