



## ROYAL RANGER MISSIONARIES IN AFRICA

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### Life in Nairobi, Kenya

We have been here in Africa for 15 months and are well-adjusted. We recently started studying Swahili with a tutor so we can communicate better when we go out to the villages. We have been telling the Kenyans that, like a child, we spent our first year "learning to walk." We had to learn how to drive on the opposite side of the road, find our way around Nairobi, build relationships with the national church, etc. Now the second year is for "learning to talk."

Praise God, it is finally raining! Kenyans' have been planting (it is spring time here since we are below the equator), and everything is green again. We are getting electricity on a regular basis, although the price per KWH has nearly doubled. Presently, water is available four days a week in stead of one. Thanks to all of you who told us you were praying. Of course, Kenya still needs a lot more

rain after such a prolonged drought, so please keep praying.

#### Royal Rangers in Africa

We were able to help with the expansion of Royal Rangers this past year into Swaziland and Namibia. Uganda now reports that they have 5 active outposts with about 280 children. We want to thank those again who sent special contributions to make the June trip to Uganda possible.

With new nations comes the need for advanced training. In April, 2010 we are planning the first International NTC (National Training Camp) for Africa. This intensive 4-day course is required for all Royal Ranger leaders in order to hold effective and safe campouts with their children. Leaders from Madagascar, Malawi, Ghana and Uganda are planning to attend, plus, we are expecting the Royal

Rangers of Europe to send 1 or 2 instructors. Women will be allowed at this NTC for the first time in Kenya.

Reaching children for Christ is the main goal of Royal Rangers. In Kenya, we are involved in some real spiritual warfare. Children in some slum areas are being recruited into devil worship, and we even have some that come to Royal Ranger meetings that are demon possessed, and leaders have to cast the demons out. This is another reason why we have to begin teaching our children when they are small and why children's ministry is so essential. The devil is not standing idly by.

Another main goal of the Ranger ministry is keeping children for Christ. Keeping children, particularly boys, is a big need in Africa—first addressed by the nation of Malawi at Africa Summit in 2007. Many churches begin to lose boys around their

adolescent years, because they do not have adequate programs for them.

In Kenya, young men go through a rite of passage after 8th grade, and the secular world pushes them to begin experimenting with drugs, alcohol, and inappropriate relationships with young women. Many boys leave the church as they seek to become "men" and never come back. The Royal Ranger ministry in Kenya has created a special home called the Royal Bridging Centre, where Christian boys go to learn what the Bible says about becoming a godly man and having healthy relationships. The pilot church using this program has retained 100% of its boys, so far, and they come out as strong followers of Christ.

Trips planned so far for 2010 include a return to Uganda, an RR training event in South Africa, and a RRI Council meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.

### Family Life

Prices rose a lot during the drought, but we have a home milk pasteurizer now and buy fresh milk direct from a local farm to save money. We also have a few hens, so we can supply our own eggs. Stacey makes everything from homemade flour tortillas to our own vanilla extract to make ends meet.

Africa has its share of challenges, but we are honored to be part of the great work God is doing here.



Thanksgiving 2009 in Kenya