

Update for Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – July 30, 2010

Dear Family and Friends,

While you recently celebrated the 4th of July, for us in Kenya, this is the time of year when the herds begin their migration into Masai Mara in the Serengeti. While you are suffering the summer blast of temperatures in the 90s with high humidity, we are nice and cool. Janice had her birthday on June 22nd, turning 44 and the temperature was 44! It was the first time she wore a turtle-neck on her birthday. To be honest, it is so easy to get weirded out here because life in Kenya is so different than in USA. Different seasons, different holidays. We missed our annual trek to the Creation Festival! It is hard to believe a year has gone by!

The school year has finished up for us. Alyssa had to get through five final exams before fully looking forward to her junior year. Donovan went on 6th grade safari for four days at a wildlife reserve. There he and his classmates



participated in team building and educational activities. He recently finished up his rugby season, a game he loves. They had a match where the 6th graders were against the junior high, which looked like they were twice his size! But Donovan knocked a couple of them down. The coach was excellent and they learned a lot of lessons.

The Dorm Girls also excitedly finished up the year. We praise the Lord for a really neat opportunity we had with them recently. We took all the girls to Malala, where one of the dorm girls lives. There we had a great time of bonding. The Malala River goes right by her house.

The dorm will again be full next year, but there is a possibility that some girls won't be returning. The school administration has to make some decisions about that, based on how things went this past year. Pray that families and girls are able to deal well with whatever decision is made.

I drove the bus for the RVA band and got to go to a lot of places. Every day they did two concerts, and the students did really well. At the concerts, the students got to interact and witness through music and conversation. I praise God for safety in travel, which, given the roads, is an answer to prayer. I roomed with the sophomore guys (and, yes, I slept by the door!). One place of note the band performed at was a Children's Home for kids that are born without limbs. The students gave their concert, and then had dinner with the kids. Watching the kids interact with the orphans was awesome. That night when we did debriefing, it was incredible to hear the students talk about how they were impacted by the joy of the kids. One other school they performed at had a high Muslim population (though it was not a Muslim school), and many of our students were giving their spiritual testimonies. At first the band director thought perhaps we should curtail this in order not to be offensive. But after further thought he decided that God can use this. In the end the school administrators were glad we had come.

Choir tour finished recently, and that went really well too, but I did not drive for that. I will likely drive buses for staff trips to the airport, because many of the regular drivers are going on home assignment or leaving the field.

I am so blessed to be working with the other guys in my two jobs. They are a good group of Kenyan guys who have been around a long time, and they make my job so much easier. They are my co-workers in the Arcade (not a place to play video games!) and in the Service Stores (like a mini-Home Depot). I also work very closely with a missionary who is school purchaser.

In our last letter, we mentioned that we were keeping some missionary co-workers kids and dog during senior safari (mid-term break), which meant we didn't have much of a mid-term break. But we are so thankful that we were able to get away for another weekend as a family in Nairobi. Some co-workers covered our dorm for us, and we were free! In Nairobi we relaxed, had a nice supper, slept in one morning, caught a movie, did some window shopping, and then some real shopping. Whenever we go to town we're shopping to stock up!

What's Coming Up!

After RVA graduation on July 17 we had ten days free before we leave for AIM's Africa-Based Orientation (ABO) that we missed last year. In those ten days, I did end of year inventory in the Arcade. Another missionary will do inventory in the service store while we are at ABO. So when school ends, my work kicks into gear. I did lots of ordering of supplies for next year when the kids come back. Then we'll head on a 2 to 2 ½ hour trip to AIM's Scott Theological College in Machakos, for three weeks at ABO in Machakos. We'll join 40 other missionaries (including kids) who are coming to RVA for the new school year. While we won't be teaching any courses, we will be able to help answer questions because we have spent a total of 2 ¼ years here.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Crispus, one of our Kenyan friends (we don't work with him directly, but I am with him almost every day), and his wife, Anne. Anne was pregnant and having complications. As a result they were going to deliver the baby six weeks early, but lost the baby on June 25th. Keep them in your prayers.

Also, please pray for transitions. Students from RVA have graduated and are going to different environments all over the world. Many staff are going on home assignment, some for a term, some for a whole year. Some are leaving permanently. Pray for the new staff coming on board, especially for adaptation if they have never been here before.

Lastly, please keep Kenya in your prayers. Kenya is having a constitutional referendum On August 4. On that day the country will be voting on a whole new draft of the constitution. Leading up to this there has been much controversy and disagreement. Sadly, there has also been violence. Recently, some church leaders held a rally in a park in Nairobi. As they were going into a time of prayer for the constitutional referendum, someone tossed three hand grenades into the crowd. Seven people were killed and about seventy were injured. Please pray that this violence doesn't continue. If you look at the history, most recently, the presidential race in 2007 was very violent, and we don't want to see that happen again. As we watch passions and tensions mount, please pray for a peaceful referendum. We will be in Machakos at ABO when this happens.

Related to that, some of you might be interested to learn that work is still being done in the Internally Displaced Camps (resulting from the violence in 2007). The United Nations is turning them into towns. One of the guys I work with in the Arcade has been instrumental in this. Businesses have been started. People's lives are being rebuilt, and it is awesome to see. Please pray for wisdom in handling the many legitimate requests for assistance that we receive. It breaks your heart to hear the stories and see the needs.

We greet you all, and we miss you all! We are so happy to be here, so grateful and appreciative for everyone and your support.

Love and blessings,

Lamar, for Janice, Alyssa and Donovan