

Haven't heard from us lately?

Christmas Update (from the last few months)





Not surprising, it's been a few months since our last update. If you followed the theme of this year, we've been on a a deeply transformational, very hard at times, and very joyous roller coaster. As we're reminded in Hebrews, sometimes we just need to hang on!

We've been very thankful that the last couple of months have been full of great experiences, reminders from God about His provision towards team, and watching the pieces fall into place regarding our oldest son's college choice.

As with everybody's story, there are other challenges that accompany our path, but it's become easier to surrender these big things to the Lord and trust Him for the outcomes.

We are currently on Stateside, which began in mid-October with our board meeting in Dallas. Since then, the three of us took a road trip East, to visit Matt's school and several of our friends, board members and supporters. We also reveled in the fall foliage. These are things I miss, and we soaked it in while we could. Our younger 2 sons joined us the day after Thanksgiving, and we're spending a few weeks in Texas, doing a lot of renovation work on our rental property and manual labor in between church visits and family time. We're excited to take another road trip with the 5 of us, to get some sweet family time before we

go our separate ways.

We are also doing our Stateside fundraising- we are still needing an additional \$875/month in support, so if you feel called to join our monthly support team, click on the donate button below! Super easy, and super appreciated!

If you thought about signing up but haven't done it yet, now's the time! We leave in one month...

We appreciate all of you who have come alongside of us with support and encouragement!

[Support the Ghrists](#)



Two Graduates in 2024!

Sometimes God takes us on long, winding journeys. For me (Maggie), my journey towards becoming a counselor began with a love for coming alongside people who are hurting or struggling. In my desire to be better equipped to help other missionaries, I went back to graduate school to get my masters in counseling to pursue licensure in Texas (while still living and serving in Kenya). I'm so happy to announce that I graduated with my degree, and will now be able to help other global workers as an LPC-associate. The exact path is still unfolding, but this is an added element to the ministry that we have with Lighthouse. My hope is to use this to help equip and encourage others in ministry with resources for whole health, including mental health. I'm excited to see how God guides my steps and to share that with y'all!



Matthew graduated in July, and spent 3 months as a media intern at Lighthouse. Since the three of us (Josh, Matt and I) arrived in the States, we had an opportunity to visit the school where he will be attending, starting this January. At this time, he would love to work towards getting back on the mission field, and will be studying business administration and Biblical studies. Columbia International University seems to be a great fit for him, and we're excited to see him get settled into his new world! Pray for great friends and some good adults who can come alongside him as stand-in "parents" to guide him with adulting in the US.



What We Don't Know

I post this picture of Josh and I from our senior year of high school because it reflects a time, 25 years ago, when we didn't know what we know now.

We're in a season of walking into a lot of "I don't know"s. Some of it is because Josh and I grew up in Africa, and we don't know how to prepare our son to live an adult life in country that we barely have figured out. Buying a car, getting insurance, navigating the medical system.... Some of it is because I (Maggie) am embarking on a new career (to add to our current mission calling with Lighthouse) and it's so new and different. Licensing boards, counseling agencies.... Some of it is because life and community is ever-changing on the mission field, and we know what we want but not sure

when or how God will provide. Teams, friends, family..... Some of it is financial- we've had some really big challenges this year and preparing a son for college, and we're watching bills come and money show up.

We're learning we just need to be comfortable with the unknown. "For I KNOW the plans I have for you, declares the Lord" He knows. He guides us feet towards the right steps to do the things that need to be done.

In reflection, we can see how it all falls into place. At the beginning of this year, there were some big and emotional unknowns. We've seen God take care of it. We've seen Him provide, and care for us in the process. We've seen our struggles, we've experienced failure and healing and resilience. We've walked with our kids through some hard issues and have seen God provide supports and friends and encouragement and resources. In reflection, we are reminded that God is good, all the time.

That doesn't always mean we will be comfortable. I'm constantly reminded of the story of Gideon, as he prepares his army to fight a really big army. God kept reducing the size of his army, when he *knew he needed more. Sometimes God takes away, or allows us the opportunity to be so fully dependent on Him, that there is no way we can take credit for the great things He does. That's beautiful. And hard to live out. And so worth it.

So here's to 2025, and all that we don't know (but God does.)



Sharing Lighthouse

A big part of what we do when we are in the States is share about what God is doing at Lighthouse. It's been a joy to share our video update (click on the link below), and tell people about this amazing ministry.

God has been doing SO MUCH through Lighthouse in Kenya (and beyond!) for the last 55 years. We're humbled to be a part of that story. We love getting to meet new people who want to be a part of the ministry through supporting, praying, and volunteering!

[4-minute Ministry update VIDEO](#)



Our team for the last half of 2024. So thankful for Maggie's parents- Bob and Leia Evans, who filled in interim for finance overseer and hospitality. Bob is still working remotely, even as they are back in the States. Erick and Megan Mwenda are serving with our Bible school and pastors and volunteers. Tim and Toni Ghrist (Josh's parents) are moving to working part-time, as they teach and mentor pastors, and prepare to hand over their role to future teammates. Matthew Ghrist (our oldest) and Mackenzie Steck worked for us for 3 months in our media department, collecting and writing stories for our social media, and helping out with teams. Josh continues to serve as the Mission Director and I help with communication and volunteer hospitality.

2025 will look different, but we're very thankful for the team that God is providing each step of the way!





How You Can Pray

- For our family, and Matthew, as he begins college and we adjust to family being on two continents- pray we find ways to stay connected
- For Maggie and next steps with counseling
- For the healthy growth of our team, and conversations we will be having with an interested couple in Georgia during January
- For Josh- for strength, for wisdom, for supports to carry his responsibilities well
- For financial provision- for the big things on our radar (our rental house repairs and college expenses this year)
- Financial Support for ministry- for an extra \$875/month to be raised before we leave for Kenya
- For Caleb and Jordan- flying alone on Jan 2 back to Kenya- for each connection and part of travel back to school
- For our time here to be intentional and restful- we leave the US on Jan 23 to return to Kenya

Thank you for praying and coming alongside of us!!

Josh, Maggie, Matthew, Caleb and Jordan





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