



Greetings everyone!  
From the Stanley's (Sean Michael & Martha) in Africa!  
And from us with Love and hope that all our names will remain!

### **Mission Update: October – December, 2014**

Oct. 13-11: We worked to get all of the permissions for our marriage with the US and the Colombian embassies and to translate all documents to English. This was much easier said than done for sure, but God saw us though still!

Nov. 12: We awoke early to leave for Nairobi. I took some extra time in the morning to get some supplies at the wholesale place before we left for Kisii. In Kisii we purchased the fresh food needed for a week or so and while I was rushing around I tripped and tore a ligament in my leg that still hurts to this day. Lisa Mandigo retrieved us and we arrived safe at our home for the time we will be at the College and we found a surprise there: a bed for two for when we return married! The tent that was donated before we left came in handy again. I love to sleep in it - thanks Brother Bruce again!

Nov. 13-15: We spent time unpacking/organizing and I tried to keep from a cold or flu from setting in my sinuses. By the Sabbath we were ready for some serious time with the Lord at home for rest.

Nov. 16: In the night I heard an awful sound from the chickens and I went to see what was going on: I saw a meerkat leaving its victims of four chicks and their mother, but thank God they didn't get five other babies and the other roosters and hen. =^^(

Nov. 20: I remembered an old technique for fire starting with damp wood. Martha liked it so she took some pics.



I take two larger sticks, set them apart three inches or so, and place smaller sticks a quarter inch or better so it gives space under for paper. I then place my smallest, driest kindling on top so the paper dries and kindles the kindling. I like this because you can add paper till it is going well. The thing in the pic is our "geako" stove that uses charcoal or wood. Charcoal is nice - no smoke. We soon hope to afford a gas stove (\$93), and building materials for an outdoor kitchen (\$30) for soon coming rainy days and for quick jobs. We are thankful to God for Emmanuel's help to find more charcoal and for showing us where to find some of the richest soil I've ever seen "under the bushes". I even

found some wild potatoes (not edible). We are starting our personal garden in bags at the moment. For me, time in the garden is necessary. It soothes and softens my soul (the soil), and teaches/reminds me of the tenderness that our Father has toward us. We are as the plants: delicate and helpless spiritually; and like the herbs, lettuces, fruits and veggies, we are each very different but pleasant and very useful!

Nov. 21: I was very thankful that Emmanuel and Joshua (local brethren) were able to help start the scaffolding to use for constructing the buildings. We are making them so they can be disassembled and placed in a room and reassembled.



Nov. 22: We were invited to attend the Mafurura Church. We crossed the river bare foot and it was enjoyable to be there, immersed in nature, in God's expressions of Love. Church was nice. The regional pastor was there. We were able to share with the church about how to study to study the Bible for themselves. We enjoyed lunch with our pastor, Kejah.

Nov. 23: For the first half of the day we were able to work on the scaffolding, but the latter half we spent time sewing clothing to rest my leg.

Nov. 24: This was the first day that I awoke with the leg pain. The other days the pain came later. I decided to try to get packed but was only able to do 1/4 of what I could normally do, and a 1/8 of what needed to be done. Around evening time, to my great delight, Collince (a former student/now staff member at SBC) arrived at our cabin. We had been trying to reach him for the last couple of days. Shortly after Lisa and her children arrived at the school property but I did not go and greet them because of the pain in my leg. However, Collince came and said that they all (except Jonathan) were sick with Malaria! My heart sank, but prayer revived me and I sought to see what the Lord wanted me to do. I did not know how bad it was, but I had the sense that they needed a hospital. But were they going to submit to a hospital trip at that point? I knew that was what they needed; so the Lord caused me to wait for Him to show me what, when, and where to be of service.

Shortly after Jonathan (Lisa's son) came for some towels for water therapy while Collice made ready the water. He was calm and seemed confident things were going to be ok. But later he returned with Collince and said, "Mom is not doing well and is talking like Dad before he died". He then asked if we should take them to the hospital. Without any doubt I replied that we all thought we should take them, but what do they think? They went peaceably as we loaded the truck. Sister Lisa seemed to be in the worse condition than them all, not holding her head up or speaking except when asked. Even when she spoke it was just a whisper and was obviously exhausting to her. For me the ride to the hospital was a time that seemed to pass as days of prayer and anguish, and despite the high speeds and extremely rough and rocky roads God was holding the worn out tires and me together. We arrived at the hospital with a prayer of thanksgiving and safe as can be. Praise God!

Nov. 25: With prayer I decided to sleep in the truck that night while Lisa and her 3 daughters were in the hospital, as it seemed the best place for me. I was thankful for Brother Collince who could offer any assistance to our patients and do any translating that was necessary. The night passed with more prayer than sleep, but I have faith in prayer to give the strength that I need for the day. More than one late night in a week for me – and sleeping in the truck – is a path only God can sustain, so I asked Him what I should do to create the best environment for a healthy body and still serve in the capacity He desired. I asked the Mandigos if there were any objections to me and Brother Collince going back to the College to pack and to rest and then return to the hospital with Martha and Jonathan (Martha and I were in the process of preparing at that time to leave on a 9 hour trip to Nairobi for an appointment with the government officials who were to wed us). No one could object, but it was decided that we should wait until Victor (another native staff member at SBC) could come. I soon realized that the hospitals are very different here: in the States they care for all the needs of the patients - even their particulars in diet and so on; but here you will need a good friend to bring things needed like fresh raw food, plastic bags for vomiting, or even a bucket for your sponge bath!

Nov. 26: Back at the College we did more preparations for our trip and rested well. We received a blessing during our worship reading about God's people having a similar experience as Jacob when, at the close of human probation, God will sustain us in our great time of trouble. Then, as quickly as a gimpy man and an indecisive woman possibly could, we got ready to leave to Nairobi for marriage and to drop Jonathan, Brother Collince, and some needed things, along with the truck, at the hospital. We discovered first-hand some aspects of tire problems in Kenya as we endeavored to reach the hospital. Here you can't find a "good used tire" when you're low on cash: there are only new tires available and they're not cheap! So we band-aided the tires as best we could and made it to the bus and back to the hospital. It was a bit complicated since I am the only driver besides Lisa. We made it to Kisii just in time to miss the bus, but soon I saw it was meant to be. We were able to buy some Great Hope (Great Controversy) books to pass out as God would see it! When the people saw the books they asked if they were for sale. I said, "yes", and offered the price that I paid, but it seemed they expected me to just give the books away. However, prayer showed me that these dear souls would appreciate them more if they paid the equivalent to a dollar. Here in Africa you will need three or four dollars for lunch and seventy five cents for a city bus ride (off peak time).

Nov 27: I was awakened very early to prepare for the wedding. We had a hopeful worship reviewing our vows, and despite our efforts to make a quick exit from the hotel we managed to leave late. We were obviously on God's timing because when we arrived at the Registrar General's office almost an hour after the appointment time it turned out that it was not important at all since it was first come, first served. We were so grateful God sent two witnesses that also wanted to know more about Jesus. This was a doing of the Lord because with all the excitement of the last three days I forgot to ask my friends to be witnesses for the wedding, but within an hour and a half we were married! Thank God, what a relief! Now we can continue in the work we were sent to do. We gave the witnesses some gifts, including the Great Controversy. They exclaimed, "We were hoping for something to help us spiritually!" They are all intensely interested in Sutherland Bible College and are waiting for us to invite them there in any capacity. Several others that we have run in to while here have been interested as well. We are hoping to get our work permits soon so that we will be able to stay in the country legally as missionaries and continue the work that God has called us to do.

My dear people, just remember how our Father loves you, and remember to rehearse every particular to yourselves and to all you meet!

Eternal Blessings!

Sean Michael Stanley,  
Your Servant in Christ

PS – More photos below!

