

Joshua & Ruth Barron

Alitzah, Hannah Gail, Eliana, Zerachiah, Ahaviah

Partnering with Community Christian Church in Kenya
mostly among the Maasai



Prayer Update

We have been quite busy since our last update in August. Joshua has made many trips out to Narok and Ewaso Ng'iro for meetings. In his absence, Ruth has been busier with homeschooling. We've had some birthdays and enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving with some of our Kenyan friends. Our biggest news, of course, is the arrival of a new daughter: Ahaviah Zahorah arrived on 28 September 2012.

We've heard from some of you, asking us ***"How can we be praying for you?"*** So here are a few ways that you can partner with us in prayer.



CURRICULA PROJECTS

- The text of the **Swahili adaptation** of our **"Eating the Word of God"** curriculum has been completed. We are formatting it before the final editing. Then we need to find a printer. The printer who printed the Maasai original has increased their pricing exorbitantly. ***Please pray for this process, so that these lessons can be taught in our tribally mixed congregations (which use Swahili).***
- We are also working on an **Introduction to the Bible**. The English rough draft is complete (the churches like us to start with an English draft which can be available as a basis for adaptations into other languages after the Maa version is complete). The Maa version is complete through Isaiah (plus part of Jeremiah). ***Please pray that the Maa edition will be published before our furlough.***
- Ruth is working on a **curriculum for children**. While "Eating the Word of God" is a story- or parable-based curriculum, in this series the stories are the lessons. We are field-testing the first lesson, which is about "Naaimina the Sheep." **Naaimina** is name which means something like *she-who-is-always-getting-lost*. This project had been stalled for a while we had been looking for Kenyan co-workers. While we could simply develop curricula on our own, the lessons would only sit in boxes unused if we do not produce them in partnership with the churches. So an important part of our work is training up curriculum developers as we go along. But now it looks as though God is raising up the national co-workers we need. One of these is a Maasai young man named **Moloi Nkuruma** and another is a Kamba, **Harrison Kyalo Musyoka**. ***Please pray for Moloi and Kyalo, and also for this project to proceed in God's perfect timing.***
- Ah. And then there is the **stewardship curriculum**. We had been in a rut with this one for a while. We have copious notes on the biblical teachings and have thoroughly explored the Maa vocabulary, but were still struggling to make the right cultural connections. To put biblical stewardship teaching *addressed to American or Western culture* in a nutshell we can just say, "That stuff you own? It's not really yours, it's God's. So use it well." But in Maasai culture, the moment you say "it's not really yours," you've thrown the game. The Maasai even have a proverb about this: ***The cow says, "Don't loan me out. Just give me away."*** Why? Because the cow knows it will only be taken good care of by its

owner. This is why Jesus distinguishes himself as the Good Shepherd who owns his sheep from the hired shepherds who will run away when the wolves come ravaging (John 10:11-13). As that passage demonstrates, where there is not a sense of ownership, there is not caring and cannot be good stewardship. But God has recently given us some new cultural insights. There is another Maasai proverb which widely reflects most East African cultures: *If your Dad's still alive, you've not (really) been circumcised*. Since circumcision, for the Maasai, is the milestone between boyhood and manhood, that's another way of saying *as long as your father is still alive, it is as if you are not yet a full adult, because you are still under his authority*. You're in your 60s and a grandfather? Even so, if your father is still alive in his 90s, you've still got to consult with him before you sell or eat any of your own cows. So a starting point for christian stewardship for Maasai can be, *"my Father is still alive, so I need to consult with him about how I use my resources so that I can use them in a way in which He approves so that we will continue to have a good relationship with each other."* With that in mind, together with some other cultural touch points God has given us, Joshua has written the first parable (in Maa) for the lessons, with outlines (in English) for a few others. *Please pray that this project also will proceed in God's perfect timing and will be used by our Lord to build up the churches in this area.*

OTHER MINISTRIES

- **The DTS.** The Maasai **Discipleship Training School** has been floundering the past few years. The Maasai director, our good friend and brother **Francis Yenke**, has been on the edge of burnout and there have been difficulties with logistics and within the hosting community of Tiamanang'en. We have recently formed a steering committee to try to revive the DTS. (It is well worth reviving: in 2008 one of our students was a Samburu, **Jackson La Sangurukuri**. He returned home to Samburu Land – where CMF had tried unsuccessfully to begin a church planting ministry several years ago – and has already planted three congregations among the Samburu. And that's just one example of its fruit.) Francis, Joshua, **Hennie Marais** (a missionary from South Africa), and **Moses Mashipei** (a Maasai graduate of the DTS) are serving together on this committee. *Please pray that the DTS will be revived and will thrive to raise up trained disciples for the CCC (Community Christian Church) in Kenya and intercede for the four of us (Francis, Hennie, Moses, Joshua) as we work together on this.*
- **Bible Training.** The background for this would necessitate a lengthy newsletter all on its own. In brief, the Maasai bible training institutes (BTIs) effectually tanked, although the Turkana BTI is still doing well. The missions training school (MIEA, Mission Institute East Africa) also foundered earlier this year. In response to this, a group of national CCC leaders (Maasai, Turkana, and a couple of other tribes) have asked me to help them re-establish this type of equipping ministry for the churches. Toward that end, Joshua has been appointed to lead an interim "Discipleship & Bible Training Committee" (composed of 5 Maasai, 2 Turkana, 1 Kalenjin, plus two other CMF missionaries) to explore a way forward. *Please pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us in the way we should go in this matter.*

FAMILY

- **Homeschooling.**
- **Parenting.**
- **THANKSGIVING !!** for many things, but especially for *Ahavia's safe arrival*.

FURLOUGH PLANS

We are scheduled to return on furlough sometime in 2013 for 5-9 months. We are trying to discern whether we should return in May or August or September, and for how long we would stay. There are financial considerations (can we afford paying rent to keep our house here in Kenya while in the States? can we find affordable housing and transport during furlough?) as well as personal and ministry considerations. May and September typically offer lower airfare. August would allow us to attend a CMF



church planting conference in Switzerland *en route* to furlough. Returning in May would allow us to participate in VBSes and church camps, which is always a good way to re-connect with our support partners. Returning in May also *might* allow our furlough to overlap with that of some close friends who serve in Asia whom we haven't seen for years. ***Please pray that God will lead us to his best schedule for us and our partnering churches.***

FINANCES

We continue to be operating on a less-than-complete budget. (The complete CMF budget includes pension and funds for the children's education, which we do not yet have.) ***Please ask God to provide sufficient resources for our ministry and family.***

THANKSGIVING

Please give thanks for the progress we have made. Or rather, give thanks for what God has done and is doing and for the continuing growth and maturation of the Kenyan churches.

As for us, we give thanks to our Lord for having faithful support partners like all of y'all ! May our Lord bless you even as you bless us and the Kenyan churches.

Updates to joshuaruthbarron.cmfmisionary.org:

Our [Photo Albums](#) and [Homeschooling](#) pages are updated and we have posted baby pictures here:

<http://joshuaruthbarron.cmfmisionary.org/photo-albums/ahaviah-zahorah-baby-pictures/>

Note that there is a link to a second page with more pictures.

grace and peace and thanks,

Joshua + Ruth



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