

Greetings from Kenya!

April 23, 2026

We are nearing the end of our 4-week holiday between school terms. During my free time, I have done some organizational work for the new library, chosen problem sets for math homework in Term 2, written lesson plans, and read a couple of books for pleasure. Also I have met with local children three times a week to read storybooks and teach songs to them. And I'm doing a little traveling.

Over the Easter weekend I visited my American friends in Kitale, where I attended the Anglican church, enjoyed an Easter brunch of waffles and scrambled eggs, and went hiking with one of the other old ladies. The hike was fantastic. The morning was cool, crisp, and clear. Our driver and park guide were friendly and knowledgeable about the local economy, geography, history, and ecosystem. We explored a waterfall and a cave (inhabited at night by elephants, with a skull on display), and we walked beautiful trails. The guide and I climbed a steep pathway to the top of a cliff and were rewarded with an amazing view. Two photos of the hike are attached, as well as two others showing developments at school.

Recently on my way back from a shopping trip to Kakamega, I rode for about 20 minutes in a tuktuk (small 3-wheeled taxi) with a smelly, grunting pig tied up in a sack with its snout hanging out. I've also shared taxis with chickens and goats, but this was a bit more offensive to the olfactory sensors (he stank!). What's more surprising is to see these same animals tied (alive), sometimes 3 or 4 together, squawking and squealing, to the back of a motorcycle for the ride to market. Speaking of animals, our school now owns two sheep, as part of a project for the agriculture classes. At first there was just one, and she bleated most of the day in her pen near my house. She is much happier now that she has a companion and therefore makes less noise. I have named them Candy (female) and Condo (male), the latter being a homonym for Kondoo, the Kiswahili word for sheep. I believe they will keep our soccer field well-mowed and may provide a little income for the school, should they have offspring.

Several of you asked about the large pink protuberance on the banana plant in one of the photos I sent. It's the flower that produces the fruit. The top part becomes a bunch of bananas while the lower part descends and remains a blossom. Farmers usually cut off the flower once the bananas have formed, and it's edible! The tough outer petals are removed, and the tender, yellow florets inside can be used in soups and salads. I've never seen this delicacy served here – I believe it's more of an Asian dish.

I'm now in Kisumu, catching up on internet work and enjoying hotel life (hot showers, big breakfasts). A new restaurant has opened up recently with a bread counter, where they sell crusty, whole-grain varieties that I've not found elsewhere in Kenya. I buy a loaf to take home whenever I'm in town.

**Love to all,
M/M**

