



HEATH Habari

December 2023



Robby & Tegwen
Vernon, Vesper, Vivian



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Dear Family and Friends,

We are on the final stretch of our 11-month home assignment, and the journey has felt both short & sweet and long & winding! We began in January and, since then, have driven to all four corners of the country. We are grateful for all the wonderful people and precious moments that have made this year so memorable. We consider ourselves among the privileged few who have the opportunity to visit many family members, friends, and Grace churches across America every few years. Every four years is still more frequent than many who live in the States can see each other. Our hearts are full, and we look forward to returning to Kenya on December 12 for another 4-year term.

Exciting things await us in Kenya. Ben & Joyce Anderson have been eagerly anticipating their grandkids' return! Ben is the International Director and has made Kenya their home base. In their time there, Ben & Joyce have both been a tremendous help to the Bible school and ministry. They are only a one-minute drive from where we live in Thika! We also work closely with Titus and Jemimah Kivilu, the school's principal and his wife. Both of our families now live on campus. Vesper is already talking about when she'll be able to run down to Jemimah's house and drink a cup of chai with her. Another exciting development is the arrival of Reagan and Jemimah Mejia and their two children, Keziah and Dale. They are the newest TEAM missionaries from the Philippines. TEAM missionaries do not visit the States to raise support but are sent straight to the mission field by their sending country. The Mejia's will live in Thika and work in the Bible school for 6-months before pioneering a Grace work in Ethiopia! We are looking forward to building a relationship with them and helping them prepare for the mission field.



The kids enjoyed their time with Grandpa and Grandma Heath who moved to Wyoming a few years ago. Their cousins, Liam, Ben, and Sam, came to visit during the summer. This picture was taken in front of the Wyoming church.



Kiganjo Church is about \$3,000 short of their fundraising goal to buy the church property.

Kiganjo Property

During our second year in Kenya, we helped to plant a church in a large community called Kiganjo, which is on the outskirts of our city. In 2020, when much of the country was locked down, our weekly fellowship in Kiganjo decided they wanted to form a church. Grace Bible Church Kiganjo was officially started in November 2020. We began meeting in a single room, which soon overflowed into the corridor. We then rented property nearby and purchased chairs. The sun was intense, but the members insisted they wanted to be visible to the community and light in a spiritually dark place. A few months later, we built a shelter with animal feed sacks protecting us from the sun, but not the rain. Today, they have a structure made of iron sheets.

In January, the property owner notified us of his plans to sell the property the church is on. He said he would give us priority and is waiting for us to raise the money, but it is unclear how long this offer will be on the table. He is asking for 1.4 million Kenya Shillings, which is approximately \$10,000. Throughout this year, we have joined hands with the Kiganjo church as they raise money to purchase the property. We and others have shared their stories in the States and received generous donations. Kiganjo has raised about \$7,000. Please partner with us in raising the remaining \$3,000.

Kenya Grace Bible Institute (KGBI)

KGBI has been running despite my absence. Before leaving Kenya in October 2022, Francis, Bonface, and Solomon graduated from the full-time program and were accepted by Grace Bible Church - Kenya as pastors. Francis began working at KGBI as a teacher and administrator and became the associate pastor at GBC Githurai, located near Nairobi. Next year, he will be assigned as the lead pastor in a church to gain more experience. Bonface decided to pursue other interests despite being accepted as a pastor. Solomon is the lead pastor at GBC Kisumu and is actively training his church members and in regional outreach. We are thankful for the success of our graduates.

KGBI has two 3-year programs that we offer to prepare men and women for the ministry. The full-time program consists of two four-month semesters and two months of internship per year. Our Bi-Vocational Training program (BVT) is a part-time program that caters to employed people. The BVT students meet three times a year for an intensive two weeks each time. The students complete certain ministry projects in the months between each module to satisfy our internship requirements. The BVT program has been very successful as we can teach some pastors who work full-time throughout the year. Currently, we have nine full-time students and 23 BVT students. In January, we will graduate five students - two full-time and three part-time (BVT).



Ignatius Wanyonyi, one of our graduates this year, will be assigned as pastor in our Mwingi church plant.

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Prayer Requests

- Please pray that our traveling back to Kenya goes smoothly and safely.
- Please pray for the students in our Bible school. They are often under spiritual attacks as they seek to be trained for the Lord's service.
- Please pray for the graduates from our Bible school who are subject to all sorts of distractions and hardships in their new ministries. Solomon and Francis have been pastoring for a year in their respective churches. Peter and Ignatius, who have finished their studies, will graduate in January and then be assigned as pastors.
- Please pray for the church-planting pastors going into regions of the country that are relatively untouched by the gospel. They will be subject to all sorts of spiritual attacks and may suffer discouragement and abuse.



The Anderson's got together for a long awaited family reunion. Tegwen's sisters live on opposite sides of the country and her parents live overseas. We all met in Florida for the first time in six years.



Kitchen Project

KGBI recently finished the kitchen and dining room project. When the school started, we borrowed a closet made from iron sheets from the church on site, and it was only big enough for a sink and a small counter for the stove. We received many generous donations from the States and have built a modern kitchen and large open-air dining room. This was completed just in time for the national conference, which helped us host delegates from all over Africa. The facilities have served the KGBI staff and students all year and will continue to be a blessing in the years to come.

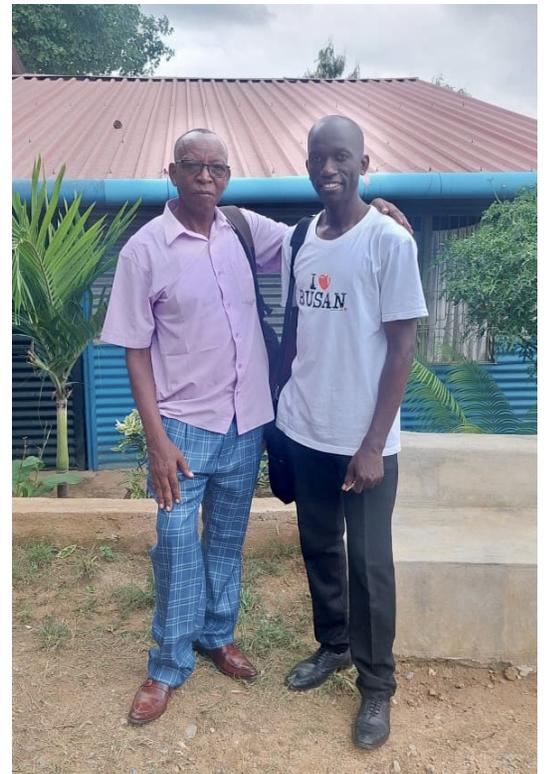
Returning to Kenya

Upon returning to Kenya, Robby will focus on two ministries. First, the Bible school, which has been in operation for four years, must be firmly established and ready to be entrusted to the Kenyan pastors. Robby needs to work with the principal, Titus Kivilu, on refining the structure of the programs and the administration to ensure that it can be easily understandable and replicable. Additionally, he will help find solutions to make KGBI more sustainable, with limited outside intervention.

Second, Robby will join Reverend Peter Kagwi in strategically planting churches throughout Kenya and looking to bring the gospel beyond Kenya's borders. In January, Peter was elected as the director of the Church Planting and Mission Department (CPMD). We have already begun church plants in Mwingi and Malindi, which will expand the work to the northeast. Peter and Robby will also conduct training on church planting strategies throughout Kenya to equip the local pastors. This department will be crucial in the coming years as GBC Kenya moves from the release stage into the partnership stage of the TROAS strategy.

Financial Needs

- ~\$5,000 to buy a sedan or small SUV to help make traveling to the churches more manageable.
- ~\$10,000 to build an apartment for the principal on the campus.
- ~\$10,000 to build shops in the front of the Bible school, which will help subsidize the running of the Bible school.



Pastor Peter Kagwi and one of his pastors. Together they are planting a church in Malindi, Kenya. As the Director of the CPMD, Peter is planting churches in new areas of the country.