



November - December 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

I Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. The holiday months for us look a little different in Kenya. December and January are usually the hottest time of the year. The Kenyan school system takes November and December off, and it is like their “summer break.” We try to keep the youths busy during these months to keep them out of trouble. In November, we had our first official youth activity. We had 15 youth that joined us on that day, we also had 4 of the young adult men in our church finish their 1st discipleship class.

The month of December was packed full of so many fun events. Missionary Luke Shelby hosts a youth Camp each year in Kisii (about 2 hours from us). My family and I were able to join the teens this year for that. We took 16 of our youth with us. One of our teenage boys has been struggling with his salvation for quite some time. This year at camp he was able to get that settled. Three of our teens won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the verse completion. All of them saying more than 100 verses each. Two of our teen boys will be finishing high school this year and they committed to one year of Bible College. It was a great time of godly fellowship for our youth as well as my wife and I, and we are so grateful we had the privilege of going.

Our portable baptistery was stolen a few months ago, and I have been trying to find the time to build a new one. In December I was able to finish our permanent baptistery, and we baptized 7 precious souls.

As you know, Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without a couple of Christmas parties. I hosted a men's Christmas party in the beginning of December. I made a couple of corn hole games. It was their first time ever playing something like that. They loved it so much, that they had a full tournament. My wife hosted a ladies' Christmas party at our house. It was a great time for some of the newer ladies to form a bond with my wife and the other ladies.

Two of the men in our church have started Bible College Classes. We are hopeful that this will help further ground them in their faith and prepare them to take over for me while I am on furlough.

As most of you know we spent the greater part of the last year and a half renovating our church building. However, the metal wall around the church is in really bad condition. We have had several incidents of petty theft. I believe with a proper compound wall we can keep a lot of those things from happening. It would put my mind at ease if we could construct a wall before we take our furlough. I have done a lot of calculations over the last few weeks, and spoken with a contractor. The materials alone will cost us around \$4500. Our church people will raise the money for the labor. I ask that you would pray with us for God to bring in the funds necessary to get started. If God lays it on your heart to help us in this regard, we would be so grateful.

One last prayer request I would like to mention is a lady named Lucky Sunday. A few weeks ago, I received a phone call at the end of our morning service. One of our church members had collapsed outside of her home. My wife and I got in the car to take her to the hospital. When I arrived at the house, she was unconscious and barely breathing. Her husband and I picked her up and put her in the car. We drove as fast as we could to the hospital. Later we found out that she had a stroke. She is only 25 years old with a husband, and a 4-year-old son. She is doing better now, but the family really needs our prayers. When our church started under the mango tree, this lady allowed us to meet in her home during the midweek service. She means a lot to our church family. Please continue to pray with us for her health.

Thank You Again for your faithful prayers and support. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

In Christ,  
David Smith

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