



## Updates from Mahali pa Maisha

October 2015

Wow! Where do we even start to share the roller coaster ride of the past several weeks?

This picture of Ethan and Selah taking a fearless leap probably sums up best how our last few months have been.

We took a leap of faith as we set up our own 501c3 and have been flying through the “air” with both laughter and anxiety!

And like the kids jump it has been a refreshing plunge, into the loving Arms of our Father. And while there are moments of terrorizing joy, like the kids we are ready to experience the love and encouragement we have felt over and over again!



As blessed as our time in the US was, the trip back to Kenya was a little more stressful with flight delays, gate changes (all the way across the London airport) and general “long trip” issues. It was great to finally arrive back in Kenya and settle in for some rest to try and overcome the jetlag. But then.....



12 hours after we arrived in Kitengela the phone rang, and our first wake call was to go pick up a little fellow who had been abandoned.

Matthew James was left in an open sewer moments after he had been born. Thankfully he was found soon and taken to a local hospital who called us to come get him. Initially he appeared to be a healthy little boy, but after a few days serious infection set in from his exposure to the sewage. For a week he had to get infusions twice a day to battle the infection that ravaged his little body.

Mama Bell got little sleep for several days as Matthew struggled to keep his food down and rarely slept more than a few minutes at a time. Thankfully after a couple of weeks he overcame the infection and became healthy enough to be transferred to the IRC with the rest of the babies.

Now, perhaps Jen could catch up on some sleep..... Maybe.....

The first night that a full night of sleep was a possibility we watched a movie to unwind. “Do You Believe” is an EXCELLENT move that challenged us to answer the question, “If we really believe, what are we doing about it?”

We had little time to mull the question as yet another call the next day brought Monica into our care. Monica was born to a 15 year old mother who was an orphan herself and living with a much older man.

The baby was having a hard time feeding and was in poor shape so the police asked us to take her in while they sorted out the situation. We quickly found that Monica has a cleft palate, thus the reason she could not eat well.



The mother was being held in a jail cell at the local police station (no bed, toilet, or food) so we felt God prompt us to offer to take her into our “custody” so we could teach her how to care for her infant. Since we felt strongly that the mom and baby should be together because mom wanted her baby, we also found a home that caters to single mothers so they can complete their education.

Sadly, when their hearing in court came a few days later the judge decided that the mother should go to a home for girls, and Monica sent back to us.

We stepped in and requested the mother come back to MpM until their next court hearing on Oct 28.

Please join us in prayer that all the sticky details of this situation can be sorted out for the benefit of the baby and her mom.



Not long before we left for the US in July we rescued a little fellow who has severely clubbed feet. Jesse David is a wonderfully loving little boy and is always quick with a giggle. But in his current condition he faced a life of never walking.

As soon as we returned to Kenya we began the long and tedious process of correcting his legs and feet. Due to the extreme condition of his feet the Dr believes it will take as many as 20 castings followed by at least one surgery. While the cost for this procedure will be high speaking in financial terms, no amount of money could be worth the day we get to see Jesse take his first steps.



Those of you who give regularly to the MpM (use as needed) fund, THIS is just one of the things you are making possible. One day in the not so distant future, we will be sharing Jesse’s first steps!



We did get to celebrate a new family when Phoebe went home with her new Forever Family! It was a blessing on multiple counts. Very few adoptions are happening due to some government action (see prayer requests below), and an added blessing for us was that Phoebe’s new family includes Patrick, who was the first baby we rescued a few years ago!

In the midst of all the baby “stuff”, we have also been very busy with the property development.



These three pictures were taken today. From left to right they are the Team Building, the Staff House, and the Infant Rescue Center. We anticipate our family moving into the Team Building around December 1 (where our family will live until our house is built), and our manager and his family moving into the Staff House about the same time. Lord willing the babies should move into the new IRC around February 1.

Building this compound has been a bit of a challenge to say the least. Our desire for “American quality” in the Kenyan economy has been tested and stretched. If we had a dollar for every time we wished for a Menards.....

But as He has done so many times over, God is carrying us through. All the sleepless nights, heated “discussions” with judges, battles with government officials and contractors, through all those frustrations and more, God is faithful. And each day He again gives us the chance to answer the question, “Do you REALLY believe? And if so, what are you doing about it?”

**Prayer Requests:**



Join us praying for Monica and her mommy, that they can be placed in a safe haven where they will continue hearing about God’s Love for them.



Pray for the adoption situation here in Kenya. Currently the government has stopped adoptions for the most part. We currently have five little ones who are ready to go home. And ten more who will be soon!



Please pray for our family as we wrestle with the day to day challenges of doing life in the midst of some at times very trying conditions.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Still safely in our Father’s Grip,

Dave, Jen, Ethan, and Selah Bell