***December 2, 2025***

***Greetings from Kenya!***

After completing final exams, our students and teachers began the long school holiday, extending over November and December. Unlike the American system, the Kenyan school year starts in January, and the three terms are separated by 4-week breaks (in April and August) with no long summer vacation.
When school resumes in January, all my students will move up to Form 3 (grade 11) and I will move with them.

While my holiday calendar is more flexible and I have more time for non-academic pursuits, I am still busy, traveling, attending to PC business, and preparing for next year. Already I've had a good visit with my sister in Durham and gone to a village west of Lirhanda with one of my teaching colleagues to meet her 88-year old father (a retired Anglican priest) and other members of the family. Also I have sent in to the Peace Corps a full report of my teaching activities in 2025 and begun working through the Form 3 curriculum. I am learning the Kenyan approach to mathematical topics I never taught in the U.S., such as commercial arithmetic, propagation of errors, matrices, vectors, and compound proportions. And I have found more time to study Kiswahili, to read, and to crochet some hats and headbands.

While in Durham I picked up two bags and a box full of donated books at one of the drop-off sites (Grace Lutheran Church). Again the selections were excellent, including many science books for young people, sports stories, mysteries, biographies, puzzles, humor, history, and picture books. As before, I don't know who delivered or sent the books, but if it was you, many thanks! I had to borrow a suitcase to carry them all back! The school principal was extremely pleased with the books and said the students will learn to love reading. Another attraction for returning students will be a brand new ping pong table and paddles. Our school team does quite well in county and regional competitions, but until now they practiced on an improvised table (board with net attached). One of Sam's cousins volunteered to buy a new table, and he donated enough money to buy a couple of soccer balls and some badminton equipment as well. (Thanks, Mike and Juli!) A few days ago I went shopping with the school table tennis/badminton coach, and the table and other items were delivered to the school the next day. I will soon challenge the coach to a table tennis match.

The photos this month show the beautiful landscape of the Masai Mara National Reserve and a few of the animals who live there (with plenty more animal pictures to come!).

Love to all,
M/M







