



## Flies and Flights

Bob & Hope Carter - April, 2024

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Dear Friends, Family and Ministry Partners,

It's raining in Kijabe. Still. Rainy days have outnumbered sunny days ever since we arrived in time to welcome the new year here at Moffat. This is unusual. Flooding is creating havoc on farms and on roads, even in Nairobi. Plus, the excessive rains have resulted in a bumper "harvest" of *Paederus* beetles ("Nairobi flies"). These little pests usually show up this time of year and thrive on rotting vegetation, of which there is currently quite an abundance. The guesthouse, dorms, and faculty homes are being invaded by large numbers of them; and they have one nasty trait: the body juices contain a highly irritating substance that can raise painful blisters on contact with skin. Swatting them is not a good idea; nor is brushing them off your face at night. We will not be sorry to leave them behind when we return to the U.S. later this week.



Yes, we moved up our scheduled return to the U.S. by three weeks so we could attend the graduation ceremony of Josiah and Grace on May 4. They both will be receiving their MBA degrees from Eastern University in Philadelphia, and it seemed right that we should be there to help celebrate their achievements. We will fly out of Nairobi this Wednesday night and arrive in Indianapolis on Thursday around 5:20 PM. We expect to be working remotely from Indianapolis until we return to Kijabe at the end of the year. Meanwhile, we are happy that Bob's father continues to do well after his valve replacement last month. His cardiac rehab therapist is reportedly quite happy with his progress. We are grateful to serve a God who answers prayer. Speaking of which...

### **Beyond Suffering**

...Thank you for praying for Hope, who successfully completed the "Beyond Suffering" course on disability ministry by the deadline date. What a relief to have all the assignments done and turned in! She now has her certificate of completion in hand. Finally, she can refocus her attention on the riveting task of sorting through three decades of accumulated saved papers. (Oh, joy!)

### **SIM Kenya SLC**

We were blessed to be able to take a break from sorting through *waaay* too many accumulated trunks, storage tubs and boxes to attend SIM Kenya's annual Spiritual Life Conference April 11-14 at the Lukenya Getaway, about an hour's drive east of Nairobi. What a spiritually refreshing time that was! Our devotional speaker was a retired AIM medical missionary who took us through a series of participatory and contemplative messages on the life and ministry of Jesus. These messages were preceded by deeply meaningful times of worship that drew us into the presence of Christ and nourished our souls.

We also heard encouraging reports, put together by our "SIM Stories" media team, from each of SIM Kenya's ministry focus areas. (Bob appeared twice: once with the Banda Health team as part of SIM Kenya's health ministries; and once with the Moffat Bible College team as part of the Theological Education ministry.) Much of our free time was spent reconnecting and conversing with other SIM missionaries we rarely get to see. It was particularly delightful to reconnect with two Moffat alumni who are collaborating with SIM in exciting outreach ministries to unreached people groups on Kenya's coast.

- On the last day, SIM Kenya recognized those who had served with SIM for more than 25 years. We were given a certificate of appreciation and a bouquet of 27 roses representing each of our 27 years of service with SIM. But we weren't the longest serving SIM missionaries at SLC. Our dear colleagues Walter and Christel Gschwandtner received a bouquet of 38 roses!



Our SIM Kenya faculty team at Moffat Bible College. Pat and Kristen, our replacements, are to our right.



At SLC with Martha (L), our Personnel Coordinator and Thaddeus (R), our interim Country Director

### Carter Cottage

Construction of Moffat's single-dwelling house for visiting faculty (dubbed the "Carter Cottage") is moving along quickly. The walls are up and plastered, the roof is on, and the plumbing and electrical conduits are being installed. The contractor has asked Hope to choose her preferred colors for the flooring and bathroom tiles, and paint for the inside walls. It will have solar hot water. The contractor thinks he should have it finished by July, but our principal wants to wait until we return late December to commission it – so there is really no rush. Living in the guest house has been an interesting and eye-opening experience; but even so we will be glad to have our own space to live in when we return, including a quiet place for doing office work.



### Potpourri

- In Kenya, Eid al-Fitr (the day ending the Muslim holy month of Ramadan) was a public holiday. One of the guesthouse residents is from the Gambia, and invited us to "break the fast" with him on that day. He is doing sub-specialty training in urology in Tanzania but is currently on a clinical attachment at Kijabe Hospital. We have enjoyed getting to know him and have had some excellent conversations with him. He prepared a very tasty (and spicy!) meat and vegetable stew with a peanut broth base, and Hope contributed a stack of naan bread, a type of Indian flatbread.



- As we prepare to return to the U.S. in just a few days, today (Sunday) was our last worship service with the praise and worship team for this year. It was a special service to focus on active praying using the 'ACTS' model: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. There was no sermon, just worship and prayer. Songs of praise and worship were interspersed with the times of prayer, so we had prepared twice the number of songs as usual. Afterwards, we went to the hospital and sang and prayed for the patients. As Hope said later, "What a great way to go out!" We are going to miss being part of this wonderful team so much!

(Photo: worship team ministering on the men's ward at Kijabe Hospital.)

- Meanwhile, tomorrow (April 22) marks the start of Term 3 at Moffat. We will attend the first faculty meeting of the term even though we will be departing for the U.S. on Wednesday. Some students are already returning with excited reports about their ministry activities during the break between terms. Last Friday, we hosted six of them for supper at the guest house. Interacting with the students is another part of Kijabe life we're going to miss. It has been a blessing and a privilege to participate in helping to prepare them for a lifetime of ministry.

### Thank You!

We are so blessed that you have been "walking the journey" with us in this ministry for so many years. And now, as we prepare to return to the U.S., we look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months. We will soon start working on our summer and fall schedules and will notify you accordingly when we have some plans worked out. All we can say for now is that we do plan to be attending a conference in Orlando on August 15-18. So you Floridians, please get in touch with us and let's connect!

Meanwhile, please know that we never stop being grateful for your being "with us" on our ministry team! We are thankful for your prayers, your financial support, and your notes of encouragement. As we continue to be fully engaged but transition to working more remotely, we hope that you will continue to pray for us and to support us in the exciting and transformative work to which God has called us. Blessings to each of you!

### Praise and Prayer Points:

#### Praise God for:

- The good continuing recovery of Bob's father following his heart procedure.
- Hope's successful completion of the "Beyond Suffering" online course.
- An inspiring and blessed Spiritual Life Conference for all members of SIM Kenya.
- Good progress on construction of the "Carter Cottage" at Moffat.
- Opportunities to form friendships with others of different faith traditions.
- The blessing we have been given to participate in the ministry of the praise and worship team.

#### Please Pray For:

- Safe and uneventful travels as we return to the U.S., arriving April 25.
- God to open the right doors for our son Nathan, a father of three who is currently unemployed.
- Our Gambian friend to have a tender heart towards the good news of Jesus Christ.
- The praise and worship team, that the Lord would replace leaving members with other vocalists and instrumentalists.
- Moffat's students and faculty members to have a successful Term 3, and especially for the final year students who will be graduating this July. Some will be carrying the Gospel to "difficult" places.
- Successful completion of the "Carter Cottage" visiting faculty house at Moffat.

**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 (#009892) **or** Moffat Community Health and Development project (#KE 92163)

Alternatively, contributions may be made by online donation at the following links:

Our support account - <https://www.simusa.org/give?fund-code=M009892+Support>

Our ministry account - <https://www.simusa.org/give?fund-code=M009892+Ministry>

Moffat Com. Health and Development - <https://www.simusa.org/give?fund-code=P092163+Project+Gifts+NonUS>

**Thank you!**