

Dear family and friends,

Greetings, once again, from Nairobi. Thank you for your prayers these last 10 days, as Kenya continues to grapple with the many problems resulting from the Dec 27 election. Prayer makes a difference!

First, our family is well and we are safe. Sarah and Chris have arrived back in California and are back at work and school. The rest of us are here, including Janelle, my niece. She is visiting from the Middle East and thought she was coming for a relaxing Christmas and New Years. She returns tomorrow to her country where things are more quiet.

Life in Nairobi has returned to a "nervous calm", with more cars on the road every day and most things available in the shops. That's on the surface. But there are many places in Nairobi and other places across the country where people are camped out in makeshift refugee camps, having been burned out of their homes or leaving an area out of fear they will be attacked. Rachel, Josiah, and Janelle helped at a refugee camp in Nairobi yesterday. Connie went today with Rachel and Josiah to help again. Our teammates, Keith and Kathy Ham, who work with Nairobi's poor, have provided relief supplies to about 3000 people through their network of Kenyan workers. Those are the human realities to the botched election.

The affect on us has been to stay in Nairobi, but we have travelled around the city without problem. That is a change from 10 days ago when we just stayed close to home. Our Kenya Field Team has met twice since last I wrote, and we all agree that we live now at a heightened state of caution - and will for the foreseeable future. This means keeping our contingency preparations up to date and being more alert to news items. We also need to become good at discerning rumor from fact. And we have a few things packed or set aside in case we have to leave on short notice.

But, life will go on. Rachel starts back to school on Monday. We have a regularly scheduled team meeting on Monday and Tuesday next week. I will be going out to Maasailand shortly after that meeting, and Josiah will probably go with me to visit some friends in Narok. I will visit with some of our Maasai Ministry Leaders to catch up on their Christmas and New Years activities and discuss things for the coming year. It is important they know that we are not planning to leave, we are committed to them and the Lord's work here. But, I will also talk to them about what other things we need to do to empower them in case things get to a level in the future that we are forced to leave. They have heard us missionaries talk about disengagement before; now I think they will see the value of that kind of planning!

Be reassured that we have contingency plans for all on our team, and that we are better prepared than even 10 days ago to handle future difficulties. But, we are not living in the same Kenya anymore, and we live at an even greater stress level than before. So, your prayers are even MORE important as we adjust to this new reality. I know I have asked over and over and over again all these years for prayers for our safety and health, safe travels, and for peace in times of elections. Would it be too much of me to ask for that yet again? Politics at the national level are filled with intrigue and closed-door diplomacy, leaving a long way to go before reaching a satisfactory conclusion.

Connie and I and Rachel are all still happy here and want to stay. No one is forcing us. Josiah, Sarah and Chris went through the post-election chaos with us and know what things are like. So, we are united as a family with continuing on with the Maasai. I want you to know that. And I would like you to pray for us being separated from our children and extended families during these volatile times. It's hard on all of us.

Lastly, in church this past Sunday, I couldn't help but wonder what Kenyans were now thinking of their country. How could something political so quickly switch to tribal hatred and descend the country into chaos? What veneers have suddenly been stripped away? How many old scores are needing to be settled? How much hope are people putting in 2 men, both who claim they

won the presidential election, to make things all right again? Where is the hope? I cried for the people, and wondered what the believers in our Maasai churches were thinking...

There is still much work to do in Kenya, as people need to be shown yet again that their Hope is in God. Thanks for praying.

For Jesus, the King of Nations,
Dan and Connie Crum
Josiah and Rachel
Sarah and Chris Odell