



Expanding Christ's Kingdom in Kenya

30 November 2019

Dear friends,

Happy Thanksgiving!

October was a rough (and unexpectedly expensive) month for us, between having our car burglarized and our passports stolen (all eight) and a series of problems with our vehicle. Unexpected expenses came to about \$1200 for the vehicle repairs and \$1060 for replacing all of the passports. (Total vehicle expenses were more, but the rest was budgeted for.) On the plus side, the vehicle is in great shape now — with a new fan belt, head gasket, radiator, and thermostat, and a re-machined cylinder head — and it should be five years before we need to renew the children's passports. (This news went out earlier to those who have told us they've committed to pray for/with us.)

November has been better. On the home front things have been smoother, and on the ministry front perhaps more visibly productive. As always, our close collaboration with Maasai church leaders continues.

At a previous meeting with Benson ole Kurraru, pastor of the Oreteti Africa Inland Church (AIC) congregation and overseer of AIC church planting in the Olalaisier area of Kajiado County, we were able to give him a copy of the new corrected edition of the Maa Bible — you may remember that from 2011–2016 I (Joshua) served as a translation consultant for The Bible Society of Kenya on this project. Here, Benson was pleased to tell me how helpful the new translation is for his preaching. We also discussed our 2020 plans to offer our *Enkinosata* training ("Eating the Word of God") for Olalaisier area Maasai AIC pastors, elders, and lady church leaders. Benson also plans to join Francis Yenke and me to help bring the editorial phase of my next Maa language book to completion.



This past week we were able to visit Oletukat, spending a couple of days in the bush — *Shalviah (4) was disappointed that we didn't see any lions*. The rains were heavy just before we went out, so our vehicle (usually green) was uniformly the color of mud by the time we arrived. But the parts of Maasai Land which we transversed were as green as we've ever seen them.

Oletukat hosts a CCC congregation as well as the office and training center of Faith Harvest Mission. James ole Sinkua founded this organization at the same time that he co-founded Mission Institute East Africa (MIEA), one of the predecessors of CCBTI (Community Christian Bible Training Institute). MIEA is now being resurrected by James. One or two courses have been offered thus far. I am scheduled to teach History of Missions in February. The last time I taught this course was for Nebraska Christian College in 2009. In my continuing studies, I've learned a lot in the past decade, and will be busy writing all new material over the next two months. Look for more on this training ministry in future updates.



James and his wife Diana, in front of the lodge hosting the Faith Harvest Mission office and MIEA dormitories.



Ruth and James discuss practical ways of "tent-making" for Maasai missionaries and pastors



*Working in the fair-weather office,
reviewing MIEA's curriculum and scheduling courses*



*Finalizing next steps for missional training
of Oletukat area Maasai pastors*

In this time of thanksgiving, we have much for which we give thanks. In October, Zerachiah got an 8-month-old Labrador retriever (something of a rescue dog) with which he can run and wrestle. Our vehicle is running again and we have new passports. This month, Ahaviah finally got a puppy, a fluffy little ball of cuteness. Thankfully, our rather solitary compound security dog has been able to make friends with the newcomers. While I've been catching up and then keeping up with a new accounting software, Ruth and a couple of the children have caught up to me and surpassed me in Swahili learning. We've been able to help a close friend of Ruth's with a curriculum project for Kenyan pastors on African Christian Ethics. We have a wonderful support network and dear friends here in Kenya. And of course, we thank our many support partners, and thank God for our supporters.!

Giving Tuesday is around the corner. While we have more individual supporters since transitioning to MissionStream, financially our total support has dropped. If you would like to join us in helping Christ's kingdom to expand in Kenya through a one-time or ongoing financial gift, let us know! Or you can use the "give" button at BarronFamilyMission.net, or find for sending a contribution by mail on the "Partners" page there.

Also check out our website if you missed our [October prayer update](#) or to read a number of recent blog posts. We invite you to visit us there if you haven't recently.

grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus,

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