



The Currency of Heaven (...and a life saved)

Bob & Hope Carter - February, 2025
C/O Moffat Bible College, PO Box 70, Kijabe 00220, Kenya

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

We began writing this report during Moffat's mid-term break, meaning that we are already halfway through our time here in Kijabe. (Gasp!) Hope is still grading midterm papers and Bob is trying to track down financial information for a comprehensive end-of-fiscal-year report on the Moffat Community Health and Development Project. Classes resumed last Wednesday and are back in full swing. Meanwhile, Hope's unexpected temporary re-appointment to her old position as Health Coordinator has kept us both busier than expected for almost two weeks, and many people are glad that we are here this term. Here's the story:

A life saved

What's in a title? A lot, it turns out... Perhaps we should have seen it coming, but at the first faculty meeting of the term our Principal re-appointed Hope to her old position of health coordinator for the school. Usually, that means authorizing students to seek medical attention at Kijabe Hospital or to miss class for health reasons, or dispensing non-prescription drugs such as pain relievers, anti-histamines, decongestants, etc. But sometimes, it requires advocacy and knowledgeable intervention.

Recently, one of our first-year international students from a small island in Indonesia became deathly ill and had to be admitted to Kijabe Hospital with active TB and a collapsed lung. Our colleague Pat Kiernan, who has developed a close and supportive relationship with him, recognized his condition's urgency and took him to the hospital. Hope was informed the following day, and we have remained engaged with the situation ever since.



On admission, the student required an isolation room, but all isolation rooms were already occupied. He was therefore admitted to a private room. We praise God that the excellent and timely care he received at Kijabe Hospital saved his life, and he is now out of danger and making daily progress. However, there was no way he could afford to pay for a private room. Pat raised the issue of his daily bed charge on admission, but by this time it was late at night, and poor communications meant nothing was done to adjust the electronic billing system that he should only be charged the regular bed rate.

A few days later, when the student was stabilized and improving, we both joined with Pat to follow up on the issue of his daily charges. We spent over two and a half hours at the hospital, advocating for him with various people in the finance office and getting nowhere. It seemed no one had authority to overrule the billing system. Finally, Bob contacted the Finance Director with our request, including details of the extenuating circumstances. (We do include the importance of engaging in advocacy for the voiceless, powerless, and needy in our community development courses, and it is important that our own actions must be consistent with our words.) Advocacy is not always convenient or successful. But in this case, the Finance Director agreed to our request and the daily charges were revised. God continues to answer our prayers, and we are grateful. As of Saturday, the student had returned to the dorm (in self-isolation for 3 more days) and he is now looking forward to resuming his studies midweek. Praise God!

The Currency of Heaven

We like to say that the currency of Heaven is not US dollars or British Pounds or Japanese Yen or even gold bouillon (that's pavement!) but rather it is the relationships we develop here on Earth. The only treasure we will take with us to Heaven is the love and friendship that characterize our earthly relationships. Those relationships that we hold dear, that carry meaning for us and that make us feel blessed become eternal deposits in Heaven's Treasury.

This month, we were blessed by the affirmation of two such relationships. We were delighted to receive an overnight visit on Valentine's week by a couple we have known since our years at Friends Lugulu Hospital in Western Kenya. In fact, we provided the "wedding car" when they got married! Abraham and Juliana Shivoko consider us to be their mentors and now have young adult children making their own ways in life. They have themselves pursued further education, achieving masters degrees. She is a pastor and he is a bishop in their church network, and this August he will be receiving his doctoral degree. We are proud of them and of their commitment and service to the Lord.



Africans commonly assert that you don't really know them until you have visited their home. "Home" is not necessarily where they are living now but is where they were born and raised. It is the ancestral land that produced their grandparents, parents, and eventually them. We have known Martin, our colleague in the department here at Moffat, for more than a decade since he was one of our students. We recruited him back to Moffat while he was still working on his Master of Divinity degree at Africa International University and helped him to complete his degree. We celebrated his marriage to Florah and rejoiced in the births of his two beautiful daughters. And we are grieving his coming departure from Moffat at the end of this academic year, even though we recognize God's hands in moving him and his family through the seasons of life. Like Abraham, Martin sees us as his mentors. For two years we have been looking for a time when Martin could show us his "real home". Such a visit would be an affirmation of the love and respect we hold for each other. But somehow, we were never able to make it happen. Until now.



Last Friday, Martin and Florah took us to see his ancestral home where he is still developing the plot of land where he and his family will eventually live, and where his mother, uncle, and grandmother are buried. But we took the long way there. First, we had to visit Agape Special School on the outskirts of Nairobi, where he is sponsoring the education of a severely autistic girl. The school is unique. It provides boarding or day schooling plus therapy sessions by trained therapists to children with various kinds of disability. He then took us to the university in Nairobi where he will be teaching some courses after leaving Moffat and providing chaplaincy and counseling services for French-speaking students. He has already helped to start a French-speaking worship service there on Sunday mornings and stays afterwards to counsel students on a voluntary basis.

By mid-afternoon we had finally reached Martin's ancestral home. We were blessed to meet his older brother and sister and were fed a tasty late lunch. He showed us the "farm" and the development projects he is working on, and then we were given the honor of planting a perennial flower at the family gravesite and two fruit trees where they hope to eventually build a chapel. Finally, he took us to meet his great uncle and aunt, who raised the family after his mother and father had died. We returned to Kijabe after 10 pm, feeling blessed and laden with gifts of bananas, cassava, and arrowroot, the produce of the ancestral land.

We have accumulated other "treasures" too with which the Lord has blessed us, such as Joshua from our Lugulu days, and our "sons in ministry" Daniel, George, and Oscar, Moffat alumni who are now ministering to incarcerated prisoners, troubled youth, and the Digo people on the coast, serving them with the love of Christ. There are others as well, both men and women. For us, the words of Matthew 19:29 are coming true.





MoCA

Our Moffat Creative Arts (MoCA) student group, an offshoot of the HeCkima program, is preparing a series of podcasts on various topics relevant to Kenyan youth. This new endeavor evolved from the former radio ministry which itself evolved from HeCkima's approach to youth engagement. However, today's youth are much more plugged in to the internet than they are to radio, a fact which resulted in the vision for a podcast ministry, which will reach even larger numbers of young people with an unlimited geographic "footprint". We are grateful to Nahunta Friends Church, which provided the funds used to purchase the equipment needed to launch this new ministry.

Associate Faculty and Ministry Outreach Coordinator

On 4th February we held interviews for Martin's successor. Bob was on the interview panel, which interviewed six short-listed candidates. The panel was unanimous in its selection: a Moffat alumnus who graduated the year after we began teaching at Moffat. Edward has been serving as a pastor in this area for several years and has a passion for both equipping the church and for youth ministry. We are confident that God has answered our prayers by bringing us the right person to step into Martin's shoes and to carry forward the vision of the Community Health and Development Department. He will begin on May 1st, giving him all of Term 3 to overlap with Martin for a good handing-over process. Praise God with us!

The "Carter Cottage"

We are still living in an unfinished house. Even the shower wall remains uncompleted, so basin baths remain the best way to get clean without soaking the rest of the bathroom. But progress is being made in small, slow steps. Our windows are now secured, so hopefully we will not see any more monkey invasions. And curtain rods have been installed so now at night we feel less "on display". We are grateful that we have a house to live in at all, and the dozen other things that remain undone are merely minor inconveniences.

Family health update

Bob's father continues to improve after his surgeries last year. We try to communicate at least once or twice a week. He celebrated his 96th birthday last Saturday. We wished we could be there, but for now we are praying that his 96th year will have fewer health challenges than his 95th year. For an early birthday present, Bob's stepmother, Kay, was released from rehab last Thursday and moved back home. Yay! Kay's return to home is a huge answer to prayer.

Meanwhile, our son Nathan continues to do well. He did have a brief "mini-episode" of his KLS recently, but it responded quickly to the infusion therapy and lasted only a few days. He is enjoying his new job, which is keeping him quite busy. Last week they field tested a new prototype of airplane. Attending the testing were representatives from the FAA and even NASA.

Worship Ministry

Once a month, our worship team visits Kijabe Hospital after the English language worship service at the local church. We select a ward to visit and sing a few encouraging worship songs followed by a short devotional message spoken by one of our team members who recently graduated from Moffat Bible College and is now one of the hospital chaplains. (He still considers Bob to be his spiritual mentor.) Then we pray with the patients. Last Sunday we visited the ward called "Bethany Kids", which is a program that glorifies Jesus Christ by providing life-changing surgical and rehabilitative care to disabled children from all over Kenya. One of the mothers there expressed her disappointment that we weren't coming every Sunday!



Give Thanks for:

- God's gracious response to our advocacy and prayers for our Indonesian student admitted with TB to Kijabe Hospital. Praise God for the substantial improvement that is already taking place.
- The accumulating "treasures" with which God has been blessing us throughout our years of missionary service in Africa.
- The solar water heater in the "Carter Cottage" at Moffat is now working.
- The continuing recovery of Bob's father from two cancer surgeries, and for Bob's stepmother being released from rehab and allowed to return home last week.
- Nathan's good response to his KLS treatment, and for his new job.
- A successful interview process for Martin's successor, and for His provision of such an excellent person to step into his shoes.

Ask God for:

- The many "finishing touches" that are still needed at the Carter Cottage to be completed before we leave.
- God to continue watching over the health of Bob's father and stepmother, and over our son, Nathan.
- A successful launch of the MoCA podcasts, and that they will successfully reach into the hearts of African youth and produce a harvest of good fruit.
- God's anointing on Edward Thumbi as he prepares to take over from Martin in the Department of Community Health and Development.
- Wisdom as we try to be faithful in balancing our need to be present for family back home along with seeking to responsibly transfer our Moffat ministry to others, as the Lord provides.

Contact Information:

Here are ways to get in touch with us while we are in Kenya:

- Email: bob.carter@sim.org or hope.carter@sim.org
- WhatsApp: Bob – (+254) 715-719390 (Kenya number) or Hope – (317) 443-7485 (U.S. number)
- Skype: bobhopecarter
- Mailing address until April: c/o Moffat Bible College, PO Box 70, Kijabe 00220, Kenya

Contributions towards our support 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)

Moffat Community Health and Development project (#KE 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!