

***"Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*** Isaiah 43:19



This verse would be a good way for us to sum up 2016 for our family. About two years ago we made the decision to join SIM and Sports Friends. We thought the process of moving to Kenya would go quickly, and in many ways throughout 2015, we wondered if it would ever happen. But as we entered 2016, things began to come together and we realized that the year of transition had begun. Many new experiences were coming our way.

In April, the Lord met our partnership goals and we made plans to depart for Kenya as soon as SIM Kenya could receive us. Arriving back in Kenya brought a wave of emotion. Even though Greg had made a few short trips to Kenya in recent years, it had been eight years since both of us went together. Also, this would be the first time that our children would be in Kenya.

We were anxious to get engaged in the Sports Friends ministry; however, there was one priority: language study. We were required to spend our first four months studying Kiswahili. Even though 80% of Kenyans speak English, Kiswahili is used frequently, particularly by the children, youth, those in rural areas, and by the underprivileged. Our tutor's name is Eva. We have enjoyed our language learning process, but have also found it challenging. We recently finished our full-time focus on language, but will continue to grow in our knowledge of the language (as our initial study was only enough to give us the basics of understanding their heart language).

Micah began first grade at Rosslyn Academy. He absolutely loves school and doesn't seem to mind the hour plus commute. He has many new friends from over a dozen different countries. While he mostly loves swimming class and recess, science is his favorite academic class. Tiffany is doing preschool at home, although she is looking forward to joining Micah at Rosslyn in the coming years.

As we studied language, we also worked to adjust to life in Nairobi (the capital of Kenya) and furnish our house. In the past we found it very easy to travel and get around using public transport, but we found it not to be as easy with children. We are thankful for the vehicle we have, that is not only adequate and safe for our family, but also allows us to pass through some of the rough up-country roads that look more like small washed out paths.

The first several months came with health challenges for our family. We have all gone through several rounds of sickness as we have adjusted to our new environment. Some of these sicknesses, as well as sports and play injuries, have led to hospital trips.

The Ministry

In October we were given approval to begin our ministry, the excitement that we were so looking forward to. Through strategic sports ministry, we are now doing the work of equipping churches to make disciples of youth, their families, and their communities. One of the young men we have trained is named Georges. He is a bible theology student and has a desire to use sports in full time ministry. After



Spirit Week: Favorite Book Character Day



being trained, he immediately put together a team of about 20 boys who he now trains and discipled. We look forward to giving him continued guidance as he impacts these young men.

One of our favorite partnerships so far has been with a local prison. Mary is a senior officer at the prison and has been asking Sports Friends for the past year to assist her in making sports ministry at the prison more successful. She has over 70 youth (children of prison staff living around the prison) that she is training. Through the Sports Friends ministry, we have been able to train over a dozen more prison guards who will help her. There are also 5 prisoners we were able to train in how to reach out to their fellow prisoners through sports. This ministry is moving forward and we are making plans for how to expand it to other prisons across the country.

The Sports Friends Kenya team has also seen significant growth. This year the team went from one mission family and one Kenyan, to three mission families, three Kenyans, and a Tanzanian. The team is coming together well and is looking forward to what the Lord will bring in 2017 and beyond.

Currently, Sports Friends Kenya has eight denominational partnerships in Kenya and Tanzania. We are looking to add three more in 2017, and will then focus on building out the ministry within those partnerships, as the opportunities are significant.

Partnership Update

Upon departure for the field, our promised support was at 100%. Since arriving on the field, we have received an average of 97% of our budget each month. During 2016 we have received support from 145 different individuals, families, and churches. 73 of those are partnering with us on a monthly basis, providing 84% of our budget. Other gifts are given quarterly, annual, or are one-time gifts. These are important in making up the difference in our financial needs. In order to cover increased ministry and medical cost, SIM increased our 2017 budget needs by 3%. We are grateful for each partnership that enables us to expand the Gospel and disciple followers of Jesus Christ.

Asante Sana

As we face the daily craziness of life here in Kenya, we keep our perspective in check by reminding each other, "Every day is an adventure!" Whether it is the traffic on the road, meeting people on the street, trying to communicate in our new language, traveling to somewhere in the bush, or trying to make ministry happen, we are thankful for these adventures. And we are thankful for your part in this adventure. Thank you for your part, whether in praying or in financial support, this is just as much your ministry as it is ours. Asante sana (Thank you very much)!

Laboring For His Harvest

Greg, Cambie, Micah and Tiffany Wilson

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