

**Subject:** Good News!!!  
**From:** "Joshua Barron" <joshua@stzenosgarden.com>  
**Date:** Mon, 18 Dec 2006 13:02:38 -0500  
**To:** "Joshua & Ruth Barron" <joshuaruthbarron@hotmail.com>

To our families, friends, and partners in ministry,  
Grace and Peace to you this Christmas season!

This is a time when we, as a part of the universal Church of Christ, especially celebrate the great good news first proclaimed to some poor shepherds long ago:

**Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ...**

As we celebrate the great good news of the coming of our Savior with you, our brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are glad to share with you more good news: we have a departure date! We will be leaving for Kenya on January 15. We just received the "green light" regarding our work visas last Wednesday (December 13). So we have quickly moved from "hurry up and wait" (the paperwork for our work permits was submitted back in August) to simply "hurry up!"

Thank you so much for your prayers which have made this possible.

Our commissioning as CMF missionaries will be taking place on Sunday evening, January 7 at West Hills Christian Church (Joshua's home congregation) in Bristol, TN-VA at 6 pm. If any of you are able to come, we would be delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you again one last time before our departure.

As if this were not good news enough, we have just learned that we are expecting a new baby, to be born in Kenya. We are very excited! The Maasai people love children (just like the Israelites of the Old Testament), and it is good that we will be able to show them that we share that love. God is so gracious to allow us the opportunity not only to be missionaries ourselves, but also to raise our children as missionaries. They will have the immense privilege of growing up seeing what God is doing around the world!

While we are on the field, you will be able to contact us via email (but please do not send us any forwards! - our internet connection will be slow at best) or by post. Anything sent to the CMF office will reach us. You can also send us letters directly to Kenya. (See addresses below.)

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY WITH US:**

- **with thanksgiving: that we are now able to move to Maasai Land to do the work to which we have been called ... for our two wonderful daughters and for the new baby who's on the way ... for the "fellowship of the saints" which we share with you, our partners in ministry ... for the commitment of faithful support partners (both in prayer and with finances) like you**
- **for us and our families as we say our farewells**
- **for us as we pack our belongings and transition to Kenya**
- **for Ruth and "Baby" during the pregnancy**
- **for our two daughters - Alitzah (Nov. 17, 2003) and Hannah (Aug. 18, 2005) - as they say goodbye to grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends and as they transition to life in Ewaso Ng'iro.**
- **for our remaining support: we still need about \$8,000 for our one-time, outgoing expenses. Also, we still lack a small percentage of our monthly support. However, there are a couple of congregations and individuals who are considering partnering with us financially. Please pray that God will be faithful to provide through His people the full support that this ministry needs.**

Until our departure, feel free to call us on our cell phone at 423-914-1472. After Christmas we will be moving in with Joshua's parents (10 Quillen Drive / Bristol, VA 24201 / phone: 276-669-9754) until our departure.

We have mentioned before that there are many similarities between the culture of the Maasai people and the culture of the Israelites of the Old Testament period. For the Israelites, the most promising way to describe the promised land was as "The Land of Milk and Honey." For the Maasai, a common farewell blessing is "*naishi oo kule*" (pronounced **NAI-SHEE OHH KU-Lay**), or "honey and milk." So as we leave our home for a new home, we say to you,

grace and peace,  
naishi oo kule,

joshua & ruth barron, with alitzah and hannah and "baby"  
*CMF missionaries to the Maasai of Kenya*

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If you did not receive a copy of our first newsletter (May 2006) and would like to be added to that mailing list, please email us your postal address. (Our next newsletter is in the works.) While on the field, we should be sending out a newsletter every two or three months and an e-mail prayer update every four to eight weeks.

If you have any questions about the ministry among the Maasai or even just about us, please ask! We would love to hear from you. For an overview of the work, visit our team's website, [www.maasai.net](http://www.maasai.net). For more about Christian Missionary Fellowship, visit [www.CMFi.org](http://www.CMFi.org).