

# Joanna's Kenya Newsletter

Greetings, Goodbyes, and Everything In-Between



## Saying Hello to A New Life

On Monday, July 22, 2019, my dad and I landed in Nairobi, Kenya. That was the beginning of what will be my new life for the next five months.

We arrived in Chogoria late the next evening and the welcome we received from the entire Webber family (Derek, Lauren, Lucy, Olive, Jack and Ivy) was tremendous! They had put up balloons and signs to welcome us to their home. Inside my little house (which is being called "the tiny house"), Lauren and the kids had framed Bible verses and pictures from back home. They did and are doing so much to make me feel at home with them.

My dad was here for a week and he and I were thrilled to do life with the Webbers. We met many new people, toured the hospital where Derek works, and helped with the kids and around the house. At night, we would go back to the tiny house, make some tea, pull out the cookies Lauren and the kids made for us, and spend some daddy-daughter time together. Oh, how I loved those times! We talked over the events of the day and, often, he would encourage me to give my all to working for the Lord here and to dig in to God's word during this special and unique season of life.

The adventure has begun and I so look forward to seeing how the Lord will work during this time!



*Ivy, Derek, Lucy, Olive, Lauren, Jack, and me at a waterfall a few minutes' drive/hike from their house.*





*Daddy and me in front of a lion from Babylon.*

It was amazing to see how God could use small people in small places in big ways for His glory!

After walking around London for several hours, we went to the British Museum to see artifacts that pertained to the Bible. How awesome it was to see actual archeological discoveries from Bible times. Seeing artifacts related to stories that I have heard and read for so long, such as Abraham, Esther, and King Hezekiah, was an amazing privilege and blessing, not to mention completely fascinating.

## The Journey to Africa

On our way to Kenya, Dad and I stayed a few days in London where we were able to see some of the many sights the city has to offer.

The day after arriving in London, we went on a walking tour led by Ben Virgo with Christian Heritage London. We went to the different places where various Christian people of England preached, served, were put on trial, and made their marks on history.



*Daddy in the pulpit where John Newton preached.*



*Pastor John Brown and Daddy talking after the church service.*

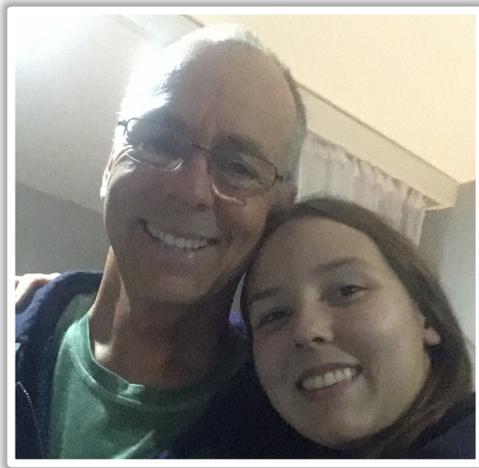
## Visiting Some Friends and Fellow Workers

While in England, we were able to visit our church missionaries, the Browns. How wonderful to get to visit both of our church's missionary families in one trip! We were even able to attend their church one Sunday, where Dad taught the book of 3 John. It was a huge blessing to spend time with the Browns, meet a few members of their congregation, and see the work that God is doing in Norwich.



## Saying Goodbye to My Previous Home

A few days ago, Dad left for the airport in Nairobi. I had been expecting this moment for many months, just as I had been expecting to fly away from America to Kenya for many months. When I left Borrego Springs, bound for Chogoria, I did not feel overly sad. Instead, I was excited and ready to begin a new adventure. I was leaving behind what I had known and was heading off to somewhere unfamiliar - somewhere exciting.



*Michael, Sarah, and me the day before Dad and I left.*

That said, I was not prepared for the flood of emotions that came the night before my dad left for Nairobi. There is something different about being the one who stays rather than the one who goes. There is a sense of excitement and novelty in going. But when you are left behind, nothing changes. Life goes on as “usual,” but you are missing someone who used to always be there. This is how my family felt when I left and how I felt when my dad left.

I am learning how true it is that, when I feel alone, when I feel that almost all I know is far, far away (which it kind of is), when I am in the midst of struggles and storms, God is with me. He carries me. *He* sustains me. I just have to learn to depend daily on Him. Even when I’m tired or pressed, I must begin each morning by spending time with Him. If I don’t, I may not run completely out of steam (although that is highly likely), but I will not live life the way *He* wants me to live it. I will live it for myself and not for Him and others. I will survive, not thrive.

I am still learning that. I am still learning how to live each moment *fully* for God. I invite you to join me. Let’s learn to “begin with the end in mind,” as my mom says, and to think of how we want to finish, with Jesus saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” (Matthew 25:21).

### *Prayer Requests*

First of all, thank you all so much for praying! Your prayers are felt and tremendously appreciated. We cannot thank you enough!

- Health for all of us. Different people have been sick with a head cold that sometimes feels like the flu. Currently, Lauren and Ivy are doing the worst. I am also feeling a bit sick but mostly just a head cold.
- Wisdom and peace for Derek as he works.
- Dependence and focus on God and time-management skills as I learn to navigate living on my own. :D