Living Letters

2 Corinthians 3
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4 NOVEMBER 2026

Dear family and friends,
(From Naomi)

We have been in a lot of transition in the last 2 years, and you have been there to encourage and pray for us! Thank you! I would love to send you all an individual letter, but it is more than what I can do right now.

Since we moved into our house in July, we have been slowly setting up our home. At first, we were sitting on the floor while using some stools as tables while we waited for a carpenter to make us a dining room table. When it arrived, our lives changed! We love our table, and we gather regularly around it. We have enjoyed having neighbors, colleagues, other missionaries, and neighborhood kids join us for meals at this table. We've also installed a counter for our kitchen; had a couch, dresser, and coffee table made; and had work done on doors to help keep mosquitoes out during the upcoming rainy season. Right now, I am sewing curtains, which have brought much joy to us all! The kids enjoy watching the process, and the added color brightens the room!

Here is a bit about our current daily life.

We wake up, eat breakfast (usually oatmeal or pancakes), and get ready for the day. Michael meets with his Swahili teacher while the kids and I head outside. Sometimes, we visit neighbors. Sometimes, the kids play in the dirt, or we watch leaves being burnt. Sometimes, we walk to a market to buy some produce. As I write this letter, Ford hopes that we will go visit some cows that live about fifteen minutes from the house.

We head home after our adventure and continue with tea time and morning devotions. I then read more with the kids or jump into making lunch. The time after devotions until about 3PM always feels so busy.

My Swahili teacher comes at 2PM for an hour. Last week, we talked through the process of making and serving tea. Today, we worked on directions. We used a little toy person with a train car. We worked on phrases like, "the person *on* the car," "the person *next to* the car," "the person *under* the car," "the person *near* the car," etc... The toys did the action as we spoke.

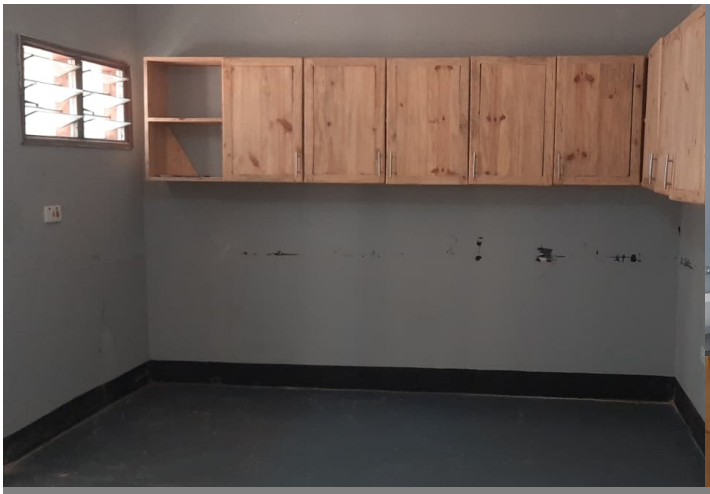
We have been having a smoothie time after my class. Frozen bananas, an avocado, or other fruit make for a wonderful transition and connection time. From 3:30-5:00 I'm often trying to finish a project from earlier in the day, getting the kids back outside, reading, or cleaning up. Michael then takes the kids for the hour before supper so I can make it or work on my to do list. We eat supper, have bath time, devotion time, brush teeth, and the kids are off to bed. In the evenings, we often have things we are still trying to do, and we often stay up late because we are processing what we are learning.



Jael (above) is bringing home some market finds.

Ford (below) is setting up a play fort in our living room soon after we moved in.







The past several months have been filled with continued language classes, unpacking, getting furniture made, getting various government documents, meeting neighbors, meeting translation teams, and more. The left picture is the kitchen as we moved in, and the right picture is a little more like its current state. We are settling into life here.

Here are some additional fun things to share! We were given a rooster this month, and we got the fence around the house patched up and a coop set up. We bought a hen from a neighbor, and she currently has laid 9 eggs! We don't know much about chickens, and so we are learning as we go. The kids love having them. Jael puts her shoes on and goes out the door to chase the chickens around the house. Ford has been a great help with latching the coop door to protect the eggs when the monkeys come. Yes, we have monkeys that come to the house for a couple hours a few times a week.

We would love it if you could come over today and have a meal with us. Since we're a little far, I hope this letter helps give you an idea of what daily life looks like for us. Every day is a little different, and every day we keep learning and growing! Michael continues to prepare for his role as a mentor and trainer for four bible translation teams that we will be working with. He's traveled to some workshops and observed consultant checking. There is a lot of learning and observing and asking questions this year. Next year feels overwhelming and also very exciting as Michael starts providing training.

Please continue to pray for us as our family travels through transitions at different paces as we adjust to life here.

Again, thank you for walking with us! We are thankful for you and pray that God will continue to be with you and provide for you! God's joy, peace, and wisdom be with you.

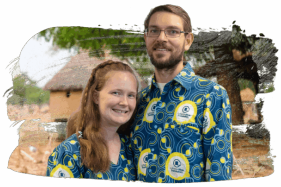
Confident in Christ,

Michael and Naomi Ersland

Prayer Requests

- Pray for us as we learn Swahili and the culture here.
- Pray for peace and wisdom as we anticipate the upcoming year.
- Pray for a good community for us, especially for our children.
- Pray for good processing of daily life and wisdom in taking care of ourselves—which in turn allows us to be better parents and perform better at our jobs.
- How may we pray for you? Please let us know!

About US



Michael provides training and mentoring for multiple Bible translation teams. Naomi's management of the family and daily life extend beyond the house as she builds relationships and walks alongside neighbors.

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Checks written to Lutheran Bible Translators with ***Ersland Ministry*** on the memo line. You can also give online at LBT.org

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