

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Work | Family | Future

Time Abroad

Paul traveled to teach in Tanzania in May. Travel to Uganda was cancelled due to Ebola. We are currently in the U.S. for time with family and friends. In August, Paul will travel to Nicaragua to help RW launch TCT with Compassion International, Nicaragua. We'll be back in Kenya late August.

Local Time

We have enjoyed growing fellowship with the local church in our neighboring village. After seven years of living down the road, this church has invited us to join their gatherings. We feel privileged, trusted, and loved!

Time at Home

In early April, we hosted five families for Holy Week, including Elizabeth's brother, Dave and his family visiting from the States! It was a full week of commemoration, food preparation, and celebration of Christ's journey to the cross and out of the grave! Hallelu-Yah!



ENJOYING TEA & AMERICAN DONUTS AT OUR LOCAL VILLAGE CHURCH WITH OUR FRIEND, DORCAS. READ MORE ABOUT THIS CHURCH ON PAGE 3.

It Takes Time...

Dear Friends & Family,

The busier you are, the faster time flies! It has been a full three months and we have much to be thankful for and to share.

Each year, Reconciled World engages in an annual 'Week of Prayer' when the entire organization lays down their work and simply prays. This year's theme was "Deeper Discipleship," focusing on the verse: *"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples"* John 15:7-8. We were reminded of the importance of building and maintaining our relationship with God. We so often get caught up in our activities, plans, and goals that we neglect our spiritual and personal relationships.

This season of our family's life has really been a testament to the importance of relationships built over time and the power of sustained prayer. Read on to find out more!

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ARUSHA, TANZANIA TCT INTRO

Time to Hand Over

From the beginning, Paul has known he will work himself out of his current role in RW, the goal being to build up a team of trainers in East Africa. That has now come to fruition with the hiring of Martin Geria from Uganda as the new regional coordinator for TCT. Martin has already been working with Paul for the past 2 years as a volunteer. His passion for discipleship led him to selflessly dedicate his time to driving the national coordinator, Zephaniah, around Uganda, and supporting him in training the TCT program. With his years of experience and heart for servant leadership, he is a welcome addition to the team. We are excited to see how God will grow the wholistic discipleship movement in East Africa under Martin's leadership.



MARTIN TEACHING A TCT LESSON IN UGANDA

Time to Grow New Relationships

Paul was invited to Arusha, Tanzania to introduce TCT to the Church, Missionary, and NGO community there (see picture to the left). Nearly 40 people from 19 different organizations attended the day-long intro training. There were at least 8 missionary/NGO groups represented and the remaining participants were local church leaders, heads of pastoral schools, and many other ministry personnel. The training was very well received and several organizations are already implementing some of the materials presented. A few bits of encouraging feedback:

"These resources will impact my radio ministry, as we share the gospel in Tanzania." Jimmy Manassah - Habari Maluum Media

"I will use this in our Missionary School of Ministry programs." Rev. Success Joshua M. - R.G.C. Macedonia Ministry

"There were a lot of new ideas and principles you taught us that I will use in my ministry moving forward!" Johanna Gullbing - Testa Mission Sweden

"This helps enhance our ministry, (DMM) Disciple Making Movement, especially in the area of reaching out to people through 'love in action' in a more practical way, step by step. Thank You!" Rebecca Nyman - Sweden

Time to Graduate & Time to Begin Anew!

In 2018, Paul began training the Anglican Church leaders. After a long road of 8 years, we have successfully celebrated the graduation of the Diocese of Mombasa and the Diocese of Mumias. We are excited to see these graduates now begin to train others. The Diocese of Mombasa has already begun training the Diocese in Malindi, and are also starting to train the Diocese of Meru, a rural community near Mt. Meru in northern Kenya.

As partners leave, others join. We also celebrate the addition of our new partner group in Machakos, Kenya consisting of 18 trainees and the potential for 87 new churches to be trained.



GRADUATING CLASS OF ANGLICAN CHURCH LEADERS

At just the right time...

A friend living in Arusha, Tanzania once told us of how she felt God leading her to live and work in a very rural village with the Maasai tribe on her own. For seven years, her work was very difficult and she experienced much opposition from the men in the community. Then, something changed: the village elders came to her and said, “We have been watching you for 7 years, and we now know that you are really here to bless us. From now, we give you our blessing and will tell our people to listen to you. We give you this piece of land to build your house and clinic.”

Well, it’s been 7 years since we moved to Kenya, and like our friend in Tanzania, we have experienced several incidents that seem to indicate that the Holy Spirit is drawing us into closer relationship with our neighbors. We have been humbled and encouraged to see directly how many years of seemingly unimportant interactions have cultivated trust and authenticity in relationship!

In April, we were invited to join our friend, Dorcas, at the local church (see pic on first page). We enjoyed the singing and dancing, the boys gave a short greeting, and Paul was invited to preach. It was special to feel accepted as part of the church body, rather than being regarded as a foreigner and a financial resource.

Since then, Elizabeth was invited to join the church’s Friday night fellowship. It has been an incredibly rich and rewarding time of learning from scripture together with 12 men and women from the community. This has become the highlight of Elizabeth’s week! Please pray for this precious group, as they are already experiencing persecution for implementing what they have learned about repentance and reconciliation. They need your prayers for faithfulness, courage, wisdom, and fortitude!



THE LOCAL VILLAGE CHURCH WHERE ELIZABETH MEETS WITH NEW FRIENDS FOR BIBLE STUDY EVERY FRIDAY.



CAR CRASH ON OUR ROAD

It’s Go-Time!

On the evening of Easter Sunday, a neighbor rushed into our house asking us to help urgently! An overloaded school van full of church members who had celebrated Easter at a church near our home had lost its brakes and crashed into a tree on our dirt road. With no ambulance or police assistance to rely on, we ferried everyone to the hospital together with our neighbor.

Fortunately, injuries were minimal and all were able to return to their homes the next day. We were reminded of the vulnerabilities left unserved because of lack of infrastructure, and we are thankful that we are available to step in when possible.

A Time to Weep

In May, Paul delivered a message of hope at a funeral for the young daughter of one of the partner pastors receiving TCT training. She suffered from a bone marrow disease and had been in treatment for years. We were reminded that simply being present in these difficult moments means a great deal and is part of being the church together.

Do not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

FAMILY TIME

Read through each bio on the right and see if you can match the bolded words with the corresponding photo in the collage!



Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17

Inman

Inman has graduated and will take a gap year to develop his small **woodworking business**. He has kicked it off his year with a job at **Camp Geneva** in Holland, MI and is loving it so far! The current plan is to attend Hope College in fall '27.

Owen

Owen has technically graduated & will focus on developing some skills and talents as he weighs what is next for him. **He’ll take a few courses** of interest and hopefully restore the **Suzuki**, which he loves **driving** through the bush around our home.

Isaiah

Isaiah has taken to **mountain biking** and came 4th in his first race through **Hell’s Gate National Park** in Kenya in June. He is loving the new bike he purchased this spring! He is **pretty hilarious** & keeps us laughing!

Simeon

Simeon is determined that he will not be the last to leave the house, and is working on **his own place**. He loves riding his **motorbike**. Hopefully he’ll learn to **cook for himself** and maybe develop a construction business!

PRAYER TIME

This fall, we will turn a page in our work with Reconciled World. As mentioned, Paul is handing over his position to a new colleague (see p. 2) and will be on sabbatical Sep/Oct/Nov to rest, reflect, and discern his new role with Reconciled World. **We want to share with you what we sense God is inviting us to consider:**

As expressed in the pages above, we think that God is inviting us to be more present to the churches and communities within walking distance of our home. **Please pray that we would be awake to the Holy Spirit's invitations as they arise.** Paul would also like to be more available to introduce the Framework for Transformation to multiple existing ministries in our region. **Please pray that opportunities like the one in Arusha (p. 2) would multiply.**

Elizabeth will continue teaching our sons and working online with Scholé Academy teaching three Biblical studies and spiritual formation courses for middle school students. **Please pray for the right students and families to enroll in Elizabeth's courses this year.**

In addition, Elizabeth has been given a vision to develop a Gap Year course/program for post-high school students. As we look back over our seven years in Kenya, we see a strong common thread that runs alongside our official "ministry": hosting, hosting, and more hosting! The pictures on the next page are just SOME of the times we've been privileged to open our home and share our table just in the past 6 months! The truth is, we LOVE to host visitors from near and far, known and unknown, and to engage with them through meaningful experiences, scriptural reflection, beautiful spaces, intentional conversation, and homemade food.

As we imagine our future in Kenya, and as we've walked with our own kids through a year of post-high school discerning, **God has impressed on us that perhaps opening our home and property to a more "official" use as a Gap Year venue is a viable idea to consider.** We have been working to build a small guest suite in order to prepare for those God might be sending our way. Before the roof was even on, we had several possibilities of long-term student guests who are interested in spending some weeks or months with us.

Please pray with us as we desire to navigate marriage, parenting, and ministry with integrity, joy, focus, and faithfulness. We seek God for His wisdom and guidance, and we are indescribably grateful to you for the support you offer us through prayer, encouragement, and finances. We look forward to how God will guide us in these next months!

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With love & gratitude,

Paul & Elizabeth



