

SPECIAL EDITION: KENYA

Trip Highlights

- Bret was able to speak at three different chapels encouraging hundreds of MKs.
- Bret led an evening discussion for parents about how to prepare MKs to return back to the States.
- We were able to make many good contacts vital for our long-term vision of ministering to MKs and their families.
- The joy of visiting several of Bret's Maasai friends and seeing how the churches he worked with 5 years ago are progressing.
- Having Bret's mom come along on the trip to help watch Lydia and Bryce.
- Bret's dad and sister were also able to join us at the tail end of our trip to meet some of the people and see places of Bret's previous mission.
- Taking a few days to go on safari and view God's amazing creation.
- Our dilapidated and worn out rental cars survived the horrible roads without so much as a flat tire.
- Spending an afternoon loving the children at New Life Homes in Nairobi, a Christian orphanage for abandoned, HIV-positive babies (95% of whom miraculously become HIV negative during their care at this facility!)
- Celebrating Bryce's first birthday in Kenya. Can you believe he's one year old already!
- Waking up in the middle of the night to discover a baby elephant sleeping five yards away from our tent!



In between seminars and other ministries, we went to a giraffe farm and an animal orphanage. (Lft) Feeding a giraffe (Rt) Petting cheetahs



Lydia and Bryce with some of the orphans at New Life Homes. It was emotional holding abandoned babies, many of whom are HIV positive



(Lft) Bryce celebrates his first birthday in Kenya. (Rt) Bouncing around the Maasai Mara Game Park with Bret's family and Bret's friend Sampson

An Anxious Flight (cont.)

cine in the diaper bag, to the helpful reassurance of trained professionals, to the timing of people's prayers with the ultimate subsidence of the reaction). It was an emotional event to go through but we see how God carried us through it.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to so many of you who responded in prayer to our need.

Lydia has since been diagnosed with a food allergy to cashews and pistachios.

CMF Spiritual Retreat (cont.)

had brought with her.

On the last day, I was asked to speak at the closing Sunday service. I spoke from Isaiah 6 and encouraged the missionaries to remember that effective ministry comes out of a heart that worships God. I received several positive comments.

The highlight was at the conclusion of the retreat; one of the fathers had the opportunity to baptize his daughter. In the cold water of a murky lake, 10-year-old Cara Caziers confessed before witnesses Jesus is her Lord and Savior and was then baptized in His name.

Paper or Electronic? Beginning with our next quarterly newsletter (late March), we are going to start sending email copies of our newsletters. If you would prefer an email version, please let us know by emailing us at bret_taylor@sil.org. Also, if you would like to receive our regular prayer updates (sent out approximately twice per month), email Mindy at mindy_taylor@sil.org



Bret and Mindy with Lydia and Bryce

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In our previous newsletter, we mentioned that we were going to Kenya for two weeks in January for various speaking engagements. We have now returned and wanted to share a few stories with you.

An Anxious Flight

The first notable part of the trip happened on the flight from Washington, D.C. to London. Due to booking complications, we lost our economy fare seats and were upgraded to business class. Little did we know God was granting us the extra space we would soon need.

Shortly after take off, the flight attendants passed out complimentary packages of cashews. Within minutes of eating her snack, Lydia began to complain of her tongue hurting. As redness around her lips spread and her discomfort increased, we quickly realized that she was having a serious allergic reaction.

Fortunately, for some reason Mindy had packed Benadryl and hydrocortisone cream in our carry-on which we began to administer to Lydia as her body started to break out in hives and became extremely uncomfortable. Our efforts to soothe her only slightly minimized Lydia's discomfort as she continued to cry, itch, and vomit. Two EMTs and a heart surgeon on board began to communicate with medical services on the ground. Although they reassured us that her breathing wasn't being effected, Lydia continued to writhe in waves of pain despite their treatments.

After two hours of very little relief, I finally used the phone on the plane to call my dad and ask him to have friends and family start praying. We found out later that news spread quickly and people started interceding for us. Within twenty minutes of my phone call, Lydia began to calm down and soon fell into an exhausted sleep for the remaining three hours to London.

We look back and we give God the glory for how well everything turned out (from the unexpected extra room in business class to work on Lydia, to having the right medi-

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CMF Spiritual Retreat

Our trip to Kenya was a result of an invitation from my (Bret's) previous missions organization, Christian Missionary Fellowship (CMF). They have an annual retreat for missionaries to renew their focus and encourage each other on a spiritual level. We were asked to provide teaching and care for their children. When my mom, Donna, agreed to come along and help with Lydia and Bryce, we couldn't pass up the opportunity.

I (Bret) primarily focused on students ranging from 5th through 12th grade. I had prepared a lesson on the tabernacle, but at the last minute felt led to scrap the majority of the plans. Instead I opened with Philipians, Chapter Two where Paul tells us to "forget what is behind and strain for what is ahead." I then facilitated a time of sharing of what had been going on in their lives for the past year and to look ahead to what they believe God is calling them. It became a very intimate time of emotional sharing and heart-warming prayer. Many confessed they were struggling spiritually and felt uncertain about what to do. It turned into a powerful time of healing and encouragement.



Mindy spent her time with the younger children. She taught lessons about Jesus being our high priest. They played games, sang songs, and put a lot of energy into the crafts Mindy

(Continued on back)