

6 October 2007

To our friends and ministry-partners,
greetings in our Lord!

As (we assume) things are cooling off for most of you and the leaves are beginning to turn, here it is getting hotter and hotter as we begin to head into summer. Today, shade and cool water are two of my favorite of God's blessings!

We want to thank all of you who were praying for us during our recent illness. We have recovered completely. Joshua, Ruth, and Hannah ended up taking antibiotics, but we attribute our healing, through your prayers, to our Great Physician. After all, He is the one who put such remedies in nature for us to find.

We had been struggling on a plateau of our language learning. For a while it seemed as though we simply could not progress any further. That time proved to be a time of consolidation, and we are now making good progress again. (In our heads, we knew that would be the case, but that did not keep our hearts from becoming frustrated!) The Maasai language is very beautiful, but its complexities are different than those of English. For example, on my last count, we had learned 108 pronouns (words like you, me, this, that). And that doesn't even count the verbal pronominal prefixes, infixes, and suffixes! It is fun. Where we used to live in the mountains of Appalachia, when strangers ask for directions they might be told, "you can't get there from here." Sometimes there are ideas or expressions we want to say and we feel like we are told, "you can't say that here." But we are enjoying discovering many things that can be said beautifully in Maa but only with difficulty in English. Praise be to the Word who became flesh, who enables his people to praise him in all languages!

Please pray with us:

PRAISE: we seem to have overcome a language learning plateau! We are having great fun learning and communicating and (occasionally) even debating!

PRAY: that we will continue to progress in learning and mastering the Maa language, and that God will unstop our ears so that we can hear and understand even the high-speed Maa of public gatherings (so far, we are still doing much better with "chewing the news" one-on-one or in small groups).

PRAISE: we are currently healthy, after a nasty bout with some sort of flu. We give thanks to God for the many who prayed for us while we were ill.

PRAY: that we will continue in bodily health, so we can concentrate on language learning, other ministry, and raising up our children to walk in the Way.

PRAISE: we are managing to stay under budget in our spending

PRAISE: we have many support partners who are faithful and generous.

BIG CONCERN: even so, our account in the CMF office is running a deficit as we have not received certain promised commitments

PRAY: that God will provide the additional support/support-partners we need to continue in our ministry here.

PRAISE: the Maasai church leaders are excited about our partnership with them through our ministry

PRAY: that we will be faithful to complete the work(s) given us, just as God will be faithful to complete the work which he has begun in us, and in the Maasai.

PRAISE: we are part of a great missionary team!

PRAY: for our team meeting October 18-20.

PRAISE: we have three wonderful daughters, who are truly gifts from God!

PRAY: that they will know and love the Lord with all of their hearts, and that we will be wise to help them toward that end.

PRAISE our Lord for he is good, and his lovingkindness is everlasting! Give thanks to him, and bless his name, for we are counted among his people and have been reckoned worthy (though the worthiness is Christ's, and not our own), to serve as laborers in the fields!

Thank you for sharing with us in praises and for your prayers for us.

grace and peace,

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