Dear Family and Friends,

Last week I found out just how bad Kenyan roads can be. On Sunday the 14th we had a two and a half hour ride to church on roads that like kind of like swiss cheese. It was a very bumpy long ride. The church was in a rural area and it doubled as a Baptist school. It was a stone building with a roof and a dirt floor with no electricity. I sat there and thought about the churches back home, what a difference. The church is trying to raise money to put in a cement floor as they have a problem with jigger's in that area. Ryan preached a very good message on courage, and I like when Ryan preaches because it's in English and I can understand it. The believers in Kenya are very passionate and alive. It didn't matter where they were, they were excited to be worshiping God! After the service I got to meet a lot of the children that go to school there, and I helped hand out candy.

I am getting more independent in Kenya! Last week I ventured off to town by myself and survived! Town is about a 15 minutes walk from the house, so it wasn't too far. On the way I practiced my newly learned Swahili phrase "Habari," which means how are you, to the local vendor ladies on the side of the path.  I was able to cross the street by myself, and here's some good advice. When you're not sure when to cross the street and you're alone, just wait for a national to cross and go at the same time. Kenya's right of way is very different than the America right of way. In America the right of way always goes to the pedestrian. In Kenya, the right of way goes to whatever is bigger than you. So a bicycle has the right of way over a pedestrian and so on up. The really big trucks and buses have the right of way over everyone and you want to stay out of their way so you don't get run over. I've now gone to town several times by myself to buy food and do some errands. I think I could actually live in a foreign country and survive :).

This last wednesday Beka and I went to a women's Bible study at the Bible school. The study began with singing hymns in Swahili. Some of them were familiar like "Count Your Blessings," and "Down at the Cross," but some were new. It's interesting and very unique to sing hymns in a different language and know that God understands what is being said. Beka had asked me in advance to share something at the study, so I shared on Phil 4:6 on how we shouldn't be anxious about anything because God is in control and knows what is happening. Our job is to give thanks to Him no matter what is happening. So I shared and Beka translated it into Swahili for me. I didn't get stoned so I think it went all right. There were about 17 ladies that came to the study and I found out later that this was the first time they were meeting. Beka led the rest of the study, which was all in Swahili. The Bible school is an actual school that about 300 children attend, so after the study Beka went and told the kids a Bible story, and i was once again introduced. After the children were dismissed I started greeting them and then I asked a few of them if I could take their picture. This resulted in all of them crowding together and the teachers organizing them. I tried to ask the teachers if they could have the children step back a little bit because I was up against a building, but they understood this as me wanting the children to kneel down in the front. So I ended up taking about four pictures to be able to get the entire group. It was a lot of fun and there was lots of laughing involved.

Beka and I have been working all week on organizing a library of sunday school material for the sunday school teachers in the area to use. We're making progress, but it has to be done by Saturday because that's when Beka is doing a sunday school teachers training course. On Sunday, we are going back to the Bible school for the sunday school portion of church, where I'm going to try and do the story for the kids. Please pray for me. After sunday school we are going to go to another church about an hour away. After church there it sounds like we are going to do some medical care for the orphans there. So it's going to be a very busy weekend.

Next week I will be traveling to Nairobi to help Beka get one of her orphan girls, Nacibo, ready to start high school. She starts on Feb. 2nd. So I'll be in Nairobi for about four days which should be exciting. Thank you for all of your prayers, I appreciate them and they are very helpful and encouraging!

Prayer:

Pray that God will continue to use me, and that I'll have the courage to do what He asks of me.

Pray for safety as we travel and that the car will continue to run.

Pray that everything will go smoothly in Nairobi and that Nacibo will be able to pay for school.

Please continue to pray for good health

Since I finally remembered to take my camera with me, I have attached some pictures to this e-mail.

In Him,

Jen