

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Kenya. We hope you are enjoying the fellowship of family and friends this Holiday Season as together we celebrate the birth and gift of our Savior.

## A BIGGER STORY



### For All That You Have Done

My new favorite song this year is a hymn from Rend Collective, titled “For All That You Have Done.” It’s an arrangement set to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne”. I love the focus this hymn gives to God’s role in guiding and leading us throughout the year and all our lives. The reminder that, by grace, we are part of His story. You can read some of the lyrics here in the outset. If you’ve not yet heard this song I encourage you to check it out on their album, Campfire Christmas Vol.1. As I write this, listening to this hymn, here are some reflections of what God has done for us this year.

- This term got off to a rocky start for our family. The day that we welcomed new students and parents for an orientation day is also the day that we received a phone call that **Jeff’s mom had suffered an aneurysm** and was heading into surgery. We went through the motions that day, hosting families and helping with the activities of the day, yet phoning Jeff’s family throughout the day for updates. Things continued to be tense, as we got word that Louise had suffered stroke like symptoms after her surgery. She was in the hospital for a week, and then a rehabilitation hospital for three more weeks. After a month, she finally was able to go home. The journey has been an uphill one for her, but her tenacity and strength in the Lord has helped her to make many strides towards recovery. We are thankful to get reports of continued improvement for Louise and pray that she will regain full strength.
- One big change was **Joyellen working full-time** outside of the home. After about 10+ years of being either a stay-at-home mom or only working part-time, this year Joyellen re-entered the classroom, this time as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Thankfully, she works alongside an experienced teacher who has been willing to share lots of tips and tricks, as well as being a part of a great staff up at “Titchie Swot” (the elementary school). The students are very sweet too – 27 energetic, kind-hearted, and very multi-cultural kids from all over the world. It has been a good thing!

#### For All The You Have Done Rend Collective

Your grace will never be forgot  
Your mercy all my life  
Will be my source forever song  
My story and my light

From mountain top to valley low  
through laughter and through tears  
Surely the goodness of my God  
Will follow all the years

For all that You have done for us  
for every battle won  
We’ll raise a song to bless Your heart  
For all that you have done

You know our failures and regrets  
You always led us home  
Redemption’s arm has raised us up  
Our triumph in the storm

For all that You have done for us  
For every battle won  
We’ll raise a song to bless Your heart  
For all that you have done



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- Another NEW thing is having a daughter in Jr. High! **Megan has entered 7<sup>th</sup> grade** with lots of enthusiasm! She feels very grown-up, being able to attend many new activities and going to a different part of campus for classes. She started completing her 12 tasks this year one of which is to change the oil on dad's Land Rover.
- **Jeff is** in the same position as the last few years – **Dean of Students**. He had a great season of **coaching Varsity Men's Football (Soccer)**. The team not only had an undefeated record, but were inspiring in their testimony on and off the field. His team had the privilege of going to a maximum security prison and playing football against the inmates and then sharing their testimonies afterward.
- We both have the privilege of **mentoring high school students** weekly. It is a joy to journey alongside these kids in their walk with God.
- In October, the school hosted **Eugene Cho**, pastor and founder of "One Day's Wages," to come out and speak to our kids. It was a fabulous week of hearing God's Word and renewal for our walk with God.
- We just said good-bye to our students for the Christmas break, and on the same day welcomed missionaries to our campus for our **annual mission conference**. It is always a quick turn-around, and yes, we were tired! But we were so blessed to sit under the teaching of **Chuck Sackett**, pastor of Madison Park Christian Church in Illinois. We enjoyed his speaking and hanging out with friends that we don't see often!
- During our Christmas break, we **welcome Joyellen's parents for a visit**, and **celebrate Christ's birth with our family** and friends here in Kenya!



## Prayer...

- **Pray for Jeff's mom, Louise**, as she recovers from her aneurysm and stroke.
- **Pray for our students** to have meaningful time with their families over break and safe travels to and from school.
- **Praise for a good first school term!**
- **Praise for Eugene Cho and Chuck Sackett**, who were able to minister to us.
- **Pray** that we would be **effective role models** in our ministry.
- **Pray** for us as we **balance our work and family life**.
- **Praise** that **Joyellen's parents** can come and visit!
- **Pray** for our **new school term** that starts up on January 5.

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You are receiving this email because you have partnered with Jeff and Joyellen investing in lives that Change the World.

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