

Simonsen's Ministry Up-date

Simonsens Kenya, East Africa

**Sunday Up-Date
10 January 2021**



Dear Praying Friends,

This up-date is getting out very late! We had our college graduation practice on Saturday, graduation on Sunday and then two full days of seminars in place of our normal 4-day Spiritual Life Retreat (canceled by Covid protocols). Those days were busy and tiring so I never got to the up-date. More on those activities later.

This week Pastor Ouma did the last of his ROK exams. I will miss the fellowship when we meet for the exams!

The Halsteads arrived back in Kenya on Wednesday and

brought a trunk of things for us. Some was needed vitamins and medicines that are VERY expensive here but Aaron also added some Christmas presents which we are enjoying. The Mestlers arrived on Thursday. They all called it close but made it in time for our college activities.

College graduation practice was on Saturday morning and the graduation on Sunday afternoon. We had one Bible Certificate graduate and four graduates with Bachelors Degrees. It was my joy to award Daniel the Valedictory Medallion with a 3.94 (out of 4) grade point average. Aaron was also his class Valedictorian - must be genetic! Daniel also won the President's Award given by Pastor Wayne Van Gelderen of Baptist College of Ministry in WI. Needless to say we are very proud of our sons.

Other bachelors graduates were: Pastor Patrick Ouma who was my first student when I restarted Grace Baptist Bible College in 1990. Patrick earned a Bible Diploma then and has pastored for many years. In 2019 he joined our college to complete his degree and is planning to continue in our Masters Degree program. Luke Chege has been a student in our college for nine years and has finally finished - we thank God for his perseverance! Mrs. Mary Juma a long-time friend whose husband, Pastor Henry Juma, and son, Julius Juma and also graduates of our college.

During the two-day seminar our administration taught sessions dealing with the use and pitfalls of the internet. My session dealt with choosing and using Internet Filters to protect from pornography and other social evils.

On Sunday Daniel preached the second part of his message on the *Characteristics of a New Testament Church*. We rejoiced to have Joseph Maina in church for the second week and Mama

Dennis was there with her two boys. After the service Jeremiah and Mama and baba Jaden joined us for a quick lunch of samosas and then we all went to Nairobi for the 3 pm college commencement ceremony.

I will send some more of the college graduation pictures next week.

**In Kenya for Christ,
Rick, Sue, Aaron and Daniel Simonsen**



Zack Rains picture of the week: Another from their family trip to Tsavo game park. This area is usually dry and brown with the river about 1/4 of what you see here.



Christmas present from Aaron - now I'm really ready to defeat Covid 19!



Christmas present from Aaron - now Sue is ready to enjoy her chocolates!



It's Official

**DANIEL IS
GRADUATING!**

**JANUARY 10 2021
3 PM • IBCM
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Bachelor of Arts





Or course Mom made a cake - we shared it with the college at the seminar.



Daniel with Mary Christine Kimotho.
The college building is in the background.

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