

# SUMMER UPDATE

Work | Family | Future

## Quarter in Brief

### APRIL

- 1 Week of prayer with all RW
- 1 week of RW Leadership meetings in Nairobi
- 1 week of RW Africa Team meetings

### MAY

- A week of vacation with family visiting from Netherlands
- Flooding & putting our house back together
- Trainings ongoing in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania & Zimbabwe

### JUNE

- Elizabeth, Inman & Owen travel to Netherlands and USA
- Paul & boys stay in Kenya, where political protests prevent travel and some planned trainings

## July & Upcoming

Work is ongoing for Paul, and we started construction of a workshop / storage room at home.

In August, we welcome the boys back home along with Elizabeth's parents! We are excited that they will finally experience our life, work and home here in Kenya! Prayers for smooth and safe travels!



## A Summer Abroad

This summer, we planned for the older two boys to spend time in Michigan with Elizabeth's parents so that they could a) connect with family & friends, b) complete Driver's Ed, and c) have a summer job. Since our flights took us through Amsterdam anyway, we were thrilled to be able to add 5 days to the trip in order to visit family in the Netherlands on the way! Elizabeth accompanied the boys and was able to also connect with friends and family in NL and in MI for a few weeks.

This has been a wonderful experience for our older boys, and hard on the younger boys to stay behind. We think that **annual** trips home will become increasingly important for all of our kids as they begin to bridge back to life in America for higher education. Read more in the **finance** section.





## Art & Discipleship

From January through April, Elizabeth supported a program called "Rebound," a program for school dropouts and at-risk youth. Participants from under-served communities receive access to biblical life-skills training, **discipleship through art**, and creation-care education.

Elizabeth taught the 12 students art lessons aimed to illustrate life-giving biblical truth. She was amazed at the commitment of those attending - most walked 2 (even 3!) hours each morning and afternoon to receive training.

At the end of session, an outdoor art show was set up for students to display their work for parents and care-givers. It was especially touching to see how proud they were and to hear them explain how their art represented the truth of God in their lives.



## TCT Regional Update

God has brought many more groups and churches who wish to be trained on the TCT program. In Uganda, Zephaniah has four new groups interested, two of which have already begun with training. In Zimbabwe we have two new partners and in June we added two more partners in Kenya!

As Paul has traveled, he has been amazed by the passion that so many people have to live as God intends, but he has also witnessed the difficulty of overcoming old habits and cultural ways of life that keep people from pursuing God's ways. **It is a great reminder for us to evaluate what habits hold us back.**

Paul has also been encouraged by mature believers who are receiving the TCT training to become Master Trainers. They will be able to take the TCT training as a tool to be used where it is most needed to encourage growth and freedom in Christ.

### *Praises and Prayer*

**Tanzania:** Discussions with Kilwa Masoko group of pastors in Tanzania are ongoing. We are preparing a way forward and proposal to present to RW on how best to slowly open the door for TCT to grow in Tanzania. **Pray for God's leading in this process.**

**Uganda:** Zephaniah, the National Coordinator (NC) in Uganda was robbed in broad daylight at an ATM last month. He was not injured, but very shaken up. **Please pray for him as he deals with the emotional trauma of this incident, and that all of his documents that were stolen will be replaced with new ones easily.**

**Kenya:** Jonathan the NC from Kenya, was able to travel to Zimbabwe to assist Taison with Training. We scheduled extra days for him to do some sight seeing as this was his first time to visit Victoria Falls. **Praise: What an amazing opportunity for him!**

**Zimbabwe:** Paul continues to grow capacity in Taison, the NC in Zimbabwe, and it is clear that additional support for this position will be needed. **Please pray for another trainer to come alongside Taison so that they can work together to train more partners who want to implement TCT in Zimbabwe.**

That person will be like a **TREE** planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither,  
whatever they do prospers.

*Psalm 1: 1-3*

# FUTURE & FINANCES

First, we want to say **THANK YOU** for sharing resources with us when our house flooded! We have been able to use those finances to build a retaining wall and to start building better drainage around our house to protect the integrity of the foundation. Lots of new cracks in some walls after the flooding showed us this needed to be done!

## Financial Needs

The following are needs that we still have for the coming year:

- ✦ **\$12,000 Flights** to the United States + travel expenses in-country
- ✦ **\$5,000 Health** Insurance
- ✦ **\$5,000 Tuition** for online courses + homeschool curriculum + extracurricular opportunities
- ✦ **\$15,000 Building** a garage + office + replace roof of our house (we hope to start in September)
- ✦ **Savings** for higher education
- ✦ **Retirement** Investment

Our monthly salary is usually covered by partners who give on a monthly basis. Our organization does not provide benefits, so all of the needs listed above come from others sharing extra resources with us. Elizabeth has taken on extra work teaching online in order to help with the cost our boys' education.

## Financial Future

It might be helpful to explain some of the features that make our financial picture different from what it might typically be in the States:

One feature of living here is that our teenagers are not able to earn a wage or have a job. They are not legally allowed to work for pay. Other informal opportunities to earn (i.e. mowing lawns, part-time jobs) are simply not available to them because those jobs are necessarily filled by the local adult workforce. This means saving for college is not feasible. It also means that the boys don't have a means to contribute to purchasing things like a starter car, a phone, etc. They really want to work, so this is a challenge. This summer, Inman & Owen have the opportunity to have a (very) part time job in MI, which has been wonderful, but working beyond these summer weeks is not an option.

We are not sure how to navigate the increasing financial needs of our family, and the changing social and educational needs of our kids. We are praying about these issues and trusting that God will lead and provide.

One thing we feel might need to change is our frequency of connecting with friends and family in the U.S. We wonder if an annual trip home is best for the social / emotional health of our family moving forward. Bigger considerations might be a change in location (or not), a change in job (or not), or simply a change in the flow of finances. We're not sure! If you can join us in prayer, please do! If you can share finances, please do! If you have ideas to share, please do! We are dependent on God and His body, and we seek Him for the ideas and the resources that we need.

Thank you for your ongoing love and support. It means the world to us!