



Expanding Christ's Kingdom in Kenya

31 October 2019

Dear pray-ers,

Have you ever had one of those days? When it seems as though a creative malevolence has been coming up with new things to go wrong, one after the other?

We've been having one of those months.

Joshua had one of his courses postponed, due to logistical issues at one of the bush branches of CCBTI. That wasn't one of the bad things, though; scheduling is an ordinary challenge here.

At the beginning of the month, our car was burglarized. A window was broken and the thief, who was in cahoots with security guards, targeted the glovebox. At the security check, our small waist pack had been noticed. *Ah! That's where these rich tourists carry their cash!* Except ... we're not tourists, not rich, and there was no money. The pack held all eight family passports. Normally, of course, renewing passports is part of our annual budget; usually one or two or at most three have been renewed at a time. Never all eight, and this year we weren't scheduled to renew any. Total cost to renew the passports? \$1069, plus three days of lost productivity, plus the cost of two trips to Nairobi. (We have been dialoguing with the shopping center management and with the security company, consuming even more time, but they might be taking responsibility and covering the monetary costs.)

Oh — we typically never carry our passports. We just needed them that one day for some paperwork at the bank.

And then this has been the month of car issues. First, of course, we had to replace the broken window. Then the fan belt broke on a dark and rainy night when Ruth was in town with most of the kids and a new dog. Fan belt replacement is inexpensive and easy, no big deal. But the engine overheated, and the head gasket blew. So we replaced that and the thermostat. But the vehicle kept overheating. We've been without a vehicle half of this month, spending far more on public transport than we usually spend on vehicle fuel and maintenance. (Running total for repairs, not counting transport fares, so far: \$665 plus a bunch of coolant.) The last time I drove it to our mechanic's (it's still there), I had to have the radiator cap off and stopped to add a liter of water about every 10 km. The radiator has been rebuilt (it had one hole and one split fin) and reinstalled. But the engine was losing compression and still overheating. A cylinder head needed to be re-machined. Then after everything was reassembled (earlier today), and the engine was running to test everything, water began leaking "everywhere." By then the sun was going down, and it was too dark to do more work. Maybe tomorrow it will get sorted out?

When one of your Missionary Kid children asks you (more than once) whether this might be spiritual warfare going on, you know it's been a rough month.

Between chasing the red tape of acquiring a police report, applying for new passports, and these car issues, some other things have been postponed — curriculum development meetings with Mission Institute East Africa (MIEA) and Nairobi Great Commission School, the Church History course Joshua

has been asked to teach for MIEA, and a planning meeting for the Kajiado region December Youth Camp hosted by the local Africa Inland Church (AIC) congregations with which we are working.

So we could really use some intercession.

- Prayers for justice regarding the break-in and theft,
- prayers for God's provision for these unexpected costs, and
- prayers that the vehicle will be returned to working order, with
- prayers for protection against future breakdowns.

Lots of good things have been happening, too. Zerachiah has **finally** gotten a dog he can rough-house with:

And it is clear that we are on the verge of expanding influence in our ministry, as we have been working not only with some leaders of the Community Christian Churches (CCC) but also with the Africa Inland Churches (AIC) and the Nairobi Great Commission School (a Kenya Church of Christ institution).

But more on those news soon. Meanwhile, please pray.

ashe naleng / asante sana,

Joshua + Ruth

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Joshua met with Benson ole Kurraru, pastor of the Oreteti AIC congregation, and overseer of AIC church planting in Kajiado West, on October 1st