Believe It!

June  Made a house a home!
July  Launched Kenya Believe It's Official Website.
     www.kenyabelieveit.org
August Preparing for Mission Team!
September HIV/AIDS Education, Mgori.
         Medical/MEN's Mission Team Serving in Isiolo, Kutus and Nairobi.
Sept. – Nov. Swahili lessons continue…

“Adapting, adjusting, acquiring and accepting” …coupled with “submersion, submission, stretching and stewardship” primes this journey for exponential growth, naturally and spiritually! It’s an honor and a privilege to have been “planted” but the real value of that which has been planted comes out of the growth process. It’s not enough to have been planted …you must grow! Ever thought about how a seed develops? It develops as a result of the RESPONSE to the environment it’s placed in. If a seed is placed in the ground and doesn’t have or never responds to air, light, water, soil and temperature … it WILL die. Such is the case with us. Our responses to life’s circumstances determines our growth, or lack there of; and ultimately impacts our witness in/on the Kingdom of our God. These 90 days have presented numerous “growth” opportunities. June was a time of settling. July … language learning! Imagine that in order to communicate you had to check THREE dictionaries before you could utter a sound, in every conversation! That’s how we describe our language learning process. When spoken to in Kiswahili we have to (scroll through the files in our brains) recognize the word, understand what it means in English, remember the correct response and the “Swahili” word, and finally speak the response “out loud” in Swahili. Whew! By the time we remember what to say, the conversation was already over … 15 minutes ago and the person is gone. But we keep trying. August … a whirlwind of governmental officials, meetings, offices, paperwork, site visits and travel in preparation for the Medical Mission Team’s arrival in September. Every initial denial turned out to only be a delay and our God reigned supreme; providing every exemption, license, supply and waiver needed for the mission. How great is our God!!! But that’s not all TO BE CONTINUED…

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We are humbled, honored and grateful, first, to God for the opportunity to serve cross – culturally. While God has chosen all of us to live out the gospel, through incarnational ministry, we do not take it for granted that He has chosen the two of us, for this specific work, for such a time as this. In addition, we extend a special and heartfelt thank you to The Park Church, for your prayer and financial support. Bishop Alexander, thank you for your love, trust, leadership and “push” into cross – cultural ministry; in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to “all” of our supporters; whether you are a monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, lump sum, care package or snack supporter – THANK YOU! To Pastor Wanjie and Ridgeways Baptist Church, thank you for welcoming us into your family. And to our parents, THANK YOU for your prayers, care packages, skype calls, unconditional love, ongoing support and the list goes on. Without each one of you there would be no need for newsletters or ministry updates. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we seek to walk out the call God has placed upon our lives, individually and collectively. “So that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.” (Isaiah 41:20, NIV)
WHO WE SERVE

Always a Leaner...

The Samburu tribe of Kenya is closely related to the Maasai. The Samburu people moved from Sudan and settled north of Mount Kenya and south of Lake Turkana in the Rift Valley province of Kenya. Like the Maasai, the Samburu belong to the Maa speaking group of people. The Samburu and Maasai languages share words but the Samburu dialect is spoken in a more rapid manner than the Maasai language. Samburu people are semi-nomadic pastoralists. Like the Maasai, livestock is the most important part of their livelihood. Samburu herd cattle, sheep, goats and camels. They live in groups of families in make-shift villages. The Samburu’s hut resembles the Maasai’s hut called “Manyatta”. The huts are made of mud and dung supported using branches from trees. Their huts are surrounded by a fence of thorny bushes from the acacia tree and other types of thorny bushes. Women are responsible for making the huts, milking cows, gathering firewood, fetching water and general maintenance of the homestead. The men take care of the animals.

The Samburu wear their traditional attire which is a bright red material worn like a skirt. They also wear multi-beaded necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

Samburu warriors paste their hair with red ochre to create a visor to shield their eyes from the sun. Samburu people have many traditional ceremonies. These include the birth of a child, initiation and marriage. Boys are circumcised in their teenage years. Moran is a term used in both Maasai and Samburu community to refer to a warrior. Like the Maasai, the Samburu also mix blood and milk to make their traditional drink.

We are currently serving the Turkana and Samburu people of Isiolo.

Kenyan children at risk....

- Child mortality is high at 84 per 1,000 births.
- The well-being of young children is particularly at risk as undernourishment and child mortality have increased.
- An estimated 130,000 children live in the streets as a result of poverty, family neglect and social discrimination.
- Nearly 1,200,000 children (in Kenya) aged 0-17 have been orphaned as a direct result of AIDS. At 6.3%, Kenya has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the entire world.
- Approximately 10,000 children have been caught up in the sex trade, particularly in the country’s coastal regions; many resort to prostitution as a way to make a living.
- Malaria kills around 26,000 children under the age of five every year.

Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Matt. 25:40 ESV

Source: SOS Children’s Villages Kenya
Isiolo, to prepare for the September Medical send her to school and fast! The little girl had to school because she is good for cattle. BUT – she's NOT an orphan. Her parents were with Matet, who communicated directly with the little girl's parents. We prayed, "Lord, why she was not in school? He wondered with Matet, our Field Liaison, Over the next month, we were in contact with the terrain, the vegetation the Mara; therefore, they were VERY familiar with the Mara. After many hours of bumping around we arrived at the lovely Elangata Olerai Luxury Camp. The camp and the views were simply breathtaking. The staff met us, warmly, with a refreshing glass of fruit juice and led us to our accommodations. The tent had a deck overlooking the place where the wildebeests cross in droves, twin beds, a sitting area and a bathroom equipped with a "real" toilet and shower. Absolutely incredible! We received a tour of the campground. Six new tents were being erected right before our eyes, in preparation for the influx of tourists for the busy migration season. We rested for a little while before taking a "walking tour" in the Mara. Yes… a walking tour, which was led by two Maasai Warriors. They both grew up in the Mara; therefore, they were VERY familiar with the terrain, the vegetation and most importantly the animals. Their weapon of choice, a bow and arrow comforted us. The arrow was poisonous and would kill prey upon impact. Boiling a cactus made the poison and then the tip of the arrow was dipped into the concoction. They also introduced us to many healing plants and herbs.

So here's the funny part. At 9:50pm the lights flashed on and off, in preparation for "lights out" at 10pm.

Maasai Mara (Masai Mara) is known as Africa's Greatest Wildlife Reserve, situated in southwest Kenya. Famous for the abundance of lion, the Great Wildebeest Migration and the Maasai people, well known for their distinctive custom and dress, it is without a doubt one of Africa's most famous safari destinations.

Maasai Mara National Reserve stretches 1,510 sq. km (580 sq. miles) and raises 1,500-2,170 meters above sea level. The terrain of the reserve is primarily grassland and riverine forest with clumps of the distinctive acacia trees. It's about 270 km from the capital city Nairobi and takes about 5-6 hours by road or 40-45 minutes by flight www.maasaimara.com.

So now travel with us to Maasai Mara.

A dear friend of ours took us to Maasai Mara. We stayed at his beautiful luxury tented camp, right in the center of the Mara. Elated and excited, we packed and at 5:30am one Friday morning we left Nairobi headed for the Mara. After many hours of bumping around we arrived at the lovely Elangata Olerai Luxury Camp. The camp and the views were simply breathtaking. The staff met us, warmly, with a refreshing glass of fruit juice and led us to our accommodations. The tent had a deck overlooking the place where the wildebeests cross in droves, twin beds, a sitting area and a bathroom equipped with a "real" toilet and shower. Absolutely incredible!

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Maasai Mara: If we are both awake then who’s snoring?

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Before turning in we watched a movie, on the portable DVD player (camping at it’s best). We said good night and hit the sack. Side note: There were eleven Maasai Warriors who served as guards for the camp at night. Why so many? Well, here’s your answer…

It’s around 2am in the morning and we hear someone (or something) snoring. It’s neither one of us because we are both WIDE AWAKE. There’s snoring on one side and laughing AND snoring on the other. What? We THINK we know what it is outside… maybe buffalo and hyenas… but we dare not confirm our suspicions. And now we are shacking… Oh NO! The earth is shaking more than we are…. But why? Because the elephants have joined the party. What? Yup! Elephants came to the camp, to eat, in the aw hours of the morning. Whew! And then we see the fire sticks walking around the tent. So what’s the fire stick? When the Maasai patrol the camp they use large wooden sticks with a huge blaze on the end so they can see where they have been and where they are going.

But the story gets funnier… at least it’s funny now. It’s 3:30am and one of us has to use the toilet. OMG! Side note: The tents are made of thick canvas with BIG LOUD zippers. In the words of Batman: Pow! Ping! Zap! Will their efforts to use the toilet awaken Mr. Hyena and Mr. Buffalo? Thank the Lord the answer is NO! But, imagine two grown women, tipping in the dark, trying to get to the toilet and back without becoming the morning snack of unwanted neighbors. (Oh, is this where we are supposed to quote, love thy neighbor as thyself?) If so, we failed miserably. Our neighbors were NOT welcome.

Our suspicions were confirmed the following morning. To the left of our tent there were hyenas (laughing AND snoring) and to the right were the buffalo (snoring). During breakfast, we were informed that ALL of the animals spent the night on our side of the camp. They walked, ate, rested, slept, etc. right outside of "our" tent! Wow! Laughter erupted during breakfast as we told our story.

**WHAT?** $25,000 USD in donations needed to purchase a ministry vehicle.

**WHY?** We need an all-terrain vehicle. We serve the unreached, marginalized and often forgotten pastoralists (nomads that raise livestock on natural pastures) of Isiolo. Our villages are in undeveloped areas, better known as “the bush”, WHERE THERE ARE NO ROADS.

**WHEN?** **Today!** We need your help today.

**WHERE?** The Mission Society | P. O. Box 922637 | Norcross, GA 30010

**Online Donations:** themissionsociety.org/people/soniacrawley OR themissionsociety.org/people/sonjipass

**HOW?** Please put **Crawley/Pass Vehicle** and/or “3020VEH” on all donations.

**PRAYER NEEDS…**

- Pray for the Nation of Kenya, in preparation for their 2013 Presidential Elections; that peace, justice and the love of Christ might prevail in the land.
- Pray for the leading, guiding and favor of the Lord in identifying land for purchase in Isiolo.
- Pray for God’s protection over every child in the Nation of Kenya.
- Pray about your partnering with us in ministry by supporting special projects, such as vehicle purchase, sending a child to school, digging a well and/or funds for building an orphanage in Isiolo.
- Join us in praying Psalm 91, daily; not only for the two of us but for cross-cultural workers around the world.
- Pray that God’s peace and the healing power of the Holy Spirit overshadow our families, as we serve in Kenya.

**FINANCIAL NEEDS…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount &amp; Purpose…</th>
<th>Budget Item or NOT…</th>
<th>Additional Comments…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We are still in need of a small vehicle for local travel. Our budget is $5,000.</td>
<td>This amount <strong>is not included</strong> in our annual budget.</td>
<td>Donate towards the total or make a one-time donation of $5,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000 in additional monthly support, for the remainder of 2012.</td>
<td>This amount <strong>is included</strong> in our current annual budget.</td>
<td>We were at 75% of our fundraising goal at the time of our deputation.</td>
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**2013 AT – A – GLANCE…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 31st – February 14th</th>
<th>Team from Ft. Lauderdale, FL</th>
<th>Evangelism and Leadership Development.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 27th – May 2nd</td>
<td>We will be in the US!</td>
<td>We will be People Raising and providing ministry updates. We would love to speak with you, your church and/or your organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4th</td>
<td>Kenya Presidential Elections</td>
<td>Please pray for peace and justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16th – 27th</td>
<td>Mission Team Opportunity</td>
<td>Women’s Ministry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June (mid) – August</td>
<td>Two Interns will join us in Kenya.</td>
<td>Working with pastoralist children and orphans, in rural areas. Overseeing Kamp Kenya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Mission Team Opportunity</td>
<td>Focus to be determined.</td>
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A very special THANK YOU to all of our “anonymous” donors.

September's Newsletter will be a Special Edition, dedicated to the 2012 Medical Mission Team.

Mail to:

The Park Ministries – Kenya
P. O. Box 1691 – 000621
The Village Market
Nairobi, Kenya