
Vance Family Update November 2025

From Vance Family <vancefamilykenya@67295465.mailchimpapp.com>

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To info@oaklandheights.com <info@oaklandheights.com>

Greetings from Kenya!!!

We pray you all had a great Thanksgiving and are getting in the Christmas spirit. Not to make any of you jealous, especially those of you who live in the Northern States, but we're averaging 75°F with bright, sunny skies every day. It doesn't exactly feel like Christmas time, but there are decorations up in all of the malls to remind us. Thanksgiving was a bit different for us this year; we usually share a meal with our workers at the house with all of the traditional foods, but this year, none of them were around. Instead, we invited over a German family and an older American couple, who Jeri just recently met, and we were happy to give them their very first Thanksgiving meal. Our workers were not around this year because it was their last week of working for us; a

couple of them needed to attend a funeral and we gave the others the option to come or not since that Thursday was their official last day.

Thank you for praying for things to go over smoothly with our workers. Everything did go smoothly and it seems that they all went away happy with what was agreed upon for their severance. We are thankful we were able to keep them employed over the last five years and are happy that the Lord allowed us to make a difference in their lives. Having five employees was not something we ever planned for, or budgeted for, but praise the Lord, He sustained everything and provided.

November was graduation month (including 2 during early December) with nearly 50 graduates from 6 different schools. This was also the first month in a very long time in which the missionary did not contribute the majority of the funds for each school or their graduation. While it was challenging for each school to budget and raise the funds themselves, they succeeded and our prayer is that they continue coming together to support the Lord's work.

The majority of our time this month was working towards closing up our house. Lots of things were sold, given away, or thrown in the trash. Even things that were thrown in the trash were rummaged through by the guys who pick it up each week, and they were all happy to find treasures amongst the things we call trash (I'm pretty sure there's a lesson to be learned in there somewhere). It reminds me of a message I heard preached back in the year 2000: Tom Mahairas, an evangelist from NYC, was preaching during our church's missions conference and as he was sharing his testimony, he described how God took his life and "turned junk into jewelry and garbage into gold," and even though I was a "good christian" at that time, I felt like my life was worthless. I really did not think God wanted to use my life and I saw it just as Tom described; to me, my life seemed like junk and garbage. I kind of prayed nonchalantly for God to do in my life as Tom said He had done in his own, and to my amazement, the Lord did just that. It took me some time to understand my worth and how God desired to use my life, not just for others to recognize, but for Jesus Christ to be glorified. And really, we're all probably a lot like that trash we threw out; what seems like broken, useless, and of no value to us has the potential to be of great use to someone else.

Since we are already into December, I'll go ahead and update you a little on the last week. We've officially relocated to Nairobi and are at the moment officially homeless again. We're spending the month of December at

another missionary's house while they are away and then we will move to a furnished apartment in an area called Kilimani in early January. Today, I am in Eldoret finishing up everything at the house. This morning, a truck came to take our stuff to Nairobi. Eight of us crammed nearly all of our worldly possessions into a 20 foot container where they'll remain until after our furlough next year. So many of you have been praying for us and we can't express our gratitude enough. What should have been a simple process of moving to another city has become quite stressful, especially because the easiest of tasks here often take a long time and you have to travel around and around in circles before finally accomplishing what you set out to, but the Lord has proven Himself faithful in bringing us through everything and we know He'll continue doing the same. We're excited about how the Lord is moving in our lives and the opportunities He is giving us to further His kingdom in Nairobi. Please continue praying alongside us as we begin building relationships with those we'll be encountering each day and that we will take the opportunities He gives us in sharing the Gospel.

Our next furlough will begin the Spring of 2026 (planning for May-October), and we need to begin planning a schedule. It has been a little over 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.

Our church has made it even easier to give towards the ministry in Kenya. If you would like to give online, simply click on the "Give DBC" button below. Once the link opens, in the box "Choose a Fund" scroll down and select my name, Shaun Vance. You can now also give directly through BBFI. Just click on the "Give BBFI" button below.

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 have been made and for our national leadership to continue trusting the Lord.
3. Pray for the needs of our churches.

4. Pray for our Bible schools, teachers, students, and churches as they have taken on full ownership of the schools.
5. Pray as national leadership comes together to discuss moving forward.
6. Pray as we continue to seek the Lord for His plan for us in Kenya.
7. Pray as we plan for our 2026 furlough.
8. Continue praying for Jeri's recovery. While things have improved, she is still having a lot of pain in her shoulder. She has an appointment in Nairobi with a physiotherapist on December 8.
9. Pray as we transition to life in Nairobi.

We love you!

Shaun, Jeri, Selena, Micaiah

Give DBC

Give BBFI





caiah's knees
ARE MUCH
improved!





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