

### Merry Christmas . . .

December 2018

#### What has been going on?

As they say, time flies when you're having fun! We've been back in Kenya for nearly four months now. We hit the ground running and haven't had a chance to look back.

We are very blessed to be here and do not take a day for granted. One constant about missionary life is change. Some of our dear friends have returned to their home country and although God has provided new friends, their absence is truly felt. God has been good to our family though and provides for all our needs.

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just a few days away! The kids were very excited and helped decorate and put up the tree. The stockings are hung - even one for the newest addition to our family (Stoney, the dog!). Yes, he is amazingly cute but not yet potty trained. Ugh!

As Christmas approaches, God has blessed Kijabe with a good bit of rain. Rainy season was supposed to be a few months ago, but we'll take what we can get. Our shamba (garden) is doing well, except for the occasional monkey invasion. We have enough lettuce to feed a small army, which means we get to share.

While we have been busy, Maureen and I have taken some personal time away from Kijabe. I attended the Traction Conference in September and took that time to reflect upon many things, including the passing of my dad at the end of July. My time at Traction was a great help! More recently, Maureen attended an Entrust training on Developing a Discerning Heart. It was a very powerful time of looking inward and being reminded that only God can fill the thirst in her life and that her identity is found in Christ. Everything else she has are blessings but they don't identify her.

#### What's up at Moffat and with Tim?

Things at Moffat are looking up. Since we arrived more than five years ago, the student population has been steadily dropping. As I've shared previously, we added a one-year certificate program this academic year. This new program coupled with the existing diploma program saw 36 new students this year, split evenly between certificate and diploma. Last year we had 42 student in the entire school.

Given the growth and positive numbers for next year, we are currently in the middle of a library extension project. This will provide an expanded study area that is greatly needed. We also have plans for a new admin building as the current building (an old house) is inadequate for our needs.

I accompanied Antioch Mission Fellowship (student group) again for an outreach to Kilimangodo. We built upon our outreach last year and aided the pastor with a new



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*The Stockings are Hung!*

#### Upcoming Events

- Jan 4/7— Moffat & RVA start back
- April 4-7 — SIM Kenya Spiritual Life Conference



church plant in Muungano. All in all, we ministered to over 800 people and 109 gave their lives to Christ! Look for a blog with more details in the near future. During the outreach we made good use of the air mattresses the school purchased last term. This project is on-going as we have 9 mattresses currently but need at least 15.

Lastly, I was elected to the SIM Kenya Council last month. The council functions largely as a board of governors. The main issue now is the need for a new country director. Please pray for this search.



*Kilimangodo Outreach*

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## What's up with Maureen and the kids?

A few days after we arrived in August, the kids started 1st and 4th grades at Rift Valley Academy. They have done well this term. Kate is now reading and trying to spell everything. Luke loves to read, enjoys Math and stays active.

Pinewood Derby is a highlight of first term. It was fun to make the cars and watch the race, but our efforts were rewarded by both Luke (4th grade) and Maureen & Kate (women's division) winning first place for speed.

Another special event this term was getting a puppy in early November. Stoney is a golden retriever and has been a great addition to our family. There is training to do, but the kids are learning that puppies are not only fun, but also a big responsibility.

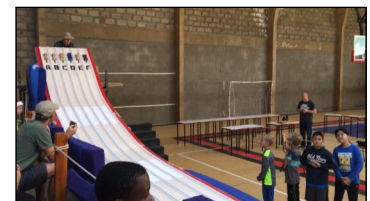
As we mentioned earlier, change is the one constant about missionary life. Shortly after we returned, Maureen learned that the Community Health project was shifting its focus to Garissa and to continue working with them would require her to move or travel there often. Her team leader knew that neither was a possibility. After some prayer and exploration of options, Maureen joined the Palliative Care team at Kijabe Hospital. Her new role will initially be creating a database of patient information to better assess what the team has been doing in the recent years. Then she will move on to quality improvement, research, and possibly clinical work. Palliative care cares for patients and their families with terminal illnesses focusing on the relief of symptoms. Maureen hopes to be more involved with patients and their families in the future.



*Stoney*



*Kate with her car at the Derby*



*Luke racing at the Derby*

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## Praises and Prayer Requests

Praise God for . . .

- Good health for our family in the last few months
- People who invests in God's work by supporting our family to serve in Kenya
- Growing our faith during the most difficult times in our lives
- 36 new students at Moffat for this year and 15 lined up for next year
- A good transition to our lives and ministries in Kenya

Pray for . . .

- Continued improvement in Maureen's fathers' health
- Us as we parent our kids in this changing world. For Kate to know Christ as her Savior.
- Additional monthly support - we are lacking \$830 monthly
- A wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior
- A great start to 2019 and a renewed vision of our calling to serve here in Kijabe
- SIM Kenya - search for a new director (former director stepped down in Oct)

### Packages

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