

# MISSIONARY news

*from Kenya, with love* Spring 2017

## Blake and Esther Gibbs

We are very excited to be preparing to return once again to Kenya. Although, we do have to admit we are not looking forward to what it takes to get there.

We are scheduled to depart from San Francisco on Monday, March 13 at 5:05 pm for an eleven-hour, overnight flight to London. We will arrive in London late morning on Tuesday and will spend that night in London. Wednesday, March 15, we will depart early in the morning from London for Nairobi. After an eight-hour flight, we are scheduled to arrive in Nairobi at 8:30 that evening. We will spend the night at a guest house in Nairobi, not far from the airport. Then, Thursday morning, March 16, we will fly from Nairobi to Kisumu.

Yes, it will have taken us from Monday until Thursday to finally be back at Agape! But, it will be worth it! We can't wait to be back in Africa. Back with our missionaries and friends. Back with our Kenyan staff. Back with the children.

Please keep us in your prayers while we are away: that the Lord will grant us safety, that He will keep us in good health, that all of the connections and arrangements will go smoothly, and that all of our luggage will arrive safely and on time!

Thank you for praying and thank you for making it possible for us to serve the Lord with Agape.

Blessings to you,

*Blake & Esther*



Seth and friends build a fort in the bush!

Lyla and friends build a fort in the bush!



## The Page Family

Happy March to everyone! While your temperatures are warming up for spring, Kisumu's weather has finally cooled off with the arrival of the rainy season. It's pretty funny to see the kids wrapped in blankets and Tammy donning a sweatshirt in the mornings because (\*gasp\*) the temperatures of dipped into the upper 60s! Emma turns 5-months old in March; time flies so quickly when babies are little! Cole, likewise, turns 3 years old in March, and is in the middle of potty training. Seth and Lyla are both enjoying classes at Kisumu's international school, and Sutton (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and Connor (9<sup>th</sup> grade) are knee-deep in their new online A Beka homeschool curricula. Sutton and Connor are also hoping to get their braces off this summer, especially as we plan for our upcoming time in the U.S., July 26<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. We're just starting to put our itinerary together for our furlough, so please let us know if we can come visit with you, your church, or your small group while we're back home!

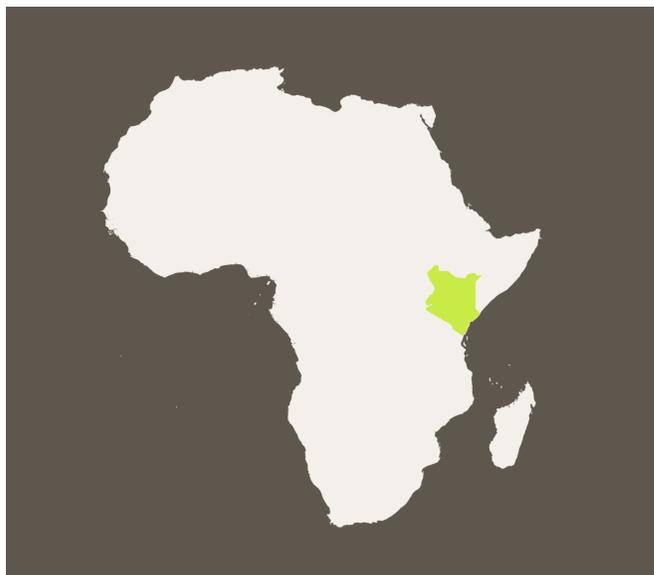
Last month I wrote about a young Muslim girl named Hadija\* and asked that you be praying that she would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. God answered our prayers, and Hadija professed her faith in Jesus Christ in February. Please keep praying for Hadija and that we would have wisdom on how to safely reintegrate her with her family. God is so good!

Thank you all for your prayers and support! We couldn't serve Christ in Kenya without you!

*The Pages:* Chris, Tammy, Sutton, Connor, Seth, Lyla, Cole, & Emma

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\*Hadija's name has been changed to protect her identity and confidentiality.



## Jonathan and Andrea Dowell

We are just about to start our busiest season for 2017, and we are SO looking forward to what God has in store! We are preparing to welcome a few different groups of visitors to Kisumu, and we, of course, are so looking forward to seeing so many friends and also introducing new people to the amazing work God is doing in Kisumu.

This year, due to the election in August, most of our visitors will be coming in March and April. Our Executive Directors, Blake and Esther Gibbs, will arrive in mid-March to begin work on the construction of the new Agape Girls Center. We are SO EXCITED to see this project underway. What an answer to so many years of prayer! We look forward to sharing photos as the project gets underway. Relocating the Agape Girls house to the main campus will allow us to remodel an existing building to meet our needs. We will be creating a facility that can house more girls to meet a growing need in Kisumu and also remove the need to maintain two campuses in the same city.

We are so grateful for the amazing ways God has provided for this project by bringing prayer supporters and financial supporters to cover the cost of construction/remodeling necessary to make the move. Thank you for your part in making this happen! We are praying the facility might even be ready before the August election in five

months. This would be a small miracle, but we serve a God who is more than able.

We are also watching God answer prayer in a big way towards Agape's expansion. The Kitale expansion fundraising is underway, and God is proving in BIG ways. We are blown away by His provisions!

We are currently planning another short trip to Kitale in March 2017 to perform another street census and continue the preparation work necessary for expansion. We hope to meet with some of the government officials we met with earlier and share our progress and anticipated timeline. We are currently still in prayer for another missionary family who would fill the role of Agape-Kitale directors. Running two locations (Kisumu and Kitale) would require at least three missionary families. Currently, we have two missionary families on the ground here. More details about the position as well as an application are available on our website ([agapechildren.org](http://agapechildren.org)).

As we enter our busy time, would you please be in prayer with us over these things? Pray with us for energy to make it through our busy season. Pray that our visitors will be safe and healthy and have a positive experience here in Kisumu. Pray that God would be preparing their hearts even now for what they will experience. Pray for Agape Girls construction, that God would continue to lead and guide and provide and that construction would be completed in a timely and safe manner without obstacles. Pray for God's continued financial provision for the Kitale expansion. Pray that God would lead and guide our fundraisers to the right individuals who would give generously to the project. Pray for God's leading and direction for a new missionary family to be the Agape-Kitale directors. Pray that God would be working in their hearts, and that they would be sensitive to His prompting. We are so thankful for your prayers and your willingness to stand with us as we pray together over these things. We serve a faithful God, and we are so looking forward to watching Him answer these prayers this year!

In Love,

*Jonathan & Andrea*



Kitale Outreach

## Steve and Dianne Warn

Still moving onward and upward. The Pacific Northwest adventures last month were blessed by the Lord. We didn't get to see everyone, but we did have many divine appointments. Many contacts were made at Mission Connexion in Portland. Thanks for praying. Next mission conference will be March 15-17, the 87th for BIOLA. Prayers welcomed. We leave for meetings in North Carolina, Kansas, Kentucky and Colorado end of February. Our travels will include a visit with granddaughter and family. "We are learning in whatsoever state we are in to be content."

The Lord Jesus Christ is giving His power and great wealth into our souls that we are satisfied daily in union and communion with HIM.

*Steve and Dianne*

Philippians 4:11-13 (NKJV)

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ [a] who strengthens me.



Miriam walks!