

Improsos in Kenya

December 2010

Our Family Change

For 14 years our family has served in missions as one unit. Often, all we have in times of difficulties and challenges, is each other. Well, things always change through time! And so it is with our basic unit. We are only glad it took all this long, that by next summer our number in the field will reduce by two. How time flies certainly. Keren was two and a half and Kezia, one and a half respectively when we started our journey with missions in Embu. After attending various primary and secondary schools in Kenya, they will leave to take studies in a university in our home city in the Philippines. Keren's interest is in the field of Arts while Kezia plans Information Technology.

By mid-March next year, we will spend three months to get our girls started with their courses. There are a couple of good universities to choose from to qualify as *foreign students* because that is what happens when kids grow up and go to school outside their home country. Hopefully we have enough time with that schedule to do all requirements for admission. Keren is currently taking French lessons to help prepare with her interest in International Studies. Kezia uses most of our unlimited internet subscription to help her keep up with the world of cyber information.

Our year's calendar will include time to visit USA after getting our girls set at school. In 2006 only Gardner was given a visa. Hopefully this time Kelly and Ledith will be allowed to come also. We would appreciate your prayers and invitation letters to help our interview at the Embassy. Our activities will include reporting at the TCM Board meeting, personal and church visits and speaking at mission conferences.

If all takes place according to our plans, 2011 will be full of welcomes and goodbyes. I always think the former is exciting but the later is hard. The hardest will be to say goodbye to our girls who were never away from us, even a week, since they were born. Right now our thoughts and prayers are pretty much emotional preparation as parents away from daughters on their own. Any of you parents like to relate? Right now we hope and pray that we have laid a strong foundation for the girls to make the right moves as they find the way to what they want in life.

A big change is coming to us, but thankfully, our Lord never changes. He cares in times of togetherness, and certainly, in times of separation also. Please help us in prayer that both our needs here in the field and their needs at school will be supplied according to his riches in glory.



Dear Faithful Friends and Partners,

Greetings! In Kenya, when one leads by saying, "God is good," the crowd responds, "All the time." Then the leader speaks again by starting with, "All the time," as the crowd responds— "God is good." Sounds like the popular country worship song by Don Moen, but of course, it is all over God's Word, made real in circumstances whether favorable or not. We can start counting His goodness.

The Bible school property has finally received the permit to build at least its walls for the meantime. For five years of visits and appeals by the national leadership to the municipal offices, the land's front side is defined and protected with skillfully cemented stone



blocks and iron gate. Ceremonially, the laying of the first stone coincided with TCM Director Ben Anderson's presence with Pat and Robert Kilgo (father and son from Atlanta) who also did two full days of digging and laying of the foundation during the "Africa Safari 2010" short term mission. Now we need to start working the buildings inside while applying for electric power supply. These would take another set of long work processes and approvals from various local offices.

After more than 10 years, TCM has a new missionary family in Kenya: the Tollars. Jim and Missy with their three kids arrived late August to join with the field. Their arrival comes in a perfect time to team up with Peter and Margaret Kagwi's newly established church planting and training in Mombasa. While helping them set up, we realized the great need they have to fit into the new place, people, way of life, economy and ministry. We are on our 15th year but feel that if we were the ones moving to the coast, life would still be full of changes to cope with. There are bright reasons that make up these challenges though, a real need for Bible teaching and gospel presentation to amazingly interested people who seem to have heard many uncertain things about Christianity. We've seen it during our short visit.

We can count more increase with Grace churches in Kenya. Besides additional groups getting started, the older ones are growing in leadership and stewardship. Last month I preached in Kisumu and witnessed how 40 adult members raised their own funds and collected about \$1,200 for the church plot project. One of many great proofs of God's goodness is to see people giving, even in times of economic wants. Truly these are signs of a growing faith and dependence in God.

All your gifts, support and prayers are expressions of the goodness of God to us. Like protection, good health and opportunities, they are worthy of all appreciation. We always say thank you for keeping us on your list. As the year ends, we are brought again to his ultimate goodness— his only Son. Through him we received a perfect gift wrapped with humanity. This is the reason why we can give in return that which brings glory and honor to his Name. It is our hope and prayer that you will find this season as real as the angels' wish to the shepherds the day the Savior was born: "Peace on earth and goodwill to men."

In God's saving grace,

Gardner, Ledith, Keren, Kezia and Kelly Improso

