



## H.O.P.E.

0 days working on cows

1 day of down pour

7 days of snow

21 days of relationship

16 days of good byes

The typically atypical month before us leaving for the field.

**Relationship:** In our past, a 21 day relationship would be considered laughable, destined for ugly failure, and an embarrassment to our dating records. It has taken us a bit to come to grips with the reality that this 21 day relationship was not only good but a specifically designed relationship crafted for this time of transition by God Himself. At first, this seemed like a premature answer to a prayer I wasn't quite praying for yet, friends for us in Kenya. My tiny little head wasn't ready for the unexpected blessing of new relationships in the midst of on-going good byes; rather I wanted God to provide friends in Kenya. What is the purpose to place deep friendships in training only to turn around and say good bye? While God's plans are not man's plans I see the value of relationship no matter what stage we are walking through and his timing with this relationship is amazing. Jared and Jalayne Coblentz as well as the rest of our MTI team mates became life long friends to endure the transition together. It is amazing to meet the God appointed people surrounding us at our training, covering the globe in ministry, walking together knowing that others will understand our every step as they slip in the same mud of cultural ignorance. We found leaving these friends heart wrenching, especially knowing that if the 3 week relationships were hard to leave, the ones at home would be a killer,

**Goodbyes:** And they are. Many in our position describe a heart ripped in two as they transition. One half is miserable to leave all the relationships and one that is already longing to be in Kenya. We are feeling the same, longing not to say good bye and yet loving the intimacy that intentional good byes are bringing to the relationship. We are fully pursuing the good byes no matter how much we want to pull back and guard our vulnerable spirits. **If you have not yet heard it in person, we are going to miss you and want you to know you mean so much to us.**

**MTI training:** Incredible, excellent and highly recommended. If you know anyone that is planning on going long term this is the place to be. Bekah and I were blessed by so much of the program but some things jump off the page more than others. For Bekah, the reality that others view of our family life and interactions are the biggest mission fields that we likely will have was very impactful for her. She also was struck with the necessity to deal with conflict and how to handle conflict within the frame of who God made her to be and she also came away with a friend who will know how to relate with her. I walk away with slightly different truths. First, that God is God and I will constantly be yelling, "God Help", if I will ever survive under the stress of missions. Secondly, and most tangibly, I will walk away with a friend that will understand the journey and keep me accountable to God's calling in the midst of it. Overall the program was incredibly more helpful than we anticipated and we are feeling sober and yet optimistic about going.

**Prayer:** Please pray for us, right now as you read this. Current to the time of reading this, we have arrived in country and are in the heat of transition. Trying to set up a house and learn to drive and beginning to adjust to life with a Kenyan flare. I anticipate us being beat up physically, anxious about the transition of pregnancy and our kids, and under attack spiritually. Please pray that we would take the time to be diligent in turning to the one source of truth during the tumultuous time of life.

**Weather:** Seldom does a day of down pour and 7 full days of snow equal blessing for the majority of the population, but for us to experience this was a mini winter before equatorial Kenya. We were soaking up every snow flake that fell knowing that it might be our last for a very long time. ☺

**House:** God gave us a huge blessing during our training at MTI... a house! We are blessed to be able to move to Kenya and have a house to move into. Praise God we do not have to look around for housing when we arrive. We can move directly into our house, with most of the furniture there.

**Prayer Requests:**

1. **Please pray for our health and our girls as we are transitioning to life in Kenya.**
2. **Please pray for baby Hope. For her to continue to grow healthy until the Lord wants her to be born.**
3. **Please pray for our communication in our marriage. Pray this time will bring us closer together.**

**PRAISES:**

1. **Our house!**
2. **Wonderful training the Lord provided.**
3. **Awesome friends we now have to go the life as a missionary with.**

*The Sammons*



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