

14 October 2011

Dearest Friends and Family,

“Lord it’s much easier for me to do my job when I’m not also trying to do Yours.” Mark Collins, Daily Guidepost 2011

I wanted to clarify something I didn’t mention in my last email about our retiring. We are retiring but Kathie Mann is not. Kathie will still be responsible for all mission work teams to Kenya – setting up dates and scheduling teams, giving the information needed and working with the teams. She was appointed to that job by Presiding Bishop Kanyaru many years ago and has done a fabulous job. Bill and I could have never managed without the hard work and perseverance of Kathie. Thus Rev. Jim and Rev. Sue will be taking our place with teams when they arrive in Maua and Kathie Mann will continue to schedule, coordinate and work with all mission work teams coming to Maua or anywhere in Kenya. If any of you are interested in a work team Kathie’s email address is [texaspim@txcumc.org](mailto:texaspim@txcumc.org)

Also if you would like to receive emails from Stanley Gitari, the Coordinator of the Community Health Department and the person that oversees the AIDS Orphan’s program, Hope Companions, Palliative Care, the Outreach Program along with the Maternal and Child Care Program, his email is [community@mckmauahospital.org](mailto:community@mckmauahospital.org) and he would be happy to add you to his list. He writes emails about the hospital frequently and that would allow you to keep up with Maua Methodist Hospital when we are gone.

Bill has been busy with the new kitchen construction. He visits the site many times daily and has helped the builder understand and follow the plans. He is also working with accounts. I have been working on our itineration (home assignment) schedule which includes writing to over 80 supporting churches and keeping track of who has and hasn’t responded and working with Bill to make decisions and our schedule. We are so thankful for the wonderful churches and individuals that have supported us while we have served at Maua Methodist Hospital and allowed us to see the power of God’s love.

Along with that I have been trying to complete some unfinished jobs like printing colored signs and laminating them for our Infection Control and Prevention Program and writing memos and letters about areas that will need follow-up and follow-through.

I also have been taking pictures of Maua town and the hospital. Though I don’t have all the pictures I want, I have added many this past week. I thought you might enjoy a few of them. These show some of the daily scenes and happenings in Maua town.



Street people going through the garbage



A woman carrying wood to market



Selling caps and belts and other items



All the items on the ground are toys – our toy store



Fruit & vegetable market across the street from the hospital



Furniture store

Last night and into this morning it rained and rained – 2.6 inches of rain. We are hopeful, prayerful that this is the beginning of a wonderful rainy season. A rainy season that allows all to have food, enough for their families and enough to sell. One way that we gauge the beginning of the rainy season is that after the first big rain of the season the termites vacate their mud homes and fly to the light, drop their wings and die. This morning our front and back door had literally 100's of dead termites, as we leave a light on at night. Thus you should see the smile on all the faces in Maua. We have been happy dancing all week as we have heard of rain and snow in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. God is good!



Termite mound which took over a tree



Termites on our front porch this morning

Recently we went to Samburu Game Reserve. We have not been there since 2008 and so much has changed – especially the road there. It used to take us 3 ½ to 4 hours to get to the reserve which meant one had to spend the night there. When we went it took us two hours to get to the reserve on beautiful roads and we went and returned in one day. We entered at Buffalo Springs Game Park. We had always been told that there were underground springs that fed the rivers on that side of the park and thus the park always had water. To our shock there was no water, no small river and everything was so dry. We saw very few animals on that side of the park.



Dry landscape at Buffalo Springs Park



Dry river bed fed by underground springs

When we reached the Uaso Ngiro (River,) which we had not seen with much water in a very long time, the river had water from side to side. We were so excited as the Uaso Ngiro is our favorite river and the place we feel most like we are in Africa. We saw many animals, though not as many as in the past as there is not enough green grass and food to feed large herds of animals. It actually rained that afternoon for which we were so thankful.



Elephant crossing the Uaso Ngiro



Mama lion and one of her two cubs that we watched for about 1 hour

Along with animals in the wild that are dying from starvation due to lack of rain, we have cattle, goats and sheep but most importantly we have people throughout are area starving to death. Mr. Gitari has recently written an email about the food he has purchased with donor funds and given to some villages and saved many lives. Please join us in praying that the Government and other programs will be able to feed the starving in Kenya and East Africa and that this rainy season will be long and good (2 months – 15 October to December 2011) and the people can feed themselves.

A very big thank you to all of you who have sent emails and given funds to build the kitchen. We are very close to having enough money and we are grateful beyond words. The work is going on though will be delayed by rain but we so desperately need the rain, we will wait.

We are praying for you as you pray for us and thankful for all each of you have done to support Bill and me and Maua Methodist Hospital.

Our cup runneth over,

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“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.” Khalil Gibran