



Dear Friends,

After a challenging bit of travel, we have arrived safely and soundly back on U.S. soil. We journeyed through four countries over the course of a couple of days while we marveled at the changes in travel that COVID-19 has brought. Thankfully, our family tested negative for the virus and social distancing was readily accomplished throughout most of our travel. Despite the stress, uncertainty, and exhaustion, we remain incredibly grateful both for your prayers and for God's answer to those prayers in showing us grace throughout the journey. The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity as we begin to reenter life in the U.S. Big transitions are ahead for our family.

As we have mentioned in previous letters, we have made the difficult decision to leave Tenwek and return to life in the U.S. for our next season ([Click Here](#) if you missed our update explaining this decision). BUT, we see our leaving Tenwek as an **evolution** of our ministry there, NOT a cessation. Let us explain...

What will happen to the ministry at Tenwek in which you have been involved, and does it continue to need our support?

We plan to continue to be heavily involved in a supportive role of the general surgery and OB/GYN residency programs at Tenwek Hospital. We also hope that we will continue to work with World Gospel Mission (WGM) to facilitate this work. As we wrote recently, we saw one of the end points of our work in Kenya as handing over the running of the residency program to a Kenyan surgeon. Dr. Liz Mwachiro has taken up this challenging role. But this transition brings some hurdles that must be navigated in order for the residency program at Tenwek to continue to thrive.

One of the biggest ongoing issues is funding. We have been able to use financial resources provided by many of you to help support the residency program. However, one of the concerns that we have in leaving Tenwek is that the funding support for the program will leave with us. For a residency program at a mission hospital serving the poorest of the poor, loss of funding would be disastrous. Because of the developing nature of the healthcare and educational systems in rural sub-Saharan Africa, outside funding remains necessary while simultaneously working towards sustainability. While we certainly see sustainability as a goal, it is equally certain that sustainability is a long way off. Thus, we see a responsibility to continue to support the program financially ourselves and to advocate for continued support from others. **Our hope is that you will continue to join us in this endeavor, and that we will continue to see the surgical residency program thrive, sending out skilled and mature Christian surgeons to care for the underserved in their region.**

How can you do this? If you have supported our family's journey financially, continue to do so. We will continue to draw some financial support on home ministry assignment until October as we follow through on some ministry activities and transition to work in the U.S. (see below). After that, we will no longer draw financial support for ourselves, although we plan to continue to be involved with supporting residency education at Tenwek through a variety of ways (more to come). If those of you who have supported us so well during the past 6 years would continue to support the residency program, the IMPACT would be HUGE! We will be doing so ourselves, and we are working with WGM to determine the best way forward for us and our supporters. More to come over the next few weeks as we will clarify for you how this transition will be made.

What are you doing next?

We have been forever changed by our experiences as missionaries in Kenya, and we are resolved to be intentional about continuing to serve others wherever God places us in the world. Teaching residents and medical students has become an integral part of our family's focus, and we will continue to do this both in the U.S. and abroad. Heath has taken a faculty position doing trauma and critical care surgery at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. This will allow him to continue to teach fellows, residents, and students. It will also allow him to be engaged in educational development in East Africa. Angela will be exploring opportunities to resume OB/GYN practice in Knoxville as she focuses initially on helping our girls transition into their new U.S.-based lives. Rees will be figuring out how to be a high school student in the U.S.... a big task for someone who has spent the majority of her past 6 years in rural Kenya! Mary Taylor will also be making a big transition as she goes from being home-schooled to being a fulltime 7th grader.

Again, we cannot thank each of you enough for your support over the past 6 years which has allowed us to be a part of God's amazing work at Tenwek Hospital. We are excited to reconnect with many of you here in the U.S. and to transition to serving here at home. But we are also excited for the future of Tenwek Hospital, and **we hope that we can continue to be an avenue for you to invest in the impressive work being done at Tenwek.** The story continues...