Greetings from Kenya! *October 26, 2025*

After a very pleasant and productive month in September, this month has been more difficult. On the 1st of October, news came that my dear brother-in-law Charles Register had died. He and Kathy were married for 52 years, and my friendship with Charles went back to our days as undergraduate math majors at Duke. He was an amazing man, known for his intelligence and wit, his willingness to share expertise in technological matters, and the mental and physical strength that made it possible for him to live with hemophilia. I will be making a quick trip to North Carolina in mid-November to be with my sister, but have no plans to visit a wider circle of friends. If you happen to see me around town, though, don't be too surprised.

The final weeks of Term 3 were intense. We made it through all but the last two chapters of the syllabus, and finished up with a week of review. Then a flu bug circulated among students and teachers, infecting most of us at an extremely busy time. Exams again proved to be an overwhelming challenge to all our students. Add to this the onset of the fall rainy season with mud and frequent power outages, and you can see why the month has been rather gloomy. (Let me add the good news that I am now completely healthy and rested, and that five of my students scored in the B-range on their exams.)

In recent weeks two improvements have been made around the campus that will make life more pleasant for all of us. Raised brick walkways have been constructed in muddy areas, allowing us to keep our shoes clean. Also clear panels were installed in the roof of several dark classrooms, making the rooms bright and cheerful. (This especially pleases me because I will see the students' faces more clearly and they will see the blackboard!) During school break, I have begun preparing for next year, when I will move up a grade with my students. (The Form 3 curriculum is definitely harder than Form 2!) Also I hope to get back to my study of Kiswahili, which I have been neglecting, and to do a bit of traveling in Kenya. Along with all of that, I am really looking forward to seeing my family in Durham.

The photographs this month show scenes from the Masai village we visited, located on the edge of the Masai Mara game park. The villagers performed for us their courting dances, one of which involves jumping as high as they can. (Whoever wins the competition pays a lower than usual bride-price for his betrothed.) Another photo shows a house under construction, beginning with a frame of wood poles, to be covered later with a mud mixture that dries to plaster. The houses can be constructed quickly, which is convenient in their semi-nomadic life. Red seems to be the color of choice for clothing among the Masai people.

Wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving, with much love,
M/M







