

Greetings from Kenya!

May 26, 2025

New volunteers were told upon arrival that the months would fly by quickly, even though the days might seem long and slow. That has been the case for me, with the realization that I have now completed nearly one-third of my 27-month commitment.

At the end of April my friend and fellow “older” PCV, Laurel, came to visit my site. We took long walks, ate meals together, and talked about our work, families back home, and plans for the future. It was very nice to have company for a few days.

Three new developments have taken place here in my school and village: First, on weekends I am buying fresh milk from a local farmer. I boil it first, then store it in glass jars. The cream rises to the top and can be eaten with a spoon – delicious! Without refrigeration it last only two days so I am still buying ultra-pasteurized milk from the supermarket to use during the week. The second bit of news here is that our teaching staff has nearly doubled! For this term, the school was assigned 9 practice teachers from a nearby university to teach classes, and one of them, named Valerie, is assigned to me. She is teaching one of my math classes, and we collaborate on writing quizzes and exams. Having a lighter teaching load this term allows me to do other things, like attend school sporting events. (Our girls’ soccer team is superb.) Third and last, a penpal project has been launched between my school and Durham Academy, where members of my family have attended high school (and some still do). One of the math teachers at DA has agreed to be my partner in the “Global Connections” program run by the Peace Corps. I asked two English teachers here if they would assign students to write an introductory letter in their best English. The teachers picked out 10 of the best, which I photographed and sent by email to my American partner-teacher. He will try to match up my students with some of his to be penpals. Eventually, we hope to exchange small cultural artifacts and meet each other through Zoom calls and other internet connections.

This month’s pictures feature houses of worship. Since coming to Kenya, I have photographed many mosques and churches, whose styles vary considerably from very ornate & splendid to modest & simple. Some are located in cities and some in small villages. As you can see, many women wear white dresses to church. There is only one synagogue in Kenya, in Nairobi, which I hope to see before I leave. In the online pictures it looks beautiful.

Finally, thanks to all who have contributed to our Kenya–Lirhandia School library project. The agency does not tell me who has donated or how much they’ve given, but I know that many of you have been very generous. Please tell your friends and neighbors about our project, especially librarians, book-lovers, and anyone interested in Africa.

Love to all, M/M

This month's pictures:

