



Back to Kenya after One More Travel Adventure

Bob & Hope Carter - c/o Moffat Bible College, PO Box 70, Kijabe 00220, Kenya

January, 2026

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

We are glad to be writing to you once more from Kijabe, Kenya as we begin one last term of teaching at Moffat Bible College. In fact, after the travel adventure we endured to get here, we were relieved to finally touch down in Nairobi on the day we should have started teaching at Moffat.

Our jumbo jet pulled back from the gate on schedule for our long-haul trip from JFK New York to Nairobi at about 1:30 pm on Monday, Jan. 5. We went through all the safety demonstrations, then waited. After some time, the pilot announced that there was "a problem with the plane" and a technician was being brought to fix it, and meanwhile we would remain parked out on the tarmac. After another long wait, we were informed that the fix was not successful and we would be returned to the departure lounge where we could wait more comfortably while the repair efforts continued.

We spent the entire rest of the afternoon in the departure lounge. Finally, around 5:30 PM, we were informed that the flight had been canceled, that the airline would rebook us for another flight, and that they would send the details to our email addresses. Meanwhile, the airline offloaded our luggage and gave us hotel vouchers at a nearby airport hotel. The hotel courtesy van would take us from the airport to the hotel.

It took forever for the entire planeload of passengers to be processed and receive their vouchers. Finally, together with all the other tired and unhappy passengers, we collected our luggage, left the terminal building, and waited outside after dark in the sub-freezing temperatures at the designated pick-up point for the hotel courtesy van.

Unfortunately, the hotel was entirely unprepared to receive an entire planeload of guests. They had only one courtesy van, which ran once every 30 minutes. Even though the hotel was not far from the airport, it did not send the van more frequently than scheduled, instead leaving thinly-clad passengers including women and children (some in pajamas) and even disabled persons in wheelchairs to suffer in the freezing cold awaiting the next van. After about 2 hours of waiting, we finally did what many other passengers had started doing: we hailed an Uber to take us to the hotel wishing that we had acted an hour or more sooner. By this time, Bob was shivering so badly from the cold that his hands could barely manipulate his smart phone. We (and many others) were dressed for Africa, not for winter in New York.

At the hotel we joined a long line of cold and exhausted passengers registering for their rooms and being served by tired and overworked hotel clerks. We finally received our room assignment and key card by around 10 PM, then headed to the dining room for a late bite of supper. It took about half an hour for one of the two harried service staff to take our order, which arrived after the dining room had already closed at 11:00. Other passengers were still arriving and registering, and had to go to bed hungry.

At least we slept well and awoke a bit refreshed, still not knowing when we would be able to resume our trip to Kenya. After breakfast we received the good news that the problem, a non-functional satellite navigation system, had been repaired overnight and that we would be able to fly on the same plane that afternoon. Meanwhile, several passengers had taken matters into their own hands after receiving no further communication from the airline, and rebooked themselves on alternative flights. So, when we finally departed JFK there were quite a few more empty seats on the plane than there had been the previous day.

We are grateful that the rest of our trip to Kenya was adventure-free, and that all our luggage arrived with us. We were never happier to see our taxi-driver friend, Philip, who was there to meet us and to take us grocery shopping in Nairobi before finally delivering us to our small cottage at Moffat by just after 5PM.

Back home at Moffat

We hit the ground running. We had arrived a day late and missed the first full day of classes. By now, we have been able to make up most of our missed class sessions and are mostly where we need to be on our course schedules. Several on the faculty and administration have warmly welcomed us “home” to Moffat, and we have enjoyed catching up on the lives of our friends and colleagues during our absence.

This term we are team-teaching the life skills course “Teaching Behavior Change” one last time with our new Kenyan colleague, Edward. Because we do not expect to be here for this course next year, we are putting a lot of time and effort into mentoring Edward in taking the lead in organizing all the complicated logistics of arranging for the teaching practicums on Wednesday afternoons. There will be 16 teams of 2nd and 3rd year students teaching all 7 lessons of the “Adventure Unlimited” life skills curriculum to 6th-9th grade students at three different schools. This takes a lot of coordinating.

In addition, this term Hope is teaching ‘Human Sexuality and Gender Issues’ and ‘The Church and Disability Ministry’, while Bob is teaching ‘Community Health for Pastors and Christian Leaders’, and has launched an online version of ‘Teaching Behavior Change’. We also look forward to rejoining the worship team this weekend. Besides these activities, Hope has been asked to serve the school this term as its health coordinator, and Bob has been asked to prepare the course ‘Practical Theology in Health Issues’ for online teaching next term, which he will conduct from Indianapolis. This should be enough to keep us from boredom this term!

Technology Troubles

This term’s challenges did not end with our travel adventure. Last Friday, Hope took her new laptop with all her prepared lecture notes for all her courses to her 9AM class, opened the lid, and discovered a dead computer. She had to teach the entire class period with no notes. With the help of a missionary colleague with more techy expertise than we have, we were later able to get it to turn on again. Apparently, it had hung up while shutting down and rebooting during an automatic update of the operating system. But that evening, it stopped recharging from the plugged-in power supply. Even with the help of the other missionary, and after shutting down and rebooting several times, we could not get it to recharge for more than a few seconds at a time. When the battery ran down, that would be the end of it. With the battery at 46% we finally gave up, shut it down, prayed over it, and went to bed.

We got up the next morning, booted it up, and behold! The battery started recharging again! No one here can figure out what happened. Does God miraculously heal computers? Well, it sure seems miraculous enough to us. Nevertheless, it is still not all-the-way working well. The USB-C charging cable only works in one of the two USB-C ports, and the laptop no longer communicates with either our printer (a USB-A port) or with the digital projector (an HDMI port). So, we are using Bob’s laptop for all activities requiring a projector or printer. Unless we get another miraculous healing of technology, we will nurse it along until we return to the U.S. in May, and then have it repaired under warranty.

Oddly enough, two other battery-powered items belonging to Hope have now developed power problems. Her Motorola mobile phone no longer charges when plugged in. It’s battery does not hold a charge above 1% even when plugged in all day. She will have to take it to a phone repair shop in Nairobi. When she does that, she will also have to replace her watch battery, which has now stopped. We don’t realize how dependent on technology we have become until it is no longer there for us.

Despite all these challenges, we feel blessed to be here. This is our “season of blessing” as we share life and ministry one last term together with all the dearly loved friends and colleagues we have come to know over the past several years. And we have one more chance to get to know another class of students and to sow good seed into their hearts and minds. We can choose to focus on all the frustrations and challenges we are facing, or we can choose to live in the reality of God’s consistent Presence with us. Therefore, we choose to every day embrace the joy of shared community, shared vision and purpose, and shared membership in one body under one Head. This is not a perfect place, but it is a blessed place.

Continuing Matters for Prayer

- There is still no one to take over as head of the Community Health and Development department when the current head departs after graduation in July. Ideally, this would be a SIM missionary. The need for leadership in the department is both significant and urgent.
- Without project partners, we continue to rely on funding the Moffat Community Health and Development Project from our own ministry account with SIM. This is unsustainable. We desperately need partners who will commit to help fund the project on a regular basis. Would you or your church be willing to pray about becoming a project partner for at least this year? (A commitment to the end of 2028 would be even more exciting!) Even in retirement, Bob will continue to serve as the project’s manager until another SIM missionary can be found to take his place.

Thank you

We never cease giving thanks for your consistent partnership in this ministry over the years. Your faithfulness in prayer, encouragement, and financial support continues to evoke an outpouring of praise from our hearts to the throne of grace. And if you have been keeping up with our ministry reports you are already aware of how much impact you have had over the years through this ministry: impact that has brought healing to bodies, minds, and spirits and has birthed many souls into Christ's Kingdom; and impact that has trained, built up, and equipped the next generation of African Christian leaders. May God richly bless and reward you for your faithful partnership in this work.

Bob and Hope Carter Contact Information:

- US Mail: 7946 Carberry Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46214
- Kenya mail (until April): c/o Moffat Bible College, PO Box 70, Kijabe 00220, Kenya
- Mobile U.S. phone numbers: Bob - 317-828-6329; Hope - 317-443-7485
- Email: bob.carter@sim.org or hope.carter@sim.org

Prayer Points

Praise God:

- For our safe return to Kenya and for one last term-length opportunity to teach in person here at Moffat Bible College.
- For the enthusiastic reception we received upon our arrival here, and for the unity of vision and of spirit among the faculty.
- That Hope is able to use her computer again even though we don't know what happened.
- For the faithful team of ministry partners who have supported us in this ministry for many years.

Please Pray:

- For the health of our family members back home in the U.S. Ask that nothing will require a premature return before the end of the term. We strongly wish to finish well.
- For a successful term of teaching including good relationships with students and faculty and effectiveness in delivering important course content and encouraging lifelong learning.
- That we will be able to resolve our dispute with the Indiana Department of Revenue.
- That the Lord will *soon* reveal His choice for the next Head of Department. This is quite urgent!
- That the Lord will quickly raise up financial partners for the Moffat Community Health and Development project (SIM Project #92163).

Contributions towards our support or towards the project may be sent by check to:
SIM USA, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273.

Make the check out to SIM-USA and indicate its purpose on the "memo" line:

Bob & Hope Carter (# 09892) or

Moffat Community Health and Development project (# 92163)

Alternatively, contributions may be made by online donation at **www.simusa.org/get-involved/give**.

- Our SIM missionary number is **09892**.
- Our SIM project account is **92163** - "Moffat Community Health and Development".

Thank you!