

Joshua & Ruth Barron

Alitzah, Hannah Gail, Eliana,
Zerachiah, Ahaviah, Shalviah

Partnering with Community Christian Church in Kenya



It's been a busy five months since our last update. I (Joshua) continue to spend significant amounts of time in my team leadership role, including helping to "bridge" some wonderful new missionaries to our team. Due to these extra responsibilities, I was not able to finish the final editing of our two curriculum projects last year. But I hope that we're back on track to get them to the printer soon. *Please pray that that God makes our path straight to complete these projects.*

Church Planting & Baptisms

There continue to be many new church plants and many baptisms here in Kenya. We've actually lost track of how many! In "our own" Mara North cluster of churches, for example, there were four or five congregations when we came to Kenya in 2007. This time last year, there were eleven congregations. Today there are sixteen. We were involved in the initial work for the Talek church plant in 2008. Established in 2009, that congregation has already planted another two congregations. In 2010 there were only three congregations in the Narok Central cluster. Today there are six, with plans for a seventh. And these are the details for only two of the twenty-eight geographical clusters. *Join us in praising God for this growth!*



Mara North churches celebration

Discipleship Training School (DTS)

Our DTS is gearing up for its 2015 session. All twelve slots have been filled since this time last year, with a waiting list. The DTS will again meet at its new campus in Olepishet. Francis Yenko, Moses Mashipei, and I have worked hard to develop a sustainable budget for the program. If we had additional funding, we would be able to move from having just one three month session a year to having two sessions.

Next year we plan to have a "mobile DTS," meeting at the Kawai Training Center to serve our churches in Trans-Mara. Already some sixteen students have signed up for the twelve available slots for 2016.

Community Christian Bible Training Institutes (CCBTI)

I returned to TBTI (in Lodwar, Turkana land) to teach Church History last October, and TBTI continues to be functioning well. We had hoped that KBTI (in Ng'ataek, Kajiado County, Maasai land) would start classes this January. But a severe drought in Kajiado has delayed our plans. We have a planning meeting provisionally rescheduled for this February. *Pray that God will make our path straight to expand this ministry to equip Maasai church leaders.*

At a meeting last week in Narok County, Maasai church leaders were asking for a CCBTI branch to serve the congregations in their region as well. We've also been asked to plan a training seminar/retreat for pastors and elders.

Sunday Schools

We continue to devote much time to training up teachers for Kenyan Sunday



November training (with Ahaviah)



Ruth, Kyalo, Moloi

schools as well as developing children's curriculum for the churches. Ruth is making progress with the children's curriculum working alongside our co-workers Moloi Nkurma (a Maasai), Harrison Kyalo (a Kamba), and Jackson La Sang'urukuri (a Samburu).



Barron girls practice "baptizing" during the teachers' training

In November we hosted a sunday school teachers' training seminar at Ewaso Ng'iro for teachers from the Narok Central and TransMara clusters. The seminar was led by two visiting teachers from Generations Christian Church in Florida. As of this week, the teachers are still talking about how much that training has helped them minister to the children.

In addition, Joshua teaches sunday school for the ten and eleven year olds at our town church. "Some children," Alitzah confides, "are lucky. They get to have a parent for their teacher."



Alitzah's class

Homegroup



Thursday nights we are leaders for a discipleship group that meets in the homes of various members. Last year we studied through *Colossians* and *Acts* and started *Matthew*. We are currently in the midst of the Sermon on the Mount. We also enjoy hosting occasional "homegroup socials."

The pictures are from our Christmas party, complete with a "snowball" fight with water balloons.



Family

God continues to bless us as a family. Like any other family, we have good days and not-so-good days. But God is faithful. It is delightful to hear our children spontaneously begin to sing a new psalm. Our adventures in homeschooling are growing in fruitfulness. It is amazing to watch them develop in every way. Again and again we see that one of our most important ministries is just being seen living as a christian family.

Even as "our" churches here in Kenya continue to grow, so our family is growing. We had not planned to have another child, but God has blessed us nonetheless. This month (22 January) we welcomed a new daughter, Shalviah Tzadika. Her names mean "peace (or *shalom*) of the LORD" and "righteousness / justice."



grace & peace,

Joshua & Ruth

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