



Writing to you from Nairobi, Kenya

November 2011

## Photos in Focus

Halloween and Thanksgiving



## Why we don't own property here

We pay high rent for our house and office in Nairobi, Kenya. As the housing market here continues to suffer from high demand and low supply, we sometimes ask ourselves, "Why doesn't the mission just buy some land a little out of town and build its own compound?" It's a fair question and in some regions, the mission does own land purchased decades ago. But over the years, LCMS World Mission has moved away from buying land, vehicles, or other assets. In general, it's just too costly, time consuming, and difficult to do. Missionaries get distracted from their primary purpose by assets that need maintaining—vehicles need repairing, workshops need new equipment, hot water heaters need replacing.

Since we moved into our home here in Nairobi, we've enjoyed watching the cracks grow. We inherited these cracks in our walls from Claude and Rhoda Houge who lived here before us. And they inherited them from the people who lived here before they did. The cracks have been plastered over several times within the last 15 years (the house is only 15 years old). The foundation was excavated and "underpinned" at one point although as it's turned out, no real underpinning occurred.

Since we've moved in, the cracks have grown at an alarming rate and we have a whole new set of cracks as well!



*Dining Room Window and 10ft Hole*

Fortunately, our landlords live right next door. We rent this property from the Norwegian Lutheran Mission, also known as Scripture Mission, and their head offices and guesthouse are adjacent to our place. When we call, they send someone over pretty quick—we've come to appreciate a responsive landlord! They just happen to have their water engineer from Norway here in Nairobi. So we show him where the cracks appear to be

growing and where the walkway around the house is collapsing. "Well," he says, "we need to see what's going on. Dig it up!" Thus it began—right outside our dining



*Pippen Examines Holes Dug Under the Footing*

room window. It started with a 10-foot deep hole to access the footing, which, of course, resulted in a huge mound of dirt on the lawn outside the window. It turns out the footing is laid on bad soil, with good soil just inches further down. They'll pour concrete pillars between the good soil and the

footing of the foundation to stabilize the house—this is actual underpinning. Unfortunately, it sounds like this 10ft deep hole is just the beginning! Pray for our house!



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## LCMS WORLD MISSION

The Global Gospel Outreach of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### Prayer Requests

- For Krista and Baby Trump as we (hopefully) approach delivery in December
- For Krista's Mom as she travels to Kenya to be with us and help with Josiah and the new baby

### In Praise

- For Krista's good health and the health of Baby Trump as he prepares for life outside the womb
- For a wonderful Thanksgiving and Halloween celebration so far from home
- That the huge expense of underpinning the foundation of our home is not our responsibility

# Thanksgiving

The American holiday of Thanksgiving isn't, believe it or not, widely celebrated in Kenya. Or Tanzania. Or pretty much anywhere outside of North America. It is important for our family to celebrate the holidays of our homeland—especially for our children. Krista is particularly gifted in this area. Months ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday she was planning, cooking, preparing, and practically scheming! This summer she arranged for visitors to



*A Full Thanksgiving Plate*

bring over key ingredients from the States—marshmallows for sweet potato casserole, French fried onions for green bean casserole, and cranberries for her cranberry applesauce. Other visitors brought the makings for Fall and Thanksgiving decorations. Last month we got a lead on a turkey through Catherine, our National Volunteer Coordinator. Then somehow, from somewhere she



*Pilgrim Hats and All—Well Done, Tim!*

pulled out a few items purchased last time we were in the States—a year ago—for this very occasion!

A very pregnant Krista has been cooking for weeks. Chicken stock was made and went into the freezer. Pumpkin was cooked, squeezed, and pureed by hand—into the freezer. Sweet potatoes? Done—in the freezer. Not that the day of Thanksgiving was easy, mind you. But much of the work had been done in the weeks ahead.

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With fellow missionaries Tim and Megan Dooms, Catherine and her son Eugene, and our family, we enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, honey-ginger glazed carrots, crescent rolls with honey butter, sweet potato casserole with pecans and marshmallows, green bean casserole, cranberry applesauce, sourdough stuffing, pumpkin pie, pecan pie, and caramel pecan cheesecake, plus drinks and appetizers. YUM!

## Field Film

Our latest Field Film is available for you and your congregation. It's just a little greeting from us to you and a little about what's going on at this particular moment. You can access it through this hyperlink: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0s4brMPHgc> or from our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FieldFilm>. If you'd like to downloadable a copy to screen offline or show the congregation, please contact us and we'll get one to you. Enjoy!

