

Dear friends and prayer partners,

Thank you for all the prayers and encouraging words over the last few weeks. We are blessed!

We wanted to give one more update on how we are doing as the election shadow continues to cast a drab spirit over the whole country. So many people are discouraged right now. I will paste in below what I wrote to our family after Josiah and I returned from an overnight trip to Narok this past Sunday. Narok has been hard hit; our main Maasai training centre is only 20 minutes from Narok town.

"Josiah and I returned from Narok, with no problems along the way. It was, however, sobering to see Narok resemble a ghost town. The Kikuyu people, which is the tribe of President Kibaki who was declared the disputed winner of the election, are moving out of Narok in droves as the Maasai in this area have targeted them to express their displeasure over Kibaki's declared win. Josiah and I saw several lorry (truck) loads of people and their belongings driving away from Narok town Monday. The impact of losing all these people and their businesses will be felt for months and months. There is still a political standoff over who actually should be President of Kenya. People are trying to cope with the new realities.

We feel safe traveling out to Narok, as long as there are no rallies or roadblocks. We have several contacts with both missionaries and Kenyans in Narok to confirm travel conditions on days we plan to be on the road. It's the way things will be for awhile. I believe people were very encouraged by our visit, and they know we are here to walk through this with them as long as conditions allow us to live, go to school and do our work. We can do all that now, though the mission work will undoubtedly be affected. I don't know yet to what degree."

Prices for food are going up, as is the cost of public transport. Our training centres and clinics will have a harder time generating local income. Many people's livelihoods are being affected. I am just now beginning to ask our church leaders and clinic leadership what the needs are, in areas we have churches and clinics, as a result of this political and tribal nightmare. Time will tell where we need to focus.

Our family remains well. Josiah returns to the USA on Saturday, and we will be sad to see him go. He has greatly enjoyed his time here, and hasn't let the turmoil spoil his fun.

I will be traveling out to Maasailand on Feb 1, as well as Feb 5,6,7. Prayers would be appreciated for safety, encouraging the people I will be meeting with, and conversations I will have with people to help me assess what avenues of ministry we need to be focusing on. Teammate Jeff Brown will be going with me Feb 5, and teammate Lynn Cazier will be going before Feb 1. Prayers for them will also be appreciated.

Jesus is Lord (for which I'm very glad),  
Dan and Connie Crum  
Josiah and Rachel  
Chris and Sarah Odell