NAIROBI, KENYA

NEWS FROM THE ODEMBA FAMILY





There are unique traditions within Kenyan culture that I have grown to deeply appreciate and love. One of these is the beautiful practice of a house blessing. This special event involves local pastors visiting a newly built home to pray a blessing over it, accompanied by heartfelt worship songs and praises to God for such a significant milestone.

In December, my brother-inlaw and his family completed their home in rural Kenya, and our immediate family gathered to celebrate this wonderful achievement. Moments like these are truly precious to me as I continue to serve here in Kenya alongside my husband and his family, who have embraced me as one of their own.



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Project 24 Bible Youth Camp



A few of our university students come together for a photo.

As the 2024 calendar year drew to a close, I eagerly anticipated our final event with the Project 24 students. In December, we hosted our annual Bible youth camp for secondary and university students, a highlight of the year. Since these students now attend various schools across Kenya, this event provides a unique opportunity to reconnect with all of them in one place. It is always a joy to see them, especially as I've gotten to know many of them well through their years in the program. Witnessing their growth is inspiring—not just physically, but even more so mentally and spiritually.

One of the most impactful moments of the camp was hearing a few of our university students share their personal experiences. Their honest accounts of navigating the

challenges of university life brought forth open and meaningful conversations among the group. With guidance from the pastors and deaconesses present, the students were encouraged to approach these challenges through God's Word. They were reminded to stand firm in their faith despite the pressures and trials they face.

This event always fills me with hope for the future. The resilience and faith of today's youth are truly remarkable, especially as they contend with challenges and distractions that were less prominent when I was their age. My prayer is that God will continue to guide them, strengthen their faith, and equip them to be shining lights in a world that desperately needs His truth.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The Project 24 program and all of the students who have begun a new school vear
- For overall health of my family

GIVE THANKS FOR:

 A successful Youth Camp for our older students in the Project 24 program

PRAISE GOD FOR:

The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us



Visiting other Regions



Over the past few years, I have worked alongside my colleague, Shara Osiro, to coordinate shortterm teams from the Africa region. Each missional region has a designated point person who supports and manages shortterm teams in their various ministries while serving as a bridge between the visitors and local Lutheran churches. Once a year, all volunteer coordinators gather in one of the regions to collaborate, share best practices, and enhance the hosting experience for short-term teams. These meetings also provide the

chance to visit regions we may not have explored before. This year, we met in Madrid, Spain, where a local Lutheran church is eager to welcome visitors to partner with them in ministry. It was a great opportunity to witness how

Lutheran churches are actively engaging with their communities.



Our family is deeply thankful for the support, prayers, and love you have poured onto us throughout our ministry journey. We truly appreciate you!

In Christ,

Britt, Micah, Rael and Silas





There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at <u>lcms.org/service</u>. Click on "Service Opportunities.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Britt Odemba. Make checks payable to:

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