

My Friends,

I truly believe, on an overall basis, this month has been our toughest month since we have been in Kenya...but God is still in control. Maybe it was a satanic attack since May was our three year anniversary of serving on the ground in Kenya (we have been serving since 2007, but moved here in May of 2010). Maybe it was just life going on. Maybe I am just tired and it seems like it was the toughest. What ever the reason, to me it was tough. I did read a lot of Scripture during the month (the New Testament came and went) and it encouraged me, but still the month was not easy for me. It seemed like the words of Scripture, while telling me the truth and continuing to challenge me on how to live my life, were lacking action (on my part). I would read and screw up the next day...about the exact thing I had read the day before. It appears to me I was asking the Lord for forgiveness more than I had ever during our service in Kenya. I was angry a lot of the time. I did not sleep well the whole month. I was very critical of things which are a way of life in Kenya which usually I can accept (sometimes with remorse), but was very critical of this month. I felt when I was speaking about the Gospel I was not backing it up with my actions...what a mess I have considered myself to be this last month.

So my question is how do I go forward? How do I find my joy once more in the Lord? I certainly know He hasn't moved...He is the same Jesus I loved at the beginning of April and was with me during the month of May. I believe I must start by a renewing of my mind...by taking every thought captive and give them to Him for the Holy Spirit to discern for me the way forward. I believe I must stay in the Word no matter if it doesn't seem the same as it has been in the past. I believe I must continue to love my neighbor as myself (which was very hard during this month) and love God above all else. I believe I must continue to pray for my daily sustenance as well as the daily sustenance of all He has placed in my care. I believe I must simply keep on trusting Him as my mental state, by and through His grace, comes back to where it should be. I must repent of where I am, although where I am is not through any pro-active choice of my own, but rather by my responses to circumstances which have occurred this month (two deaths, no funds to complete work we have been given, physical illness, getting anxious about getting back to the States for a furlough, still trying to work with a culture which is so contradictory within itself and corrupt to the extent it affects everything you do...and trying to allow the Holy Spirit to run my life instead of me).

So why do I tell you all this...for a couple of reasons. To let you know missionaries, while called for a special purpose in God's plan, are so very "human" if you will. Secondly to show you possibly a difference in the thought process of a missionary and someone who does not know Christ. I do not believe that I should "pull myself up by my bootstraps" and get going. I know I need to be more in touch with God and acknowledge my failing before Him so I can move forward by His strength. And lastly, to encourage you to continue on if you have a day, week or month in which it simply doesn't seem that anything is going right. God is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever.

During these times I am reminded of Job. What has always made me ponder is when God comes on the scene (Job 38) He does not give comfort to Job as we would think a "good father" would. He actually reprimands Job and asks Him if he (Job) was there when He formed the foundations of the earth...did he have knowledge. He told Job I am God and you are not...remember that. Our righteousness is nothing to God if it is not done through Christ...and then it is still nothing we deserve credit for...we should simply be doing what we are called to do as His servants, sons and daughters. Many people focus on the fact Job was then rewarded by getting so much more material things than what he had before.

My question is what if God had not done that? The motto of the story would still be...He is God and we can not fathom His infinite wisdom with our finite created mind, but He is in control of everything...His will be done...no matter what I think.

Two more months until we come to the States...we are scheduling our time. Part of my "turmoil" during this past month is my anxiety about leaving my kids in Kenya. We have been granted a blessing of caring for 29 children at this point and their lives are hectic to say the least and it takes a good "management team" to take care of all the needs of them and the 9 people who work at the Home. When I start thinking about being gone for four months I get anxious. We have had many friends who have left Kenya with projects going only to find the locals couldn't sustain the projects on their own and then the people simply left their service in Kenya because they saw their task as an impossible one since the locals didn't have the capacity to carry-on. While this does bother me, I believe we have a purpose in going back to the

States. I will truly admit I need a break to see my family and friends again. I do need to "re-charge" after being in a different culture for over three years. I do believe we are being called to let people know what living out the Gospel involves outside of the US and that there exists so much pain which is not usually seen in the US. With that, we are still looking to fully "book up" our time in the US. Tammy has a calendar on the website to show you the times which are open to speak. If you know of a group which would like to hear about our service in Kenya, please contact her at [tammy@savedbygodsgrace.org](mailto:tammy@savedbygodsgrace.org) and she can work out the details with you. Thanks for your participation in our coming back to the States and sharing this ministry.

I mentioned we are having financial difficulties and could use some help. We were able to make up about \$500 of the shortfall we had in paying school fees...we borrowed the rest and must pay the funds back as we are able. After the month we are now about \$2,000 in the hole because of the aforementioned fee issue and simply getting food for the kids (I told you it was a stressful month). We have limited the purchasing of food as much as we could, we discontinued our tutoring program and it will stay discontinued until we are financially stable again, we have restricted the kids "extra-curricular" activities at school and have stayed with the basics. I totally believe God is in the details and we are waiting for Him to move some of you to assist as you are able. So, if moved to do so and you have the ability, you can assist by clicking [here](#) and making your donation. I appreciate your prayerful consideration of this request.

If you would like to stay in touch there are many ways to do so...by watching Tammy's almost daily blog on the website ([click here](#)), or catch us on Facebook or you can always email us at [chuck@savedbygodsgrace.org](mailto:chuck@savedbygodsgrace.org) or [tammy@savedbygodsgrace.org](mailto:tammy@savedbygodsgrace.org) for specific details on what is happening on the ground in Kenya. Our work here is simply not possible without God moving you to assist. I hope by staying in communication you feel you are part of what you support...because you are. In two months, God willing, we will be giving you a report in person, but, until that time, please take advantage of the social networking we have by using it to stay in touch.

Mungu akubariki marafiki zangu (God bless you my friends)

Serving with you only by His grace,

Chuck  
Missionary to Kenya