

Greetings Everyone!

It has been a while since doing an email update. These days it is so easy to just quickly throw things on Facebook and we forget many still don't have Facebook. This will be a very quick update on the last few months of happenings in the lives and ministry of the Sawyers.

Church



Our church has seen an incredible growth spurt in the last 4-5 months. We currently have roughly 300 souls, adults and children, coming every Sunday morning, many people from across town have started coming as well. Our church is truly growing spiritually, praise God. I have been teaching through the book of Romans for the past two years and we have finally reached chapter 13! It is amazing to see the Word of God change hearts and lives!

Mara Children's Home

The home continues to be such a blessing and we love being able to help these kids have a better future and invest in them for the Heavenly kingdom as well. We currently have about 20 kids.



Mara Christian Academy

The School is running very well these days. We have over 200 kids and have officially started boarding this last term of the year. We currently have about 20 kids that are boarding. Mara Christian Academy went to its first round test a few months ago. A round test is where all the schools in the area come together and the 8th graders compete to see where they are all at education wise. We were so proud of our teachers and our students when they came out in 1st place overall and number one in science. I think the kids will only get better!



The Clinic

Straight Up Medical continues to be such a needed ministry. All hours of the night our staff can be called in for an emergency, many times I'm called too! One of the latest calls was at around 9 P.M one night where 5 people had been injured when a drunk guy started swinging his rungu around and whacking people in the head. Needless to say, it was three hours of much blood and stitching as three women were hit in the head. Soon we are hoping to add an ultrasound technician to help with the many pregnancies and other issues that need such technology. Also, we are close to purchasing an X-ray machine that will be such a blessing to so many.



Projects



Travis has been crazy busy doing projects lately. In fact, he is doing roughly 7 right now. He has been helping a children's home called the Omalaika Home build right next to our station. The Omalaika home houses almost 40 girls that were rescued or in danger of being early brides. He has also just finished the girls boarding for the school and is starting to build medical staff housing for our clinic. There is never a shortage of things to build.



Mara Bible Institute

Mara Bible has been going for almost a year and a half and the growth in the students has been amazing. Travis continues to teach 2 hours every Monday and Friday. There are currently 15 enrolled and hopefully will be graduating around May 2020. The area Bishop has said he would like Mara Bible to be recognized by The African Inland Church, kind of like being accredited, and that he wants to send pastors each year to be trained. So very exciting for us.



Women's Ministry

Women's Bible study on Tuesdays at 3 has been an ongoing study for many years and many ladies are coming and growing in Christ. Laura has also started a Women's Center Fellowship for the ladies across town who can't come on Tuesday, there are about 5 ladies and each Friday at 11 a.m. they meet in a different lady's house. They sing and teach the word. It has been a blessing and also an amazing witness to those around. Many of these ladies close their businesses for an hour just to come hear the word and fellowship!



Our Family



Our girls are amazing and are a huge part of what happens here. Sarah carries sick people to the clinic and tends to many needy elderly women throughout the week by carrying them food or feeding them and tending to their ailments.

Summer collects the food and gifts for the widow's dinner and has become Daddy's gopher when something needs carried.

Savannah hangs out with the school kids and the children's home kids and is starting to help in different ministries. She

is also in Swahili class!

Skylar hangs out at the school and enjoys playing with the kids, she is also in Swahili class.



We have added another young lady to the Sawyer girls and yes wouldn't you know it her name starts with an "S"! Her name is Serea. She is 17 years old and just was at a point in life where she needed some guidance and love. She has moved in with us and has become our 5th daughter.



Straight Up Missions

The first training of missionaries is starting in January. It is a 4-month training course in life in Missions and Bible. Heath and Rebecca Woodard, along with their 3 daughters, will be joining that class and Lord willing coming to Kenya next October. We desperately need the help and the partnership, please be in prayer for them as they prepare for this ministry.

I'm sure there is more I am leaving out but I said this would be brief. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support of these ministries and the Sawyers. We are truly humbled as we sit and think about the team God has assembled to support His work here.

In Christ,