



“Shoulder to Shoulder”
“Bega Kwa Bega”
Kenya, 2010

December 31, 2009

Dear Kenya Partners:

I apologize in advance for the length of this message but there is much to share and my schedule is such that I may not have time to send another update before I leave.

My team and I leave for Kenya in just over 15 days! How quickly the time has passed!

My preparation for the trip has included:

- Memorizing Swahili phrases and John 3:16 (still working on the later),
- Getting inoculations for: yellow fever, seasonal flu, and the H1N1,
- Preparing evangelism materials,
- Reviewing the materials provided by the mission department,
- Making numerous lists of things to do and things to buy, and
- Learning music.

Spiritual Preparations

With so many things to "do" to prepare, I felt overwhelmed. One day, as I was praying and meditating on the scriptures in the prayer journal, the Lord gave me a new perspective on His call. He told me:

You are not going to Kenya to work **for Me**.
I have invited you to go to Kenya **with Me** and see Me work.

Immediately, the pressure lifted. He asked me to "lose my agenda" and let Him prepare me for the trip. He assured me that He knows better than I what preparations are needed.

A few days ago, through various verses from Psalm 112 - 115 and John 14:1-6, He impressed on me the message He wants me to give to the poor in Kenya. It is this:

I have come to Kenya to share with you how you can have LIFE. Jesus is God's Son. He came to earth and lived a perfect life as a man to show us how we can have life. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life ..."

God doesn't want you to be upset or troubled because you do not have earthly possessions and "things". Your lack of "things" will not keep you from having LIFE because things do not contain LIFE nor can they give you LIFE. Things cannot see, hear, smell or speak.

Jesus died and rose again and paid the penalty for our sin so we can have LIFE now and LIFE WITHOUT END with Him in heaven where there is no hunger, disease or death. Trusting Jesus as your Lord and Savior and turning from your sin is the way to find LIFE; it is the way to find Jesus.

Jesus is the way or the **journey**. Your journey through life will be good if you have Jesus. Your life may not be easy, but it will be good because Jesus will be with you every day and will help you. Jesus loves you and knows your needs. He wants to give you life. He wants you to live with Him. Do you want life? Do you want Jesus?

This is a simple but profound message that many Americans have forgotten or don't believe. Jesus is LIFE; not things. Yet, it is so easy to focus on things. If we have Jesus, we have LIFE; period. The abundance of things we possess will never give us LIFE. Our lack of things or difficult circumstances can't keep us from a glorious journey through life on this earth because Jesus is the journey!

The Lord also reminded me that the whole world has been blessed because David **feared the Lord and loved His Word** and, as I do as David did, my life will bless those who know me. David's legacy is without end. Not only are we blessed to have the Psalms David wrote but it was through David's seed that Jesus was born. How important it is in our materialistic age to remember that LIFE is JESUS; not THINGS. By setting our hearts to fear Him and love His Word, we and future generations will be supremely blessed. I encourage you to read Psalms 112 - 115 to see the blessing God has promised to those who fear Him and love His Word.

Physical Preparations

My schedule is very busy as our music team's formal rehearsal schedule starts Sunday, Jan. 3rd. We rehearse:

Sunday from 12:30 - 3 PM
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 6 - 9 PM
Saturday from 9 AM - Noon
Monday from 6 - 9 PM (if needed)

We will be rehearsing our music as well as the music we will be doing with the children's team. Please pray for our team.

Our team will be commissioned on January 10th at the 8:45 and 10:30 services. Please come and support us in prayer during these services.

Travel

I leave on January 15th at 3:45 PM and arrive in Kenya Saturday evening, January 16th. Kenya is 9 hours ahead of us. When it is 10 PM here; it is 7 AM there. We fly 8-plus hours from the Twin Cities to Amsterdam; have a 4-hour layover and then travel another 8-plus hours to Kenya. Ministry begins Sunday morning. I leave Kenya Sunday night, January 24th and arrive in the Twin Cities around 1 PM, January 25th.

You can stay in touch with me and others on the team by going to **Grace's Kenya website** at: <http://atgrace.com/kenya-2010>. On this page, you will be able to get updates and send notes of encouragement to me and other team members. We will not be able to respond but know that **your prayers and words of encouragement will mean a great deal to us** as we need to be up at about 6 AM and will be doing ministry until 10 or so every night.

Prayer Requests

We are ministering to the poorest of the poor. There are no modern or even semi-modern restrooms; only holes in the ground. Please pray that our teams will not focus on the things we don't have but will be filled with the joy of the Lord. Please pray that we will remain healthy so we will not lose opportunities to share Jesus.

I have a personal prayer request. Due to having had numerous vaccinations, I fainted and fell early Tuesday morning; injuring my ribs. I am trusting the Lord to speedily heal as the music we will be doing with the children's ministry involves physical activity and it hurts to move.

Thank you for your prayers, your most generous and timely financial support, and your friendship! You have blessed and encouraged me so much!!

Mungu awabariki ninyi (God bless you!)

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