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Joshua & Ruth Barron
with Alitzah & Hannah Gail & Eliana & Zerachiah

Dear Friends,

January begins our work as curriculum development coordinators. (We don't know exactly what that means either.) Last term, we, with help from some of the Maasai ministry leaders, put together a curriculum on listening to/reading the Word of God. This term, we plan to begin training the Maasai how to develop curriculum. We know this is what we need to do. However, our thoughts on this are still rather vague. As we try to plan our work, there are many variables we just don't know. So we are moving into this with searching and listening hearts, and we would like you to pray with us for discernment.

First of all, we don't know yet how much of the work our Maasai partners are ready to do. Two of the leaders with whom we are being led to work are Patrick Sayialel and Jim Kipees. Both of these men arrived in Narok this past week to live here for three months while taking a typing/basic computer class. This gives us a good opportunity to begin to work with them. The class is important, and we want these two men to give it their attention. Yet we also hope to be able to use the time to do a guided Bible study with them. Among others, we may also work with Francis Siparo and James Sakat, although we have not yet discerned the logistics of meeting with them regularly, since they live far away in different directions. Joshua has been searching the scriptures on two themes: stewardship and the Lord's supper. We plan to lead them through the Scriptures on one of these topics, praying with them for God to lead them to the questions that are right for the Maasai churches, and then to the word that God has for the Maasai churches.

Please pray with us that God would be with us and with Jim and Patrick (and ...) as we begin this Bible study together. Pray that God would prepare the times for us to meet, that He would give us discipline and perseverance, and that He would open our ears to what He would teach us and what He would teach the Maasai.

As we are praying and listening, we are beginning to feel that now is the time to do a curriculum on stewardship. The Maasai believers deeply love the Lord, and they share the good news abundantly with those around them. But they very much struggle with stewardship, which includes tithing, but so much more as well. This is the curriculum the Maasai pastors want us to prepare next.

However, there are many issues that go with this teaching. In the past, missionaries have attempted to teach the Maasai stewardship, but they have not been ready to receive the teaching. In fact, they feel that missionaries have failed to teach this topic at all. We know that it must be God who prepares their hearts to receive His word.

Please pray with us that God would lead us to the work He has prepared ahead of time for us to do. Pray that He would prepare the hearts and minds of the Maasai pastors and congregations to receive the teaching He has for them. Pray for the Spirit of God to be poured out on them to teach them and to lead them in all truth.

At the same time, we are beginning a new term with homeschooling. This term we will be increasing our curriculum with our girls. Joshua will be teaching them one and a half hours a day, in addition to my time with them. This will allow me to have more time to work with him on the curriculum projects as well as allowing the girls some needed Daddy time.

Pray with us for our homeschooling and family life. Pray for discipline and routine. Pray that we will be good stewards of our time and energies, that both parents and children will give ourselves to God to do the work He has for us. Pray for us that we will all find joy in the work God has for us, and that the times of rest and play will be more fulfilling because of the times of labor.

We also need prayer for our life here in Kenya. Since Thanksgiving, we have had two rounds of illness run through our family. The first put two of our girls in the hospital for two nights of our vacation. The second had us considering a nighttime run to the hospital for Zerachiah on December 23. We are still dealing with this one. It has reached Alitzah, who threw up in bed several times, two nights in a row. Unfortunately, this came at the same time as our water tank becoming dry. We have been hearing that there have been problems with the mains for two weeks, and our water tank held us through spotting and washing the bedding at midnight the first night (but not rinsing). Since then (two days), we have been carrying water from an outside tap into the house. This has made Alitzah's illness much harder, because of the difficulty in cleaning everything, not to mention cloth diapers.

Also, Zerachiah is getting teeth and beginning to go all over. We have concrete floors, and he has hit his head very hard several times, being at the age where he wants to go and explore and pull himself up on everything. He also likes to put everything he finds into his mouth. We've found leaves and stones and paper in his mouth (or his diaper). He's gotten a thorn on his tongue. Today he got a bee sting on his hand as well as a clunk on the head. This is stressful for us. We are trying to teach him boundaries, and the girls are enjoying teaching him to go down backwards, but we also need prayer for protection, especially for Zerachiah, but also for all of us.

With all of this going on, we are understandably behind on sleep and rest (some of you may notice the time that this is being sent ... we've already been up for three hours, having been awakened by children). We know that our Lord "giveth his beloved sleep" (Psalm 127.2) and so we can say "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4.8).

We are not fully part of a community right now, and that is hard on all of us. The girls are missing family and snow and friends. We know that God is able to provide us with community away from home, and He has always done so. We need God to provide us with nurturing relationships here.

Please pray for our family. Pray that God would provide our needs for water, nutrition, health, rest, protection, encouragement, relationships, and awareness of His presence.

Thank you for partnering with us.

In Christ,



Ruth Barron