

To start with, yes, I am safe. Thank you all for your concern and support!

As you may have heard, Kenya is in a state of civil unrest as a result of the tensions surrounding the presidential elections that were held on December 27th, 2007. The race was a very close one between Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga. The final election results were announced on December 30th, and were immediately called into question as having irregularities by the head of the electoral commission, as well as European Union observers and the American State Department. Each candidate was basically representing different tribal groups. So now, tensions are not only between political parties and candidates, but they are more widespread, violent clashes between different tribal groups. It is a rather unstable time. Please pray for peace and restoration among the people of Kenya, and wisdom toward resolution for the governmental leaders.

There was a large rally slated to take place in Nairobi yesterday, but it was postponed until Tuesday. Several incidences of violence, looting, and rioting continued after that decision was made. Let us pray for the large groups of people that gather, that anger at injustice would not be the focus. Let us also pray for the innocent people who have been killed, hurt, and/or affected by the violence here. Let us pray against anger, hate, revenge, destruction, pride, and tribalism.

Today has been the quietest day since the election results were released on Sunday. There has been very little news, though it should be said that the news on television has reverted to being replaced by cartoons. Also today, the government has issued strict rationing regulations on fuel, in order to contain any possible shortages. The Ministry of Commerce has directed that small passenger vehicles will be limited to ten liters a day, while pick-ups and 4x4s will be limited to 20 liters. Pump prices are largely determined by the government (and not by supply and demand), so those have remained stable. Filling stations have also been warned not to serve fuel in jerry cans to avoid any possible accidents, black market, or intentional acts of arson.

I have moved, and am now together with the rest of the CMF Kenya missionaries (that's five families) in a safe place. The one that is missing is the Mordens because they are cut off in Lodwar, as all access roads are closed. We have daily contact with them, and they are safe and well-stocked with supplies. Contingency plans are in place for the whole team. We are in close communication with the CMF home office as well. Please pray for safety, peace, and wisdom for all of us as we continue to monitor the situation and exercise caution.

With love from above,
helen

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