



Expanding Christ's Kingdom in Kenya

June 2019

Dear fellow-workers,

Karibuni. “Welcome back!” We have been overwhelmed with how Kenyans have welcomed our return. Everywhere Maasai and Samburu guards recognize us and excitedly greet us in their own language. On our first return to the produce market we were given hugs and free juice, freshly squeezed. After a day running errands in town, we realized that we would be getting home too late to cook, and so we ate at our favorite Indian restaurant. The staff — including the management — all came out to give us hugs. Another time we were given appetizers on the house. At Nyayo House — the home of Kenya’s Immigration department — Joshua was given tea and even offered breakfast (*at a government office? simply unheard of!*). All of that pales, of course, compared to the welcome we’ve received from our close Kenyan friends and our Maasai co-workers. It’s good to be home.



Ahaviah, Zerachiah, and Eliana made a pet of Nailepa the chameleon, whom they found in our flowers. “Nailepa” is Maa for “she who climbs” or “ascends.”

Our delayed return meant that we were unable to attend the graduations of the first cohorts of the two new Maasai branches of CCBTI. Though this was a disappointment for us and the Maasai community, we were honored *in absentia* for our work during the celebration. I (Joshua) was presented with two gifts — an *orinka oipila* (beaded ceremonial war club; it functions culturally like a gavel or scepter) and an *eng’udi naipila* (beaded ceremonial elder’s staff, an even greater honor). Ntinga Sam Tome received them in my stead. He came by the house our first day home to present them to me. It is unusual for anyone under 50 to receive either of these; it is unheard of for one person to receive one of each in a single occasion. One is a gift from the Community Christian Church (CCC) congregations in Kajiado County here in Kenya; the other is a gift from the CCC congregations across the border in Tanzania. This was like receiving a double lifetime achievement award, in thanks for our work in helping the CCC to establish and maintain the ministry of CCBTI. My eyes may or may not have leaked a bit ...





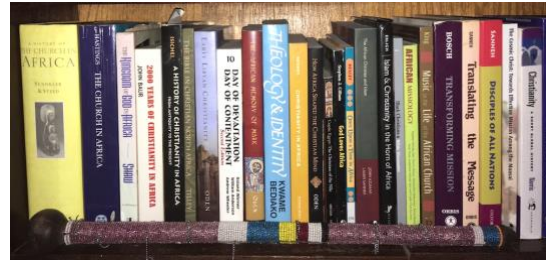
Some of the pastors graduating from CCBTI-Kajiado, with their wives (and one son)



The children have been able to reengage with Kitovu Learning Space, the Kenyan HomeSchool cooperative in which they take part.

“Lete Vitabu!”

This means “Bring the books!” in Swahili. And of course, we returned from the States with more than a few books (about 70 lbs worth just for Joshua, not counting books for Ruth and the children!).



During the first part of this fourth term, we are focusing on learning Swahili, the *lingua franca* of much of East Africa. Recently at church, I (Joshua) was pleased to understand all but one verse of a Swahili worship song. After the service, I asked a friend for help with that verse (lots of new vocabulary). As a key word was being explained as having dictionary definitions of either “to feel” or “to hear,” my mind skipped the English and thought, *ah, just like the Maa word <ANING>*.

Joshua has had the first of a series of editorial conferences to prepare his next Maa language book for publication. We’ve had curriculum development meetings with a number of Maasai church leaders and Joshua has met with Francis Yenko to plan the next DTI (Discipleship Training Institute) session. We’ve continued to work very closely with Sam Tome for CCBTI (Community Christian Bible Training Institute). Joshua was invited to teach our “Eating the Word of God” course again at the Turkana branch of CCBTI in Lodwar, but as we were still waiting to get our new work permits stamped in our passports we sent Sam. CCBTI-Turkana is planning for Joshua to teach his Church History course later this year. Sam and Joshua have also been working on obtaining a form of accreditation for CCBTI from Kenya’s Ministry of Education, as well as from ACTEA (the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa). Life is full, and we are glad to be where we are supposed to be.

grace and peace to you in our Lord and Friend Jesus,

Joshua + Ruth
 joshua & ruth barron
 MissionStream-Kenya



joshua.ruth@BarronFamilyMission.net
<http://BarronFamilyMission.net>