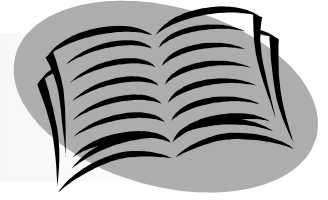


THE SAUNDERS STORY

SEPTEMBER 2005



MINISTRY UPDATE

Wow! It is hard to believe, but we are in Nairobi, Kenya. We apologize for not keeping up with some of you since our last newsletter in March. A lot of things have happened since then. At the time of our last newsletter, the Lord had provided 56% of our monthly need. Praise the Lord that at this time He has provided 96% of our monthly support. We received clearance from AIM on June 6th to leave for Kenya on July 6th. We left July 4th for Pearl River, New York (the American headquarters for Africa Inland Mission). We spent 2 days there going thru a final checkout. It was a good time renewing friendships with people at the local office and making new friend with those whom we would be traveling with. There were 28 people heading to Nairobi to begin their missionary service. We left Wednesday afternoon around 1:30 PM for Newark International airport where our plane was to leave around 6:30 PM for Heathrow Airport in London, England. That was an interesting time as the 8 families had to check in over 125 pieces of luggage; it

took nearly 3 hours. We arrived in London around 6:30 AM on Thursday July 7th. This was the day of the London terrorist attacks; however, due to 2 divine interventions none of those traveling with us were on the subways, even though some had planned on visiting the city via the subway. Praise the Lord for His sovereignty and protection during that time! We serve an awesome God! After a 14 hour layover (yes, we all took naps), we boarded the plane which was going to take us to Kenya (the country we have longed to come to for so long). It was a 9 hour flight, but our girls were very good and slept most of the way. Praise the Lord all 28 of us made it and only 4 pieces of luggage (all ours) did not. However, again God showed His sovereignty as we were one of two families staying in Nairobi, which made it easier for us to get the missing luggage. We had the privilege of staying at the Mayfield Guesthouse for 2 weeks before we started our homestay with the Choge family on July 24. We will be living with the Choge family until

September 29th at which time we will be attending a seminar by the Africa Inland Church, AIC, until Sunday October 2. This seminar is designed to address what the AIC believes to be important information for new missionaries. After the seminar we will either head to Kijabe to set up our house (the most likely at this time) or head up country to spend some time with rural missionaries.

The purpose of our homestay is to learn Swahili and become familiar with the culture. We have a teacher coming to the Cholge's everyday Monday-Friday for two hours. We are also expected to study on our own and practice with the Choge's. Some of the other things we are learning about are washing clothes by hand, different foods, and discipline of children to name a few.

Angela is washing clothes everyday except for Sunday. First, water must be drawn from a pit about 10 feet deep and put into 20 liter containers for transport to the washing area. Continued on next page.

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

II Thessalonians
3:3-4

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH THE CHOGE'S

The Choge's, the family we will be living with for 9 weeks are a wonderful family. Joshua and Naomi have been married for 20 years and have 4 children and have "adopted" 2 others. They met while Joshua was teaching Naomi in high school. It used to be that instead of going to high school for 4 years, they had the option of going for 6 and then they were able to teach others in high school. Joshua met Naomi the first year he taught, but he asked her to wait 5 years before they would marry so that he could finish university. He studied math and currently owns a company that hauls and mines components of cement to a local company in Nairobi. Leslie,

their oldest, is in her first year at university. Januarius, (he was born the first of January), is in his fourth year of high school at a boarding school approximately 30 minutes away. Caleb is in his second year of high school at a boarding school 6-7 hours away (the school they go to is based on their exam scores). Jordan just turned 8 on August 20th and really enjoys helping us take care of Emily sometimes. They have "adopted" 2 girls; their nieces who are sisters and are helping them go through school because their family has many children. One of them is in high school and we haven't met her. The other is Emily and she is 8 and really enjoys living here and

playing with Jordan.

Both Joshua and Naomi come from Christian homes and are actively involved in an AIC, Africa Inland Church of which we are attending. Joshua is currently the church treasurer and Naomi is a Sunday School teacher of 4-6 year olds. They are also active in the married couples Bible study which is held every 3rd Sunday of the month. Next month the group will meet at the Choge's and they plan to slaughter and roast 3 goats.

We are very impressed with the fact that every night before anyone goes to bed, everyone gathers in the living room for prayer together.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ON OUR WAY TO KENYA
- GETTING TO KNOW THE CHOGE' FAMILY
- PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

MINISTRY UPDATE

The water is then put into 4 basins each representing a different stage in the process. We wash in 1 basin and then rinse in 3 different basins before the clothes are rung out by hand and then put on a clothes line to dry for the day. On an average day Angela will need to wash 15 articles of clothing. It will take about an hour for the whole process. Since our arrival we have minimized our amount of clothing by wearing things multiple



times. It is also a challenge as we are dependent upon the sun to dry the clothes. If it is not out our clothes do not dry and we hang them in our room to finish drying.

We are also learning to eat like Kenyans. For breakfast we eat porage made from millet, chai (Kenyan tea made with a lot of milk), and bread and butter or the occasional pancake (that we eat plain). For lunch we usually eat leftovers from the night before, chips (French fries) or spaghetti noodles with butter and some vegetables mixed in. For supper we eat a vegetable (usually cabbage or kale), rice or ugali (definition below) or chapatti (similar to a flour tortilla) and stew. Ugali is made from corn flour and water and is similar to cream of wheat, but they make it thick enough to put in a bowl, dump it upside down on a plate and then cut it with a knife. The stew is usually tomatoes, green pepper, onions, carrots and sometimes meat (either goat or beef). Most members of their family eat the ugali

separate from the stew, but we prefer to eat it together since the ugali doesn't have much taste. Everyone in our family likes the chapatti better than the ugali or rice, but it is much more time consuming to prepare, so we don't have it very often. We are all doing fairly well with the change in diet, but Emily is surprising all of us. She loves almost everything put in front of her, especially the kale (which is good, but very strong). Mr Choge often calls her a "Nandi girl" (which is his tribe) because she eats like a true Kenyan. The only thing we don't like is sour milk (which is similar to our buttermilk, but stronger). The times we eat are also different. We usually eat breakfast around 9 AM, lunch around 1 or 2 PM, and supper around 8 or 9 PM. We are fortunate in that we have chai and bread and butter around 4:30 PM. We have heard that most Kenyans only have Chai in the morning. We are also fortunate to have hot chocolate after supper most nights.

We are also noticing a big difference in the way they discipline or don't

discipline their children until later in life. If we see our kids doing something incorrectly or wrong we normally tell them that what they are doing is wrong and why, so they will learn for the future. Here they let their kids do whatever they want, whenever they want without consequences. However, the children don't always act this way. There is an age in which the children "grow up" and are expected to follow the rules. We

aren't sure what that age is, but are wondering if it is around the time they enter high school since they go away to a boarding school, which is usually very strict. Even though we feel that the younger children need more discipline, we also realize that we are living in a home that disciplines more than normal, probably because they are Christians. Also, we have had to change the way we discipline in that we can not do anything publicly or we will be looked down upon. If there is a problem we take the kids to our room and then do whatever is necessary. But it is still a challenge because overall if a child (especially Emily since she is so young) wants something, she gets it.

As you can see there are many changes that we need to be familiar with and know about. We are thankful for the time we have been given to spend with the Choge family as we learn and grow. We are also thankful that the Lord has helped us adapt to the culture so far and that the girls are taking all these changes in stride.

PRAYER REQUEST &

Prayer Requests

Kenyan government — strength & stability.

Africa Inland Church — strength & stability

Spiritual growth for us as a family

Cultural Adjustments - language, food, discipline, & transportation

Financial partners — currently at 96% of our monthly support. We have also incurred some extra financial bills due to language school and our home stay. Our vehicle fund is also short around \$500

Home stay — we have about 4 weeks left

Praises

Safety & good health in traveling.

Transition is moving along.

Financial Partners—The Lord has provided 96% of our monthly support.

Weather—the cold season has ended and things are sunny & warm

*Know therefore
that the LORD your
God is God; he is
the faithful God,
keeping the
covenant of love to
a thousand
generations of
those who love him
and keep his
commands.*

Deuteronomy 7:9

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