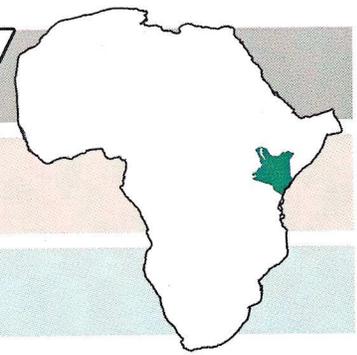


The Shelby Family



Luke 1/19
Tonya 6/20

Abigail 8/11/96
Breanne 8/20/97
Caleb 11/25/00
Kay-Leigh 11/23/04

KENYA

your missionaries to

East Africa

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Pastor Mike Files

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Dear Prayer Supporters,

January 2008

Greetings from Kisii, Kenya, a country that has seen some turmoil and violence in parts of the country since the general presidential election that took place on December 27th. Many have seen the violence on the news in the States, and we thank you for your prayers for our family and the country of Kenya during this time. We have been fine, without much happening in Kisii; but some of the roads were blocked in surrounding areas to where we could not leave the town. The police and anti-riot police have been deployed around the country, and their presence is evident even here. We are very thankful that we did not see first hand much of the violence that wrecked most of the country. We want to thank you for your prayers and your comments of encouragement. Because of your prayers, I believe, none of the serious violence has reached Kisii town. We have been in contact with the U.S. Embassy, and we are their information contact person for the area. There has been no target on foreigners, and there has not been an evacuation as of yet. But we do plan to go into neighboring Tanzania to stay with other missionaries, if we are advised to leave.

At this point, the government has said that **over 500 have died**, many have been hospitalized, and over **250,000 people have been displaced** because of the violence. Several displaced families have been brought to Kisii for safety, as they try to find relatives to live with in the region. Many have come from Kisumu (2 hours away) that was ransacked by looters, many buildings and vehicles were burnt, and several people killed. Usually, we pick up supplies in Kisumu that are not available here in Kisii; but most of the city has been shut down since the violence began.

Last Sunday, we were able to visit some of the shelters here in town with our church members, and we were able to donate some food and pray with the displaced families, who have been brought here. This will be an ongoing ministry that we will continue during this time in order to assist those who have lost their homes and many of their relatives. One old grandmother that we prayed with, came to search each of the shelters here in town to see if any of her children or grandchildren have been brought to Kisii. She said that she knows that she has already **lost 11 family members** in the nearby city of Kericho (1 1/2 hours away). We tried to console her the best we could by praying with her and giving her scriptures; but the grieving was so great. One of our students, Simon, had to go to another town to retrieve his mother and other relatives; because their house was burnt, and they have been sheltering in a church for over two weeks with several other families. Please continue to pray for the Kenyans at this time, because they are the hardest hit.

Eight of our churches and Bible studies are experiencing riots near them, with some people being killed in their area during the past week; but none of the members have been vandalized or hurt. We are praying with them and keeping in contact with them by phone. All 21 of our churches are trying to spend time in prayer each day at the churches where it is safe or by meeting in homes to pray for peace in our country. Many other hardships are that the village areas do not have the basic food items, like milk, bread, and kerosene for light, because the transportation system has been hit so hard.

We covet your continued prayers during this time. May God bless you.

For Souls in Kenya,

Luke and Tonya Shelby
Missionaries in Kenya

*"To give light to them
that sit in darkness
and in the shadow of
death..." Luke 1:79*