

MARCH – MAY ~ KIAMA FAMILY NEWSLETTER

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5 & 6.

In the past three months, God has been teaching us to acknowledge Him. We have found that it is easy to get carried away by the worries and cares of life and forget to acknowledge who He is in those circumstances. He is faithful and unchanging, whose steadfast love is an anchor. Acknowledging these and more of who He is, reminding each other of God's presence walking with us and never leaving us to ourselves, has been our way of staying rooted and grounded. We would like to share with you in this newsletter ways in which we have seen God's faithfulness.



Kiama family from left: Brian, Julia, Tadya and Adriel.

Brian has, by God's grace, managed to finish and pass all the ordination exams. Listening to the feedback that he has gotten from his examiners has been such a great encouragement of the work that God is doing through him. It is one thing to think yourself called by God to serve Him, it is yet even more to hear others affirm that calling, reassuring us that we are not self-deceived but more entrusting ourselves to His leading and care. May He keep us faithful to follow in His leading.

He has continued to serve in the church even though most of his efforts have shifted toward preparing to plant Sovereign

Grace Church Nairobi. God has provided a number of opportunities for him to learn even more on church planting through a 2-week training with City to City Africa and a 10-month program called Eneza Course under iServe Africa. These have served well in equipping him for the task ahead. We are very grateful for these opportunities.



Group photo with the City to City Team

We have also been so blessed by the continued prayers, wisdom and support that we have gotten from the Sovereign Grace Churches. It has been encouraging to know that we are not alone in this church plant but are surrounded by loving, caring, supportive community that will keep us in prayer and keep us accountable through

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this journey. In May this year, Brian and Jonathan Leslie had the privilege of hosting and showing their respective pastors (Michael Granger and Rick Gamache) around Nairobi. Their input and excitement were a great encouragement to us. Later Rick and Jonathan got the chance to visit us in Addis and we enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship with them.



From left Brian, Michael, Rick and Jonathan.

The Lord has been expanding our church planting team by adding another family from our Church here in Addis. Bereket and Abby and their sweet little girl, will be moving to Kenya to help us with the early stages of church planting and we are very grateful for them.

As we look forward to the task ahead, we are overwhelmed by the big task that planting a church is, but acknowledging God has been of great encouragement to us, knowing that He will build His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



From left Jonathan, Brian, Adriel, Tadya, Julia, Abby and Bereket with their baby.

Julia has almost finished her first year as Classical Conversations Director. She has grown a great deal through this year, leading, encouraging and training other home-schooling mothers even as they also come alongside her. She has managed to finish the academic year and is now preparing to do one final training as she gets ready to hand over her role in August. Meanwhile she is continuing to serve our family and the women in our church.

Adriel and Tadya are doing well. Growing physically and full of joy and energy. Their friendship with each other has been one that we have enjoyed to watch and a great blessing from God. Tadya turned 5 in May and we are so grateful for the years that God has gifted her to us.



Adriel and Tadya

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In May, Julia and the kids were scheduled to go to visit dear friends in Djibouti as part of renewing their visa. Unfortunately, just before we booked the tickets, we got the sad news of the passing of Julia's close and dear aunt. This aunt was Julia's role model on leaving career to serve her family and the church. She was crushed and still is

mourning, yet, with hope of eternal life, thanks be to God's saving power. We therefore cancelled the trip to Djibouti and booked tickets to Kenya to be with family. God was gracious to have provided the funds for the flight, though we thought it was for Djibouti, God had planned it otherwise.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for us and the church planting team as we prepare to move to Kenya in 3 months.

Pray for our remaining 3 months in Addis that we will serve faithfully to the very end, even as we are sad to leave them behind.

Pray for the salvation of our children.

Pray for wisdom and the gift of faith, as we continue to think through and prepare for the church plant.

Pray for Julia's family as they deal with the loss of a dear, dear one.

We are very grateful for your partnership with us through this journey. May our LORD and Saviour bless and keep you!

