KENYA NEWSLETTER

October 28, 2026

Greetings from Kenya!

With mixed feelings, I write the last newsletter from my homesite in Kenya. It's hard to believe I'll be back in North Carolina in less than two weeks. I look forward to seeing you all and hearing about what has happened in your lives over the last two years.

As I reflect on my time here, there is much to be thankful for. First I must acknowledge the continuous technological assistance given by Americans and Kenyans, without which I could not have done the tasks required by the Peace Corps. A related blessing was the fortunate timing of my service, just before a new tech-dependent math curriculum was introduced. I was assigned to teach the last class of traditional learners, and I stayed with them for two years, their equivalent to grades 10 and 11. And my teaching colleagues and community neighbors were as kind, generous, helpful, and appreciative as anyone could have hoped for. The school is located in a beautiful, forested, temperate region, close to a market town and not far from a city. Also my house was never host to rats, bats, snakes, or bedbugs, all reported by other PCVs as having invaded their homes.

Our library project was blessed with happy occurrences from the very beginning. When we were unsure how to find and ship enough books, a former PCV from Durham advised me to consider Books for Africa. Generous donors of my acquaintance quickly gave about 35% of the required shipping cost, and after that, foundations, charitable groups, and donors whom I did not know stepped in to cover the rest. Two of Sam's cousins offered additional assistance to help finance the new building. When the container full of books arrived in Mombasa, all import duties and fees were waived. Without any idea how to find and hire a librarian in Kenya, I visited the public library in Kakamega and asked one of the staff if she knew a professional librarian who was not currently employed. At first she said no, but as I was leaving she handed me a little slip of paper with Evelyn's name and phone number. It turned out to be a match made in heaven. Finally, just after Mr. Ogutu left Lirhanda and we had no one to supervise work on the new building, my good friend and former Kiswahili tutor Patrick Mulamula finished his studies as a construction engineer. Now he is the site manager for renovation of our second room! (See photo)







Student performance on the final exam for the year was again a disappointment, although one of my students scored an A- and four others earned marks in the B range. All five of them are now working as volunteer library assistants, processing and shelving books during their school break. (Photo) I am helping out as much as I can, until I go to Kisumu on Nov.1st to finish up my Peace Corps business.

Thanks again to all of you for the support you gave me in whatever ways you could, much appreciated.

Love to all,
M/M