

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

Greetings from Nairobi! This is a brief email update for those of you who pray for us regularly. Our intention is to send these updates out on an as-close-to-monthly basis as possible. We will continue to send out our quarterly 4-page "Carter Chronicles" as well. Please let us know if you do not want to receive these updates. Unfortunately we are not able to send these updates to those among our partners who do not have email.

A word of explanation: where you see an asterix (\*) or an "M", substitute the letter or word that makes sense. We have been advised to do this because there are certain terms that some radical Isl\*mic elements search for on the internet and this is one way to "fly under the radar" a bit better. SIM Kenya does have some ministry activities in heavily "M" areas and would like to avoid inviting trouble as much as possible.

So now for our update ...

Setting up house and establishing an office are not exciting activities to write home about! Therefore, much of what has kept us occupied this month would be too mundane and uninspiring for us to bore you with it. So this will be brief (aren't you glad!) Here are the highlights:

- We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary (October 16!) by spending a week at Malindi on Kenya's coast. The first two mornings we actually spent in a prayer retreat seeking divine guidance on how to begin setting up the 'HOPE for AIDS' program here. It was a productive time of prayer and helped give us some focus and direction. We also discovered another missionary couple staying at the same place and enjoyed some spiritual fellowship and mutual encouragement with them. We enjoyed swimming in the warm surf and snorkeling in the nearby Marine National Park, and even spent half a day deep sea fishing! Hope caught a 3-ft. kingfish that we are pretty sure the hotel served up during its dinner buffet two nights later. (But if we ever do that again we'll take some Dramamine first!) We even came home with no more than mild sunburns!

As we were checking out the clerk asked us, "Are you Christians?" (The coast of Kenya is heavily Isl\*mic.) "Why, yes," Bob responded, "are you?" "Yes I am," the clerk replied. "We've been noticing you this week and you seem to be changed people." We assume that 'changed people' is a safe term to use to refer to Christians where most people are Mus\*ims. So that encouraged us. You never know when others are watching and noticing the kind of values that rule your lives.

- During October we had several "divine appointments" in which God caused us to meet people who may become key contacts for us in the future, including bishops of two different denominations, senior administration officials at the Africa Nazarene University, and the director of the AIDS department at the Kenya headquarters for MAP International. We also met Professor Miriam Were, head

of Kenya's National AIDS Control Council and a very gracious and humble woman.

- Bob was recently appointed to serve on the newly reconstituted governing board of Kaimosi Hospital in western Kenya. The last Saturday of October was the new board's first meeting. Bob was chosen to sit on the Planning and Development subcommittee and to chair the board's Clinical Services subcommittee. A number of areas requiring the board's attention were identified, with physical renovations being particularly urgent and the board is moving quickly on this. We were also pleased with those currently exercising leadership in the hospital's administration, although recruitment of a new administrator is another urgent matter. Restoring Kaimosi Hospital to the level of service and reputation it once enjoyed will be a challenge. But the task is do-able and the team assembled is capable. Nevertheless, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." (Ps. 127:1) Please help us to lay a foundation of prayer as efforts commence to restore Kaimosi Hospital.
- We are pleased to report that your prayers for safe delivery of our household goods from Zambia have been answered. The shipment arrived in Nairobi on Oct. 24, was cleared without problem and delivered to our door on Oct. 29. Our only breakage was a Correlle serving platter, so we feel very blessed by the outcome. Thank you for praying.

Key prayer points for Nov/Dec:

- Thank God for a safe, refreshing and spiritually productive week, and for 25 years of blessing in marriage.
- Thank God for the contacts He is already giving us and the relationships that we are beginning to build.
- Thank God for the safe and timely delivery of our household goods from Zambia
- Intercede for the new board of Kaimosi Hospital and ask for divine guidance in the restoration of the hospital. Pray for the hospital's administrative leadership and staff. Ask for more involvement in the "Adopt-A-Nurse" program by churches and individuals back home.
- Pray for us as we gather information, make contacts, conduct interviews and begin to establish a "way forward" to build a strong and effective framework for SIM Kenya's 'HOPE for AIDS' program. Pray also for clarity on Hope's role in all of this. Her current legal status in Kenya is based on Bob's work permit (as a dependent) which restricts her from any formal "work" role. Ultimately we plan to apply for a separate work permit for her, but first we need to have a clear sense of what her "work" will be.

Thank you for praying.

Blessings,  
Bob and Hope