



Not Our Timeline

I had hoped to write an update once we returned to Kenya, full of good news upon arrival. We have a support update, so that's coming. I had hoped to share my plans for using my counseling license. I had hoped to report on our AGENDA so you could know that your support, prayers, and donor dollars were all being put to good work.

I had hoped 2025 would be easy.

God is still good. The timeline and agenda just weren't in our "top 3".

You may have heard this already, but we found out that Josh's older brother was in a car accident 4 days after we returned to Kenya, and he passed from this earthly home into his heavenly forever. We found out the news the day we were leaving our kids at boarding school and heading home to Mombasa. Shocking news takes time to digest, and comes with a lot of questions of WHY? Why did Jason die just 2

months after marrying Sherry? Why did this family tragedy happen right after we returned to Kenya, when we couldn't easily be with all of our family back in Texas? How do I easily trust the Lord with my other loved ones, including our son in college?

These aren't easy questions for us to answer. In the days we have had to process this earthly loss, and grieve, and celebrate Jason's life with the help of technology that spans oceans, we are hopeful. Hopeful that God's answers will bring more peace than we could ever imagine, even without knowing when we will know those answers. Confident that God knows the numbers of our days, and Jason's life was complete. Trusting that God knows the desires of our heart, and is compassionate to bring comfort when our desires don't fully line up with how things are going.

While traveling back to Texas wasn't the path we chose, we knew our family was understanding, and we felt we needed to stay in Kenya, be near our younger two sons, and let our bodies recover from all the travels of the last 4 months while we connected with family through phone calls.

More than ever, we have realized our timeline isn't the same as God's, our agenda is limited to our finite knowledge of tomorrow, and our ability to orchestrate all things is definitely limited compared to God's limitless. Now that we have returned to Mombasa for the second time, our hearts are feeling humbled as we surrender this season into God's hands, hopeful it will be the full definition of God's GOOD. We have so many reasons to rejoice, and not even death can take away our joy.



(I found this picture online)

I love new beginnings. I love having a word for the year. I love having a new journal, a new calendar, and if possible, a clean and fresh space to create

new beauty.

This beginning of 2025 is a bit shrouded in mystery. I don't know if it's a Restoring year, an Equipping year, a year of Waiting, or of Joy. I trust so wholeheartedly in Jeremiah 29:11- I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord..... I wish I knew, too.

In all honesty, I've wrestled with coming back. I don't even know all the reasons why. But I have been feeling like the Lord has been compassionate to my frustrations, and has urged me to worship Him with a sacrifice of praise. Praising comes easy in the easy times, but it really does feel like a sacrifice right now. And YET, my prayer is that JOY amidst all of it wins!

I can't wait to update you about my counseling plans. I'll let you know when I find out.

I'd love to tell you that we're 100% funded- I don't think we are- but trusting that God will provide. Being obedient means telling you that we think we're about \$200/month away from our goal that we shared while in Texas. We had many great conversations about support, and now we are waiting and trust God to provide the funds into the account. He has been faithful, and we're confident that we've done what we can to fundraise well.

I am thankful to say that our family is doing really well. Matthew is loving college, making friends, learning about life in America, and all the things. Caleb and Jordan are navigating high school and all that it comes with, and realizing God made them for greatness- we've had some really good talks recently, amidst the things they face each day- the fun and the hard. Josh and I are always learning, always growing, and thankful to be doing it together. Some days are easier than others, and we still appreciate the help and support of others to encourage us in our relationship. Marriage and family are the first to be at risk of disunity, when we are surrendered to God. We appreciate prayer to stay strong.

We appreciate your support.

We appreciate your donor dollars, especially if you decide you want to join

our support team.

We appreciate your prayers- we have felt it in this season- please don't stop!

[Give Towards the 200](#)



Our first short term volunteers of the year! Tracy Stringfield, one of our board members, came to Lighthouse with her husband, David. They blessed us personally with encouragement and compassion. They stepped into the complexities of starting a new Contact Lens Clinic at Lighthouse, teaching and training our staff in both normal and medical contact lens- it's more complicated than that, but I understand it in layman's terms, so there you go. We're so excited to have this new project underway, and to work towards another aspect of our eye clinic ministry that will help meet the vision needs in East Africa!



This is just a snapshot of our traffic near our house, but I can always find a good analogy. This guy is carrying hundreds of pounds of potatoes, balanced

precariouly on his motorbike. Would you join us in prayer as we reach out to people who are carrying heavy burdens here in Mombasa? Pray not just for the ease of the burdens, for it's often unavoidable in a place like this, but that we would help others carry burdens well.



One of the realities of returning to our humid coastal home after being away is that things fall apart. The dogs ate it, the mold grew on it, the rust destroyed it. It's an

annoyance at the least, and a wrestling in my heart at most, because I can't control it.

Ironically, this signboard in my office, which used to say "Surrender. Trust," now says Surrender Rust. I see you, Jesus. These little things that chip away at my peace can completely distract me from purposeful living here. Maybe I'll keep this reminder up while I'm working through some things. "He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." (1 Colossians 1:17)

Prayer Points:

- Pray for these next 6 weeks of establishing rhythms, intentionally seeking God's agenda, and establishing some new team roles.
- Pray for our clinic, for the growth in numbers of patients, for our outreaches into rural parts of Kenya, for our staff to keep sight of their opportunities to share Christ through loving our patients.
- Pray for our Bible school, for our leadership, for our missionaries that support the school, and for the students' lives to be transformed.
- Pray for our churches, to grow deep roots through discipleship
- Pray for our sons- Matthew, Caleb and Jordan, as they daily step into battle for their hearts.

Thank you!

Josh, Maggie, Matthew, Caleb and Jordan
