March 2026
Greetings from Kenya!

Our books are on the way! A 40-foot container left the warehouse in Georgia on February 19 and should arrive at the port of Mombasa, Kenya, in about 8 weeks. From there, boxes will be loaded onto a truck and transported to the school, 540 miles inland. Meanwhile, at the school we have broken ground for our new library building. After a brief ceremony, including school officials, board members, builders, and a local pastor, the digging began. (See photos.) The new structure will include an e nclosed space to house books, with tile floors and large windows to let in natural light. Attached will be an open-air covered veranda with screens, to serve as a reading area. On school days students can use the reading desks in the veranda to work and study, and on weekends library patrons from the community will have a quiet place to sit and read. By this summer we hope to have a functioning library.

Continuing on the theme of infrastructure improvements, another of Sam's cousins offered to pay for having our classrooms and blackboards repainted. (Thanks, Katie!) The work should begin soon. Friends Secondary School, Lirhanda, is fortunate to have such generous benefactors!

This week, students and teachers are on half-term break. I stayed at school for the first four days, going over exams with individual students, better organizing the Little Library, writing lesson plans, and doing Peace Corps business. At the end of the w eek I will spend a few days in Kisumu, touring a local landmark with my friend Laurel, catching up on emails, and attending a PC meeting.

An interesting and fun activity we did this month in Life Skills class was to build towers, using straws and Scotch tape. The emphasis was on strong foundations, so that the towers would be stable and not fall over. (And we talked about building strong foundations in our lives as well.) Attached photos show the tallest and the most beautiful towers, surrounded by their proud builders.

This term has been going well so far, and we've had plenty of sunshine. However, t he rainy season seems to have begun early (during the last two weeks), and already I've been scraping sticky mud off my shoes. With the rain came some unwelcome news from the Peace Corps office: Our Country Director, Kateri Clement, is retiring next month. She has been the best "boss" I can imagine, demonstrating again and again that she really cares about the well-being of her volunteers. We shall miss her.

Love to all,
M/M







