

Serving at Rift Valley Academy with Africa Inland Mission Intl.

September

2012



TRANSITIONS

The theme of this time of our life is “transition.” As we settle into life in Michigan for our one-year home assignment and prepare to return to Kenya in August 2013, we have experienced many blessings.

This last Sunday our pastor spoke from John 1:16 *“From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.”* He challenged us to “put down our umbrellas” and let the blessings fall on us. There are times people walk around with their “umbrellas” up, not receiving the blessings that God has in store.

Our goal for this year is to put our “umbrellas” down and not only receive the blessings God has in store for us this year, but to acknowledge that *every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights (James 1:17).*

We have seen God’s people reach out to us and welcome us with open arms. This was evidenced in our church lovingly finding a home for us to rent, setting up the house with furniture, and stocking our cupboards! One highlight of our time home, already, has been worshipping at our home church and starting to plug into the resources our church has to offer. Our goal is to tap into as many resources as we can so we can renew our marriage, family and walk with the Lord this year.



What we will be doing this year?

We are excited to plug into life here – Jeff will be serving at our church, Blythefield Hills Baptist Church, in the college age ministry. Joyellen will be substitute teaching part time at the kids’ school. We will be enjoying all the family milestones with our extended families. We also have 12 of our RVA students attending college in the West Michigan area, so we look forward to supporting them through their own transition.



Connecting

During this year we will be available to give ministry updates at churches and with individuals. We would love to connect with you! Take note of our contact information at the bottom of the newsletter. Let us know when and how we can connect with you. If you'd like us to come and speak at your church, Sunday school class, small group, etc. Let us know. We love sharing the ministry God has laid on our hearts.



Prayer and Praise

- Due to support target increases in the last four years, we need to raise additional support before we return to Kenya in August 2013. Currently we are at nearly 65% of our required support target. Please pray about partnering with us, if you are not already doing so. If your church is currently seeking missionaries to support we would love to come share the vision God has given us.
- Praise for the kids adjustment to school, church, and friends.
- We praise God for all the blessings we've received in this transition, from setting up our house to getting a van to having great neighbors and friends.



Our kid's first impressions of the USA:

Megan – “Kenya should really think about getting stop lights. They work so well here!”

Lyndsey – “God already answered my prayers of finding a new friend at school.” (when she met her gym teacher, Mr. Farrell, who attends our church and gave the kids a tour during summer break.)

Ian – (crying) “I just can't remember that the doors here open by themselves!” (after getting his fingers pinched in an automatic door the second week in the US.)



Connect - Follow - Contact

EMAIL: jjhazard@rva.org **BLOG:** <http://jjhazard.blogspot.com> **SKYPE:** jj_hazard

PHONE: 616-334-2171 **USPS:** 9024 Courtland Dr. Rockford, MI 49341