

Billy and Crystal Coley

Missionaries to Kenya



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Dear Pastor and Church family:

Adjusting to Life in Kenya

At the end of January, Crystal and I moved into a house next door to the veteran missionary and his family that we are helping. As we seek the Lord about a place where He would have us plant our first church, this adjustment time has been very valuable to us to not only study Swahili but to also get familiar with the people, culture, and ministry here in Kenya. I will complete my refresher course in Swahili by the end of March. Crystal will continue on with her language classes for a few more months.

Crystal has been very busy making our house a home. We have only been surprised a few times by uninvited "guests" such as small ants, large safari ants, one "mammoth" sized spider, and the every day house geckos. Early one morning, after dealing with a colony of ants dropping from our bedroom ceiling through a light fixture, I mentioned to Crystal that missionary stories were a lot more fun to read than to experience. 😊

We also thank the Lord that my work permit came in this past month. We are currently working on getting Crystal's dependent pass. Lord willing, by the end of this month, we will have all of our necessary paperwork to remain in Kenya long-term.

Adjusting to Ministry in Kenya



This past month, I was again given the opportunity to preach in Swahili. I am still working on my freedom and flow of thought in Swahili; therefore, I have been writing out my entire message before I preach it. I do not do this when I preach in English, but it helps me to not be at a loss for the correct words when I am in front of the church. I noticed improvement over the last time I preached in Swahili; and thankfully, others noticed as well!

As we travel around the area during the month, my wife and I have made it a practice to pass out Gospel tracts and talk to people about the Lord, even if it is a short conversation. Usually, I have mixed English and Swahili as I speak with people (most people in the Nairobi area know both languages); but in order to build my confidence and freedom in Swahili, I am working on using only Swahili while out among the Kenyans.

This past Saturday was a beautiful day for people to be out doing laundry, etc. It also happened to be an opportunity for soulwinning at Karen Baptist Church. While no one made a profession of faith that day, we were able to spend time talking with several people about their need of salvation. Using only Swahili, I spoke at length with four people about their need for salvation. Many others did not have the time to talk with us, but they accepted Gospel tracts. I had a young man with me from the church to aid me if I needed some vocabulary help, but I thank the Lord that I did not have any problems communicating! Please pray for Alfred and Peter as they were interested in hearing about the Lord, but they were not ready that day to accept Christ as their Saviour. We plan to follow up with them as the Lord allows in the coming days.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

Billy and Crystal Coley