

Autumn greetings from Africa!

It is time, once again, to bring our prayer requests to you, our praying family and friends. We realize that you have just received a prayer newsletter in the mail, so we will try not to duplicate anything from there. Thank you for taking the time to pray for us!

We will first list previous prayer needs, with updates in brackets. New ones follow after that. The numbers correspond with the original request.

3. We also need to locate a good internet service provider that's reliable, affordable, and has decent speed. This is very important for the kind of work we do, as well as the personal desire to keep in touch with family and friends here. [Still having a hard time with this, as the best providers are wireless and our house is in a "Dead zone". This is partly why you haven't heard from us since July. Keep praying.]

5. We are pondering where we should focus our primary efforts with the Maasai - as a team, as well as for Dan and for Connie. There are MANY things we will be facing, and we want to do our best in responding where we feel led to. It's exciting, and also a bit daunting. [We continue to see the need to focus on our new teammates, with their ministry direction, as well as their personal side of just knowing how to live in third-world Africa. Also, the transition of more responsibilities to Maasai via Boards of Directors and handling of finances is a tremendous learning curve – for the Maasai and for us! 3 Boards of Directors will be running various ministries in 2008, once they are ready. Keep praying.]

7. In Kenya, it is a presidential election year. The desire is for free and fair elections, for security in the country, for the Kenyans to have a positive impact in the political realm and good results afterwards. [The date is Dec. 27. The three leading contenders for president have all kicked off their campaigns and election fever is in the air. So far, so good. Keep praying.]

9. Making the needed changes to our new house and staying within budget. [The good news is that we stayed within budget for house changes. The not so good news is that we underestimated what other things would be costing when we made our budget for this year, so we are needing to raise another \$4200 by the end of this year to break even, assuming people's regular giving continues. Prayers for meeting this need would be appreciated.]

10. The month of July will be busy as we have a team meeting July 4-6, have a retreat July 13-20 at the Kenya coast, and then host a group of 5 from Connection Pointe Christian Church of Brownsburg, IN, July 21-28. The outcome of our team meeting and the Connection Pointe visit both have great potential in positively addressing needs in current ministries. The retreat with other missionaries will be refreshing with three of the days just for vacation. [Team meeting, retreat, and visit by Connection Pointe were all great. Coupled with moving in to our house at the end of the month, July was a good month. Thanks for praying!]

11. Pray for good health and safety as we get readjusted to the environment here and have been reminded of the risks of living here. The most recent example of that is losing our brakes 6 hours from Nairobi in the Loita hills. The roads are so bad that a bolt holding our brake caliper fell out and ruptured our brakeline. We drove the last 20 hilly miles of our trip in low 4WD, with zero brakes, where the next day our host, Andre Brink, capped the brakeline. We drove back in to Nairobi with 3 wheels having brakes, which is better than none. [Connie nearly got sideswiped by a car last week while out running. Roads here are narrow, no sidewalks most places. She said her guardian angels were working overtime that day! Thanks for praying, but consider this an ongoing request to Keep praying.]

12. Pray for our spiritual lives to grow and not be drowned out by the worries of this world. [I feel sluggish in my prayer life, but am working on scripture memory in the book of Matthew. The worries of the world don't worry me much, but the worries of the mission work and responsibly turning over leadership roles to Maasai IS a worry to me. I just hope I'm doing it "right", whatever that means. So, pray I rest in the fact that this is God's work and He has it all just where He means it to be. Oh, and I'm taking Thursdays as my day off. I haven't done that consistently for years. Sabbath-rest is a good spiritual exercise.]

13. Pray for Sarah and Chris as they continue to enjoy their new life as husband and wife, and as they ponder and pray over their future after they graduate from Azusa Pacific University next school year. [Married life, college life, just living life continue to march on for Sarah and Chris. They come home to Kenya for Christmas, as does Josiah, and we will get time to hear first-hand how they are doing. I'm sure they would still appreciate your prayers.]

And now for the new requests:

14. Pray for 240-volt electricity and water to be installed at the Kajiado Training Center, Narok Training Center, and Ewaso Ngiro Clinic. We have been working off solar power, rainwater, and river water for years and years, and now these places have the opportunity to get on the national power grid and cleaner, bigger water supplies.

15. Pray for the final settlements on two former missionary compounds that we are in the final stages of releasing. One looks to be simple, and in November we will give the keys to the Elangata Enterit cluster of CCC churches to use. The other, at Oltulelei,

is a bit more thorny as we wait for final payment from a Maasai cheat by December 1. If the payment does not come in by then, we will start the process of reclaiming the house and giving it to the cluster of churches. The churches would rather have the house.

16. Pray for reporting of team finances to be cleaned up. Due to so few missionaries being here in 2006-2007, many records have not been reconciled and some money has been lost or stolen. Several accounts have been handled well, but several other accounts require a lot of research to know what the bottom line really is. Pray this can all be cleared up by the end of this year. Pray especially for Jeff Brown, our new CMF/Kenya Field Business Administrator, as he tackles some of these jobs. His family arrived in July, and he is handling more than he bargained for already! He is up to the task, but needs prayers and encouragement.

17. Praise God for the tremendous workshop Connie was able to attend the first week of the month on Member Care and Managing Crises. It struck a chord with her and she now has a keen eye and ear to know more about this area – big things and small things alike. Pray for her as she continues to build her knowledge and offer advice, prayers, and encouragement to other missionaries who need this kind of input.

18. Pray for our son, Josiah, as he makes plans for study abroad next semester in Jamaica.

19. Pray for Rachel as she contemplates what college to go to after graduation in May, 2009.

Thanks for praying for us!

Dan and Connie Crum  
Josiah and Rachel  
Sarah and Chris Odell