

5 January 2008
Nairobi, Kenya

Greetings from Kenya,

I'm getting ready to put my Christmas decorations away, and tea towels to candle holders scream out, "Peace on Earth!" That has certainly taken on new meaning in the past week.

Last Saturday I was visiting at the home of friends and was prevented from reaching my home due to the beginnings of violence on the streets in Nairobi. Early the next morning I was able to reach home and have stayed home out of the way of any violence since.

Along with most Kenyan's, I am shocked at how quickly things have spiraled downward after the disputed presidential elections that were held on December 27th. I trust you have been able to follow what is going on here in Kenya and will continue to follow Kenya's recovery to know how to pray most effectively.

To put things in a thumbnail

- I am safe – so far violence in Nairobi has been limited to key hot spots
- Other WGM Kenya missionaries and Samaritan's Purse staff and my former co-workers at Tenwek are safe – I talked with Jonathan and Reuben from Tenwek Community Health & Development this week and things appear to be quieting down in Bomet
- As reported by the media, over 300 have died in conflicts and at least 100,000 Kenyan's have been displaced from their homes
- Rallies being called for by the opposition have failed to materialize in Nairobi 2 days in a row and violence throughout the country is decreasing as people are becoming tired and just want to get on with their lives
- A political solution to the questions surrounding the legitimacy of the elections has not been found yet and mediation efforts continue

Kenya needs our prayers

- Pray that the church will be THE CHURCH in this crises: that it will be strength for the weak, that it will be a voice of peace and forgiveness to hearts harboring violence and evil, that it will be a source of food to the hungry and clothes and shelter to the homeless, and that it will be hope to those whose hope is faltering
- Pray for continued mediation efforts for a peaceable solution to disputed election results
- Pray that those involved in violence will become tired of fighting and lay down their weapons
- Pray for those who have lost family and friends and who have lost their homes and are displaced – may Jesus be their comfort in the hard days ahead

Bible update

- Since our advertisement to hire local Kenyan staff went out right before Christmas and with the ensuing chaos throughout the country, we have not received any applications. Pray that God will guide us to the right people or the right people to us – we're looking for 5 people to join our team so we can begin immediately
- Pray that road networks will open up to enable fuel and supplies to reach throughout Kenya and the land-locked nations to our west, including Sudan. This will also enable the Bibles headed to Sudan to be on their way from the port of Mombasa where they're still waiting to clear customs!
- Praise that we have received permission to have the tract, "Steps to Peace with God," translated into the six languages we are distributing Bibles in. Pray that the translators will have divine wisdom to make the message of God's love and salvation understandable to the Sudanese in their own languages

Thank you for standing in the gap for Kenya and her people. After living here for over 20 years, I certainly consider this home, or a close second!

Praying for peace in Kenya,

Joy

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