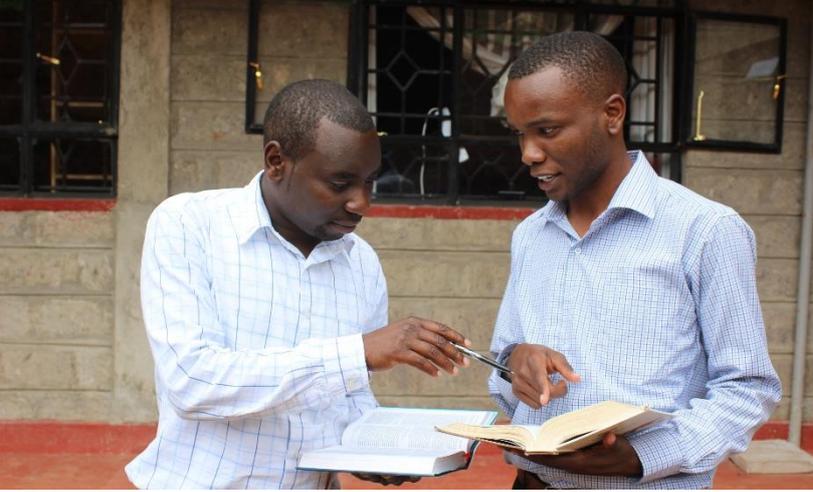


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Peter and Barnabas

Christ Jesus came into the world...
to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.
(1 Tim. 1:15)

DECEMBER 2017

Dear Friends,

Great thanks for:

- A very special holiday a few weeks ago. Six years since we were last at the Kenyan coast as a family. Very restful.
- A high degree of peace and security as a family and even to a large extent as a country over the last few years. God has been very merciful and gentle with us and surely prevented many potential trials.
- Grace for home schooling. Certainly a full time job for Susie.
- Lots of opportunities at the moment for Andy and Susie to meet up with and mentor people.
- Very kind friends in the UK helping to prepare a home for us to return to.
- Exciting, engaging work with iServe Africa which has been a true joy over the last six years.
- A Christ preaching church to be part of – GracePoint Kikuyu – and the children being happy there.
- All your prayers and partnership which have enabled us to be here and keep going.
- Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners like us.



Making sand castles doesn't seem to be a very Kenyan thing. People probably thought we were very odd.

Transitions

We always tell the iServe Africa apprentices that life is full of transitions. It is. And now we are experiencing one ourselves. We're entering a season of 'lasts' – last ministry training course week, last staff meeting, last Kenyan Christmas, last payments of particular charges, last visits to particular places, last meetings with particular people, at least for quite some time. We're grateful that its not a very hurried thing (we know people who have had to leave places in a very short and stressful period of time) but having the leaving process stretched out over a few months is quite a strange thing too. Andy officially finishes working for iServe Africa at the end of this month then we'll have a further six weeks to do final goodbyes and winding things up.

Kenya, as we're sure you're aware, has also been going through a period of rapid transitions. The situation has been shifting daily and almost hourly at some points over the last couple of months which has been very stressful for everyone and particularly traumatic for those in 'hot spot' areas. Finally Uhuru Kenyatta was sworn in again for a second term and things have very largely calmed down but the whole electoral process exposed sharp divisions in the country as well as the great need for servant leadership and servant-heartedness across the board. The next potential flashpoint is the planned swearing in on Independence Day (12 December) of opposition leader Raila Odinga by his supporters as a rival president of Kenya. That may well be thwarted by the government and security forces but please pray for peace and sanity to prevail through this period for the sake of gospel advance.



Kenyatta sworn in.

Picture: Reuters

Please pray for us in this time of transition...

- Most importantly to stay focussed on our gracious Lord Jesus, on the throne, ruling all things, returning soon. Pray that we would have a Christ-enjoying Christmas and have a good sense of perspective through this period and be gentle with one another.
- That we would not get wrapped up with ourselves but be good hosts (Christmas visitors), mentors, friends, neighbours and church members. Pray that we would be people-focused (not just tasks and jobs) and make the most of every opportunity to build others up.
- To keep on top of all the logistics (there's a lot involved in moving country after 7 years) and make good decisions about all the different issues involved. Pray that we would be able to sell / give away all our stuff and get it to good homes.
- That we would say goodbyes well and appreciate relationships. We're trying to have lots of different people round for meals over the coming two months. Pray we would pace that right as a family and be able to communicate to people how much we have valued them.

Dates coming up

- 11-17 Dec – Ministry Training Course – Andy preaching from Acts.
- 24 Dec – Carol Service at GracePoint Church – Andy preaching.
- 28 Dec-1 Jan – New Year missionary conference – time of refreshment and catch-up with many friends.
- 8-13 Jan – Andy speaking at Living Word Uganda student conference near Kampala.
- 15 Feb – family move – night flight to the UK.

Wishing you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas!

Lots of love, *Andy and Susie*

