

Greetings from Kenya!!!

We hope you have had a great finish to your summer. While it has still been raining a lot here, and we have times when it is quite chilly, each time the sun comes out, it gets warmer and warmer. The rain should be stopping soon, all the maize will be harvested by mid November, and we'll get to the hottest time of the year (around the low 80's), and while it doesn't exactly feel like fall here, we've put out fall decorations to remind us of what time of the year it is.

We have had a productive month with several meetings, and got to spend time with a couple from our sending church. Michael and Regina Hudson, who spent a couple of months with us last year, came to see us for a few weeks on their way back to Alabama after being in Zambia for several months. It was a great time of fellowship with lots of card playing, talking, and good food. We are thankful for their friendship and the encouragement they have been to us over the last several years.

We've held several meetings so far with different groups of our pastors discussing moving forward and how they will take full ownership of the ministry. It seems as if we have already had the same conversation multiple times, just with different pastors, and we know the same conversation still needs to be had with many more, but so far, the feedback has been positive. There is always an up front proclamation of, "We can do this," which is encouraging, but then there are the follow up messages that state issues with the meeting we've just had. This can be discouraging at times, but it has become somewhat easier to deal with because we know we are following the Lord's plan for moving forward.

Michael and I made a quick trip to Nairobi to be a part of the monthly fellowship meeting of Nairobi area pastors. I was invited by another missionary, Jim Eberhard (good ol' Jim!) who thought it might be good to be there in order to show some unity amongst the missionaries under the mission we work under (Baptist Bible Mission of East Africa). He was sharing what the role of the missionary is and what the purpose of BBMOEA is, and the chairman of our mission, Doug Stamper, was also sharing. It was really a good meeting and gave Michael and I a lot of time to talk on the drive down and back. In the past, there has been somewhat of a struggle amongst the national pastors, who have worked under different missionaries or gone to different Bible schools, in working together or even having fellowship with one another, and Jim and I have tried our best to resolve some of those issues. Whenever we have the opportunity to come together as missionaries, we always try to, and I believe it sets a great example for our pastors to follow. This is important for them to see in moving forward, especially because of possible government regulations on religious groups that could occur in the near future.

There is a bill that has been drafted by a religious task force, which was appointed by the president of Kenya in 2023. The bill includes some heavy regulations on all religious organizations, not just churches and Bible schools, and could cause some major challenges if passed. There has been a lot of talk in the past amongst the government about these types of regulations, but it seems this is the furthest anything has gotten. There is currently a time for the public to voice their concerns about the drafted bill, which ends on October 22, but there is not any information on what happens after this. Please add this to your prayer list; I don't really know how to pray over this myself, whether it is best for it to be dropped or if it would pass and force our pastors to unify; either way, pray for the name of Jesus to be glorified and for His work to continue in Kenya.

We are planning our next furlough for Spring of 2026 (planning for May-October), and we need to begin planning a schedule. It has been almost two years since we were approved as BBFI missionaries, and there are some costs involved which we have not raised support for, like for health insurance. The Lord has always proved Himself faithful during our time in Kenya, and we know He will continue doing so, but we will need to use that furlough time to raise more support. Being a part of BBFI gives us a great network of churches to reach out to, so please pray we are able to make the connections the Lord wants us to, not just within BBFI but with like minded churches/individuals elsewhere. If you would like for us to come and report to your church, present the ministry, or are willing to recommend us to a church, please let us know.

Here are some specific items you can be praying about on our behalf:

1. Pray that God continues to grow His church in Kenya and Uganda.
2. Pray for changes that will be made over the next 9-10 months and that everyone will be willing to accept these changes.
3. Pray for the needs of our churches.
4. Pray for our Bible schools, teachers and students.
5. Pray as national leadership comes together to discuss moving forward.
6. Pray for the religious bill that has been drafted, that Jesus would be glorified regardless of the outcome.
7. Pray as we continue to seek the Lord for His plan for us in Kenya.
8. Pray as we plan for our 2026 furlough.
9. Jeri is continuing to have shoulder pain. Pray as she sees a doctor here and determines how to resolve the pain.

