

Holiday Chupplink

*From
Mike and Pam Chupp
On Home Ministry
Assignment*



Above: Steven 10th Grade
Right: Our gang with Steven,
Melody (8th grade), Kayla
(5th), and Ashley (2nd)



Celebrating our 18th Christmas together in our home in St. Joseph, Michigan

Wishing you a Joyful and Blessed Christmas 2009

From a cold and blustery southwest Michigan we extend our warmest wishes to your family this year as we celebrate the first Advent of our Lord. We begin a week of vacation today (Christmas) with Mike off from Southwestern Medical Clinic in St. Joseph, Michigan. He did an appendectomy on Christmas eve to complete his last call night of 2009. We will be spending the week with family in Indy and Chattanooga as we welcome the New Year. We anticipate that 2010 will be an exciting year of preparation and transition back to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya after two years away. We are thoroughly enjoying Christmas as a family in our new home purchased in April. The pictures above are from our family room in our home on 487 Maiden Lane. We are grateful that God has been a very faithful, caring, and patient Father to us. As we put up Christmas lights on our home we were reminded from James 1:17 that "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows". This year one of God's special gifts to our family was a restoration of joy to Pam. She has written in this Chupplink about her journey to experience joy and overcome depression with God's healing touch and love for her while home in the US. We are so grateful for all of you; friends and family who have prayed for us, encouraged us, and stood with us since we returned to the US from Kenya in June of 2008. May God bless you over and over in 2010.

A February Return to Tenwek

God has opened the door for Mike to return to our ministry home in Kenya February 5th for two weeks as part of a team of doctors and administrators from Southwestern Medical Clinic (SWMC). We chose this time as a team because the missionary doctors at Tenwek will be going to a continuing medical conference near Nairobi during that time. The "shoe is on the other foot" this time as Mike has always been the doctor to benefit from short termers coming to Tenwek to cover while he attended the same conference. Two weeks will be a flash but the opportunity to relieve our co-workers at Tenwek AND to reassure our Kenyan colleagues that the Chupp family will be returning soon will be worth it! Several doctors and our friend and administrator, Warren White with his wife Marcy, will be traveling with Mike. It has been a long time since Mike did ANY orthopedic surgery, his chief area of work in Kenya. What a thrill to pick up those power tools and put broken bones back together again! Our invitation to patients "Come Walk with Me" extends beyond the physical to touch the hearts of hurting Kenyans in Jesus loving and healing name.

October & November: Two Great Months for Tenwek in US

On October 31st friends of Tenwek Hospital gathered at Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC to celebrate 50 years of ministry at Tenwek in Kenya since the arrival of Dr. and Mrs. Ernie Steury on that hillside in rural Kenya. Sue Steury with many family members, retired missionaries from Kenya, former short and long term missionaries, and many friends of the ministry gathered and celebrated God's faithfulness in bringing about the "Miracle at Tenwek". Mike was the Master of Ceremonies for the event and welcomed Mr. Geoffrey Langat, the CEO of Tenwek, on his first visit to the US. The keynote speaker was Dr. David Stevens, Executive Director of Christian Medical Dental Associations, and former missionary at Tenwek in the 80's. The event kicked off the formation of the "Friends of Tenwek" organization which will work together with World Gospel Mission to raise funds and workers for the ministry over the next 50 years, God willing. The other event in November was the Global Health Conference in Louisville, KY, which is held each year as the largest single medical missions meeting in the US. Dr. Russ White, surgeon and Medical Director at Tenwek now, was the keynote speaker Friday night at the conference. He gave an inspiring and challenging message that stirred many hearts.



Left: Pam and Mike with the CEO of Tenwek, Mr. Geoffrey Langat who came to the US from Kenya for two weeks to attend the 50 year celebration in Charlotte as well as meet with several friends and partners of Tenwek in several states.
Right: Tenwek and WGM staff attending the Global Health Conference at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville in mid November.



The Year to Come-2010

As of January we begin to prepare in earnest to return to Kenya with our hoped for departure around July 10th. A LOT of work must be done before then including visiting many of our supporters and supporting churches. To facilitate this process Mike will be moving to three regular working days a week while sharing call with two other surgeons at SWMC. This will give us many four day weekends to travel and share the ministry of Tenwek as well as our passion for medical missions. While many supporters have stayed with us these past 18 months, our support has dropped to about half of what we need to return to Tenwek. Some supporters have told us they will be resuming their support when we return this summer for which we are very grateful. Please pray with us that God will go ahead of us and prepare people's hearts to hear about our ministry and choose to join our support team. In June we will pack up our house on Maiden Lane and prepare the home for renters for the coming two year term in Kenya. At that point WGM will assess if our support is sufficient and, God willing, release us to return to Kenya in July.

Upon our return to Tenwek we will be preparing Steven and Melody for Rift Valley Academy (RVA), a missionary kids boarding school at Kijabe, Kenya. School starts the last week of August which will hopefully give our kids time to get settled into their Tenwek home before heading off to school. This will be a new challenge for our family, sending two teens off to boarding school for three months at a time. As it stands now both Steve and Melody are on waiting lists to get into RVA in their respective classes. Steven is 8th on the waiting list and Melody 37th! No Tenwek MK has missed getting into RVA over many years as far as we know so we trust God's timing and provision with our kids' schooling. Pam will be homeschooling our two younger daughters, Kayla and Ashley, in 6th and 3rd grades respectively upon our return.

Mike will be returning just before our partners in ministry, and fellow surgeon, Dr. Russ and Beth White, return to the US for their scheduled home ministry assignment. The need for leadership and teachers in the surgery department and residency will be great at that time. Mike will join Dr. Carol Spears, a WGM missionary surgeon who is currently also home in the US but plans on returning to Tenwek in 2010. The orthopedic department has been so blessed since Mike left with Dr. Dan Galat beginning the training of Kenyan orthopedic residents and deciding himself to stay long term at Tenwek. God is SO good!

Glad tidings of Great (Restored) Joy... (by Pam Chupp)

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord. *“He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”* Ps. 91:1

These words have become very special to me (Pam), as I have continued to learn in new ways how to trust God. After returning to the States in June 2008, I was an emotional mess. I had terrible anxiety and fear, and had an overwhelming feeling of sadness. I figured it was just the stress of the “transition” from Kenya to America, and once we got settled into a home I would be ok. However, things did not get better. Thankfully, the Lord does not give us more than we can bear. In September 2008, just after being diagnosed with severe clinical depression, all four of our children began attending a small Christian school, giving me some much-needed time off from homeschooling them and time alone at home for the first time in 16 years. In the quiet of our home, I began to seek God for encouragement and renewal. In His gentle, quiet way, He began to minister to my soul and spirit. With the help of a Christian counselor, family and friends, I began to find healing and a way out of the dark tunnel of despair.

In the midst of all this, the Lord also began to really speak to me about trust. Did I really trust Him for my future, my children’s education, the safety of my family in a foreign country? Yes, it’s true that he had proved faithful to us in the past, so many times, and I knew that. This time, however, I was really struggling with specific things like possibly sending our teenagers to boarding school when we return; homeschooling my two younger girls again; and most of all, living around the constant and overwhelming need of those we came to serve at Tenwek Hospital.

I honestly did not think a year ago that I would ever be ready to return to Kenya. I really didn’t want to just be resigned to going back but to be excited and joyful at the thought of returning to our home in Kenya. I knew I needed a miracle from God. Thankfully, He’s still in the business of providing miracles! One morning a couple of months ago, I woke up, and still lying in bed, God impressed on me that it was going to be alright, that He could be trusted, that He would provide for my children and give me grace to live at Tenwek again. I got up, and began thinking of returning to Kenya, and I no longer had negative and sad feelings about it. I was hopeful and, dare I say it, even joyful!

As I sit here on Christmas Eve, typing these words to you, I am overwhelmed by God’s goodness, grace, gentleness, patience and faithfulness. I have seen Him in a more personal way than I ever have before, and my faith has been strengthened, even as it continues to be stretched. I know the next seven months as we prepare to return to Kenya will be full of challenges. I don’t look forward to the sadness in saying good-byes, and the craziness in packing and moving a family of six across the ocean again, but I have a renewed hope in God’s faithfulness. I know that he will be beside me, pouring out His grace on me as I need it. He truly is a restorer of hope, comfort, and joy. May you know God’s presence in your life this Christmas season, and may your 2010 be full of hope and joy!



Pam and our oldest daughter
Melody Joy, age 14

Happenings at Tenwek



Nursing school graduation at Tenwek in November. For nearly twenty years the Tenwek Nursing School has been training young men and women to provide excellent and compassionate nursing care to our Tenwek patients.

This group of children were part of a heart surgery camp at Tenwek in October. More than a dozen children underwent open heart surgery to correct multiple heart defects and/or valve disease. All the children survived to go home. Several different heart specialists including surgeons, anesthesia providers, nurses, and heart pump technicians came from the US to work with Dr. White and Dr. Agneta Odera pictured here on the far right and left of the kids.



OUR CONTACTS

**Mike and Pam Chupp
487 Maiden Lane, St. Joseph, MI 49085**

**Home phone: 269-429-0498
Cell phone: 269-598-3169
Email: mike.chupp@wgm.org
Blog: kenyachupps.blogspot.com**

**Support:
World Gospel Mission
Box 948
Marion, IN 46952
Attach note: "Mike and Pam Chupp ministry"**

Kayla and Ashley enjoying Christmas vacation off from school.

