

Billy and Crystal Coley

Missionaries to Kenya



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Dear Pastor and Church family:

A Promising Beginning to March

At the beginning of March, Kenya began relaxing a little on the COVID restrictions that had been placed on the country. Children under the age of 6 were allowed to come back to church, and Karen Baptist Church started their children's Sunday School class and adult Bible Study classes once again. Missionary BJ Cormier, with whom we are working temporarily, was excited to finally be able to have the kids back in church with the adults and to have classes back to normal. For a year now, churches had been restricted to one service a week! Bro. Cormier has given me the opportunity to preach frequently so that I may continue to put my Swahili into practice. He also started up some classes for his church members in Homiletics and Music.

As things looked to be getting a little closer to normal, Bro. Cormier and I had been discussing the possibility of an up-country visit in April. We planned to visit a church in western Kenya that had been started out of Karen Baptist Church. We were looking forward to making the trip and anxious to see how the Lord might work in hearts during the trip. In the meantime, we continued working with Karen Baptist Church and their evangelism program. My wife and I continue to pass out tracts and talk to those we meet about the Lord.

At the end of March, I was able to finish my refresher course for Swahili. My wife is continuing on with her course in Basic Swahili. I am thrilled at the progress my wife has made in the last four months!

Nairobi Metro on Lockdown

On March 26th, the President of Kenya made an announcement that due to the rise in COVID cases (with 70% of cases being in the Nairobi metro area), he quarantined the metro area from the rest of the country. No one is allowed to enter or leave the Nairobi metro without a pass from their local police. This announcement is in effect "until further notice." As we are living within the Nairobi metro, our plans to go up-country had to be canceled. In addition, churches were once again shut down. No in-person services are allowed. I am sure you can imagine the damper that put on the spirits of people; but we are able to continue having services by Zoom...yes, Zoom is here in Kenya, too! I was scheduled to preach in Swahili the Sunday after the presidential announcement; so, I had my first opportunity to preach to a camera here in Kenya.

Prayer Requests

A few days ago, Missionary Cormier started not feeling well. Out of an abundance of caution, he isolated himself to try to keep his family and others from getting sick. Yesterday, I got the news that he tested positive for COVID. I was asked to preach the English and Swahili services for the next several weeks. Bro. Cormier is currently being treated at home and is doing well enough that a hospital visit is not necessary. Please pray for Missionary BJ Cormier and his family as he recovers. Please pray for Crystal and I as we seek to be a help and a blessing to the Cormier family and Karen Baptist Church.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

Billy and Crystal Coley