



#### **SENDING CHURCH**

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*"To give light to them  
that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of  
death..." Luke 1:79*

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

January–March 2026

We are thankful for what the Lord is allowing us to do as we begin a new year of ministry here in Kenya. The past few weeks have been very busy as I have divided my time between Kisii, Kisumu, and the Maasai villages. We continue to see open doors for teaching, training leaders, and sharing the Gospel in several new areas.

#### **Bible College Expansion**

Our Bible college classes have expanded in the Kisumu area, where five pastoral students and six new diploma students have joined the classes at Hope Baptist Church. We are also developing additional training branches in Kuresoi and Ilkerin (Maasai), with the possibility of opening another in Rongo later.

In Ilkerin, the hunger for God's Word is especially encouraging. As we teach through the Scriptures in a Bible study format, many are hearing and understanding foundational truths for the very first time. Nearly every visit results in someone trusting Christ, and it is exciting to see how the Lord continues to work in the hearts of these people.

#### **Church Planting Efforts**

Two of our Bible study leaders have now set target dates for opening new churches. Ezekiel Arwa plans to open a church in Ebuyangu on April 26, and Collins Odhiambo is working toward starting a church in Sigoti this August. Please pray for these men as they continue discipling believers and preparing their communities for these new works.

#### **Youth Bible College Program**

We also have eight students who recently finished high school enrolled in our one-year certificate program. This program gives young adults biblical training during an important season of their lives before they make many of their major life decisions. We are excited to see this program growing each year.

#### **Vehicle Update**

We are thankful that \$5,000 has already come in toward the purchase of a newer and more dependable vehicle for traveling into the villages. Several churches have also promised to help during their upcoming missions conferences. I will continue making calls to raise the remaining funds needed for the type of vehicle we are looking for, which will likely cost \$25,000–\$30,000. Thank you for praying with us about this important need.

#### **Family Prayer Requests**

Please pray for our daughter Kay-Leigh, who will graduate in May with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education. She is seeking the Lord's direction for how she can best serve Him in the years ahead.

We will also be traveling in May to spend time with her and to visit our oldest daughter Abigail, her husband Robert, and our two grandsons in Guyana. Tonya will remain a bit longer for some medical checkups. Please pray for safe travel and smooth flight connections as we travel to and from Africa.

Please also pray for our son Caleb, who plans to begin full-time deputation in June.

We remain deeply grateful for your faithful prayers and support. Every soul saved, every church planted, and every student trained is fruit that abounds to your account. May the Lord continue to bless you as we labor together in His harvest.

In Christ's service,

*Luke + Tonya Shelby*

**Luke & Tonya Shelby**  
Missionaries to Kenya