



Saved By God's Grace Newsletter

December 2013

Hi Friends,

Back in the country three weeks and it has been crazy. Tammy and I have now been back in Kenya for about three weeks and it has been hectic. Our first challenge was simply the readjustment to the time difference. We took about a week to get that back under our belt, and at the same time we were being welcomed back by everyone. Sometimes we just had to say we would meet them later since our sleeping was so crazy. Second, during the first week back we had to get our information to the Immigration Ministry to request the renewal of our permit to stay in Kenya. What we found was what I had talked to a lot of people in the US about before we left...corruption. We were asked to pay a bribe to get our renewal. When we refused they told us we would just have to wait and see what their decision was...what the heck that means is up to interpretation, but we will see what was decided the end of the first week of January. If it is anything other than positive, we will pursue it vigorously through protest and petitioning the anti-corruption division to look into it. Next came the Christmas party for the staff at C4KK. Since we never had gifts for the staff before they had never experienced anything like the party...they enjoyed it immensely. We need to thank all in the States who made it possible. We were then encouraged by the local people to immediately start the top floor of the mission home. I certainly did not want to get it started before the new year (mostly just selfish because I wanted to "ease" back into things), but there were a lot of people who needed to work to provide for their families over the Christmas holiday so we went ahead and started...it has been hectic.

What thoughts all this has brought me to in this short time is that I must not allow myself to get pulled into being too busy. Even in this poverty stricken country I can lose sight and become too busy. I need to maintain my relationship with Jesus first and foremost. To do that I have to maintain my daily prayer and Bible reading, my meditation on Him and what He calls me to do, and the future we hold by His grace and through His sacrifice. If I don't do this, all my efforts are simply "dirty rags" as my reason for doing everything changes...I begin doing things simply for the sake of doing things (even if they are "good" things), but not for, nor in the strength of, the One who has called me to do them.

So as the year comes to a close, remember to take time to "smell the roses"...and while you are doing that spend a little time with the Lord. I assure you it will make a big difference in your life.

How did we find the Children's home when we came back...in good shape. Bosco did a great job when we were gone taking care of things. Most of the projects he was going to work on were done and we are in the process of finishing the rest. The kids are actually at their home villages with relatives or friends for the Christmas break. We did this last year and they said they liked it so we did it again this year. They will be coming back within the next week and get ready to begin school again. Tammy and I are anxious to see them. I have gotten calls from some of them who have the ability to find a phone in the villages and they also are saying they are anxious to see us...what a blessing.

Relative to the kids, we have three kids who will be taking the form four exam (the final secondary exam) to determine if they can proceed to university. This is exciting times for those three and we will be supporting them as best we can. In addition, we have 6 children who are taking the class 8 exam this year. This will determine if they can go on to secondary school. So, this is going to be a big year for C4KK relative to one of the most important things we do here in Kenya...educate the kids.

How about projects going forward...we have many. We are working on the final floor of the missionary home. This floor is going to be used for a study hall for the kids, a movie projection room, an in-door play area with table games, a community gathering place, a place to hold church services and Bible studies as well as just a general purpose room for various gatherings. We are around 50% funded for the project so you can go to Tammy's "Stack the Stones" area on the website by clicking [Here](#) to see the

progress and donate towards its completion if you are so moved. In addition we are working on getting our animal project up and running. Right now we have funds available and pledged for pigs, chickens and one milking cow. What we are missing is funds for hiring a manager for the animal project and another watchman so the place will be secured. It will take about \$500/month to do this and we need to have the right people before we move forward. If you would like to assist in this effort, simply click [HERE](#) which will take you to our donation site and you can make a one-time or a recurring donation for this project. We will be working on the down well (the well on the south end of the property) as soon as we find the fundi (skilled tradesman) to continue. We have funds to build the stand for the tank (which will double as a room for someone...possibly a watchman). Then we will look for the funds to place a 10,000 litre tank on the top. This will provide water for the farm and any projects we do on that side of the property. We are continuing on our application for CCI (Children's Charitable Institution) status. We have been frustrated by the corruption in this arena and the lack of assistance from the local officials. We have taken this to a higher level and pray that 2014 will be the year we will be able to receive this status and allow us to take in more neglected and abandoned children.

I don't want to drown you with too much information, so I will simply give you our contact information which is chuck@savedbygodsgrace.org or tammy@savedbygodsgrace.org or you can find us on face book.

Finally, I pray that God will be gracious to you in this upcoming year. That He will allow you to feel His love and know He has brought you salvation through His Son Jesus. That He will make it clear, through the power of the Holy Spirit, what you are to be doing for His glory. That His presence will be felt in your life and you will boldly be able to proclaim His Gospel. That through any and all circumstances you face you will know He is there and in control. That you will be given the strength and courage to love as He loves us...unconditionally.

Happy New Year!

Serving with you only by His grace,

Chuck

Missionary to Kenya

