



## H.O.P.E.



**What is Africa to a three year old?** Having Dakota, a verbose three year old on hand, here is a pre-Africa view;

-Dakota why are you excited to go to Africa?

“Because giraffes get to eat out my hand- yucky!!!” The last word given with the same expression you can read on her dad’s when faced with bell peppers.

-Dakota will you miss your friends in Africa?

“They will miss me when I am gone, they are going to cry.” Her tone blunt with a slight frown on her face

-Dakota what is mommy going to do in Africa?

“She is going to look at the animals”

It’s been fun to talk with Dakota about Africa. Even though she has little clue to what Africa really is, she has an excitement about going that is very contagious.

## What is Africa to a twenty five year old and thirty year old who have a green light for departure?

It is a HOPE becoming a REALITY!

It’s actually happening.... We are going to Africa at the end of October!

As you read this we are finishing our preparations to leave on September thirteenth for three weeks of cross cultural training in Colorado at the Missionary Training Institute. Following training, we will return to California and spend a few weeks with our family before we leave for Kenya.

When reality hit us that we were really going to leave we had many unexpected emotions. It wasn’t quite the jumping up and down excitement and corresponding emotions that we anticipated. It was repetitive waves of being overwhelmed, excited, anxious, and sad. Our hope is now reality and we are now in the process for leaving. This is something we have dreamt over and thought about for many years, as we were single, dating, and now married. This is what the Lord wants for our family. This is our dream come true, but even though it’s our dream come true, reality hits that we are leaving family and friends, and that is a really hard reality. It’s hard to think we may not see most





family and friends for three years, three years is a long time. It is both the age of Dakota now, and the age at which most of our family and friends will meet in person our newest one to come.

However, going through this leaving process has blessed us with a great urgency for genuine relationships with our family and friends. Our summer was full of many intimate times that we will cherish and remember. It is sobering that it took preparing to leave the States to show us this importance, but we are grateful for the time we have had to deepen our relationships in order that they will persist, despite the stretch of ocean. Our fellow Kenyan missionaries, Darryl and Kathy Bowe gave us great advice

not to leave the goodbyes for the last day in the States. "Start the process early," they advised. We feel this is being done, no matter how hard it is.

In the midst of all of this, we have had great support and thank each of you for your help. As a family we are learning those simple foundational verses like, "Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding..." Knowing that scripture is the key to our sanity in this season.

Your prayers have sustained and encouraged us, thank you for lifting us up. Here are some detailed ways to pray;

For the health of our baby during this move. Please pray he or she will not be affected by all that is going on and will grow strong and healthy.

For the attacks we are receiving in our marriage and with our kids. We know this is a time Satan is going to get in where he can and try to break us, especially with our marriage. We need a lot of prayer to be strong and have our alone times with each other.

For our one-on-one time with the Lord. That it will be fruitful and strengthen us to get through the day with joy.

We appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for your love and support and prayers.

*Bekah for the Sammons*

Troy, Rebekah, Dakota, Kate Sammons  
Email: [ttsammons@yahoo.com](mailto:ttsammons@yahoo.com) or [bekahsammons@yahoo.com](mailto:bekahsammons@yahoo.com)  
825 West Morris Ave. Modesto Ca 95350  
T-Cell 2096526260 or B-Cell 6614448333 [www.dakotasammons.blogspot.com](http://www.dakotasammons.blogspot.com)

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