



**In Him, All Things Hold Together**



### **Word of the Year- Preparing**

In my last update, I said I wasn't sure what the purpose of this year was. Why the struggle? Why the pain, when we wanted to return strong? Josh and I both sensed something big is on the horizon, and as we dedicated ourselves to 6 weeks of consistent prayer together, God did some amazing things.

-He brought a lot of healing to our hearts in the wake of grief over Jason's passing.



- He taught us how much He wants to hear the desires of our hearts.
- He brought peace to our wrestling hearts even though circumstances weren't changing
- Some big things have been hanging in the balance, which would mean big changes for us, and YET, we have peace over God giving us more time with the way things are, or bringing life out of something new
- He gave me some direction with my counseling.
- We learned that prayer is So much better than worry. We've earnestly sought God's better perspective on the things that happen, the things we want, the future of our ministries, and the lives of our children.

God has been PREPARING us. These past 6 weeks have been transformational. Our goals for each day have become that we would be obedient to what God puts in front of us today, since we really don't know much about our tomorrows. This perspective is helping us to be faithful in the little things (and sometimes big!) and surrendering the unknowns a little easier.



## Neighboring building collapse

Written before demolition-

“On April 2nd, at 7:30pm, the 12-story building next to Lighthouse began to collapse. The entire first floor collapsed, causing the remaining 11 stories to sit precariously, tilting and leaning partially towards our Eye Hospital, which is just across the street. Our annex with a pharmacy, optical shop and future eye bank are directly on the other side of the building.

As I write this, our family is staying away from our house because the entire compound and neighborhood were evacuated for safety. It was very eery to see military police the next morning, forcing everyone to leave. It was hard leaving our house, knowing that even in the best-case-scenario, we will be returning to a mess after the building comes down. We are so prayerful that the controlled demolition doesn't do further damage to our property, but it will be a ton of dust at best. We appreciate your prayers over this crazy situation.

This is one of those big things that feels really heavy. It's the latest in line of what we realize we need to hold loosely, so God can do what He will, and we trust Him to bring greatness and be glorified in the midst of this situation that we never would have planned for. “

Written after demolition-

The morning of the demolition, we were glued to the TV screen for 5 hours while they kept delaying the blast that would take down the neighboring building. We spent a lot of time in prayer, journaling, and earnestly trying to surrender our lives as we know it- our home, our ministry.... Faith really is built in the spaces where we absolutely know we have no control.

Praising God for His miraculous protection over the main Lighthouse property- the building fell within inches of our perimeter wall, but did not crush Lighthouse at all- the pictures are just astounding. It's humbling to walk around and see how little damage there is, when we expected so much more. There is blast damage- broken out windows, fallen ceiling panels and a

few areas that need small repairs. We're not sure how the annex fared yet (it houses our optical shop, pharmacy and future eye bank and offices). Our house had one broken window, some dirty dishes and thirsty plants, but barely even any dust! In the videos, you can see the dust blowing away from Lighthouse. We praise God.

Our Lighthouse team did SO much work once they were allowed onto the premises, to remove absolutely everything from buildings that could potentially be crushed. They removed valuable eye equipment, glasses, shelving, even light fixtures and toilets! If we were going to have to rebuild, they salvaged everything. They led and worked with wisdom, foresight, adaptability, and grace. God was glorified in how they showed up in the days leading up to the demolition. Now we all have the task of repairs, clean up and putting things back together. But we are all so grateful!!



At the end of March, we welcomed a team from Florida for the first time to come build a church! Because March is our hottest month, after they spent a couple days in Mombasa, seeing our mission and our main area of ministry, they boarded the train and headed almost to Nairobi to build a church! This team of 5 guys worked so hard, and had such amazing attitudes. We're

excited for the new friendships made, for a new church in Florida for us to connect with, and for the love and blessing they shared with the community which now has a great new space for worshiping together!



In this season of praying and waiting and seeking God's direction, 2 new things were born. The first is my new business, the Rooted Sojourner Counseling! With the help of some wonderfully supportive people, I (Maggie) was able to start a private practice to see cross-cultural workers for telehealth counseling services. Additionally, I have joined a volunteer team at



Oaks Counseling, based in Texas, to also offer telehealth counseling to missionaries. I'm thankful for these opportunities to grow in my skills as a professional counselor and to help support other missionaries who are serving in tough situations. "With God, all things are possible." It's been an incredibly journey of my own to offer comfort to others after having experienced comfort of this kind in my own life.

The term "Rooted Sojourner" comes from the idea that we can live rooted, wherever we are in life. Most of our tensions today stem from unhealth in the root of the issue, so my work is to help get to those roots, work towards health and wholeness.

As part of bringing Mental Health Awareness to Lighthouse, we have scheduled a Trauma Training for pastors specifically in East Africa in June of this year. More details to come on that, but I'm excited to help equip our Lighthouse national partners to take care of themselves and their communities!



One of the amazing things about Rift Valley Academy, where our kids go to school, is they offer a trip during Junior and Senior years. This year, Caleb went on the Conservation through Adventure trip, where he got to have SO many adventures- abseiling, bungee jumping, white water rafting, biking, quad biking, and more! Such an amazing experience and time for growth!



Jordan has had a fun term of strength-training while he eagerly anticipates rugby season which starts in May. He's a joy to be around, is working towards lofty goals post-high school, and enjoying the teen years.





Matt is doing really well in college. We're so thankful he's made friends, is navigating life in the States, and enjoying learning. He keeps finding more

things he wants to study, so he's up to a double major and a minor. It can be fun watching your kid launch (also terrifying, but being positive here.)



We don't do normal very well. We prefer humor, but Josh leads the way when it comes to putting fun into work. Here's something a recent volunteer said



about Josh as a leader, “Josh always kept us laughing and our spirits high! That’s a gift he has with people, and the Lord uses it in this culture very well! He makes a lot of connections with people very quickly with this gift! God has uniquely crafted his personality for this high calling! It’s pretty neat to see someone in their element serving the Lord in the capacity that he does...”



Josh with Jackson and Edward. Edward stayed at Lighthouse during the week we had to evacuate, to guard the Lighthouse property from potential looters. He has worked tirelessly to take care of Lighthouse. He is also one of our Lighthouse pastors, and one of our dearest friends.



#### PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pray for Josh, and the management team as he leads Lighthouse- for wisdom with each changing and shifting season, especially as we pivot and tackle the next steps of repairs and re-opening after the building collapse damage.

Pray for strength for us- we have a had a lot of transition, big life events, unexpected loss and starting over in this past couple of years.

Pray for the financial provision of Lighthouse- our funding has been unusually low this year and yet, we know God is continuing to make a way for ministry to continue. Our general fund needs more monthly support, so if you are feeling led to help Lighthouse stay funded, you can donate below!

Pray for our mission team- Josh's parents are hopefully returning in May- his dad just had a kidney surgery and is recovering as fast as he can while taking care of Toni, with the help of local family and friends. Maggie's parents are still doing the finance overseer job remotely. Also, Maggie's grandmother just

passed away a few days ago, and they have been caring for her during this season- it's been a lot and they could use rest and encouragement before they return to Kenya in July to help us on the ground.

We have a new family coming for a vision trip next month- pray for the Stinsons as they come to see Lighthouse in person, and possibly join our mission team out here

Maggie will be traveling back to the States in May for a quick trip for her grandmother's funeral- pray for travel mercies for her and for Josh while he's back in Kenya by himself.

Thank you for praying for us, supporting us, and sending us encouraging notes! We are so thankful for our "team of senders"- we appreciate you!

Josh, Maggie, Matthew, Caleb and Jordan

[Support the Lighthouse General Fund](#)