



Monkey Business in Kenya

(...and other incomplete efforts to settle into our new house)

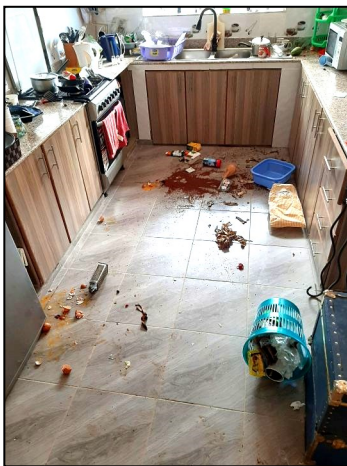
Bob & Hope Carter - January, 2025

C/O Moffat Bible College, PO Box 70, Kijabe 00220, Kenya

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

Thank you for your prayers. We are sending this update from the “Carter Cottage” in Kijabe, Moffat’s new short-term faculty house named in honor of our family. We had uneventful flights and layovers and arrived in Nairobi just after 9pm on New Year’s Eve. Philip, our long-time worship team member and taxi driver, was there to pick us up at the airport and take us to Kijabe. We crossed over into 2025 while descending the escarpment road down to Kijabe and enjoyed watching the fireworks far below us in Maai Mahiu. From above, they looked like tiny colored sparklers!

Initially, we stayed in the guesthouse a few days while the new house was getting its final coat of paint on the walls. When the paint was dry, a few hired hands helped us move furniture and appliances out of Moffat storage and into the house. There are still a few unfinished tasks. The bathroom isn’t quite finished yet, but the essentials are there so we’re using it even though the door has no latch or handles and the window cannot be secured shut. This makes the entire house vulnerable to monkey invasions, which we have been pointing out to the contractor, who has been promising to take care of it.



Well, it’s too late now. Sunday while we were at church the monkeys found the unsecured window, came in and trashed the house. Broken eggs, banana peels and remains of half-eaten fruit, poo and urine, broken glass and instant coffee, trash and garbage strewn all over the floor, etc. It took hours to clean up the mess. We sent pictures to the contractor, who promised to rectify the situation as a first priority. It is now getting the attention it should have had last week.

We also hope the shower will be completed within the next week or so, but since the solar water heater isn’t working, we can’t use it yet anyway. The contractor is trying to figure out what the problem is, but the missing manual is making problem-solving challenging. At least we can heat water on the stove or in a recently purchased electric kettle.

Meanwhile, we have completed the first two weeks of classes at Moffat, and they are going well. We are carrying the heaviest load ever: 4 courses including the Behavior Change course which requires an additional one afternoon per week for the students’ teaching practicum. Bob’s new course on community health for pastors is almost completely prepared now – thank you for praying for him! Hope’s new course on disability ministry is still being developed but the initial classes have gone well, and the students are very engaged. Please continue praying for her.

This week Hope brought in a Moffat alumna to share her story as the mother and caregiver of a severely mentally handicapped son who lived for 19 years. Her testimony was very powerful and made a deep impression on our students. They are beginning to realize the extent of disabilities in our communities and the need for and value of ministry to the handicapped and to those who are struggling to care for them.

Family Health

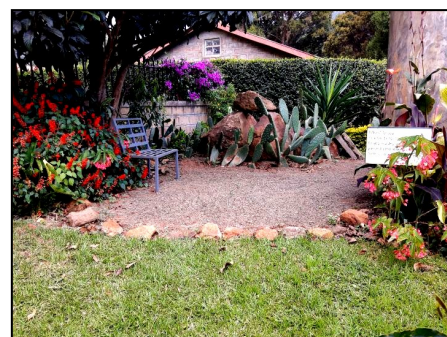
We are grateful that Bob's father continues to recover well from his surgery for colon cancer. He is gaining strength and stamina and feels like the home physiotherapist is doing a good job for him. His surgeon has released him from follow-up, and his oncologist just wants to monitor him for now on a quarterly basis. We feel optimistic.

Bob's stepmother is still getting inpatient rehab after her 2nd hip replacement surgery. Reports are that she continues to make slow progress, but it is likely that she will need inpatient rehab for at least another month.

Our son, Nathan, was doing really well on medical management of his rare KLS neurologic disorder until last week, when he entered another episode. We are praying that he can quickly get started on the infusion that seemed to work so well last time, and that this episode will be even briefer than the last one, which only lasted 2 weeks. Please keep him in your prayers.

Prayer Garden

The prayer garden we put in three years ago looks nice after an abundant rainy season this past year. We have been told that it is getting a lot of use, especially in early mornings and in the evenings. We feel pleased that Hope's vision for a prayer garden at Moffat seems to be bearing fruit and blessing many people.



Ministry Outreach Coordinator

Several good applicants have applied to Moffat for the position of Assistant Faculty and Ministry Outreach Coordinator in the Department of Community Health and Development. Those who were shortlisted have been invited to come for interviews on February 4. Please pray for the interview and selection process to yield God's choice for Martin's successor.

Moffat Community Health and Development Project

This SIM project (#92163), which funds the outreach ministries of the department, remains financially fragile. We are very grateful for those who included this project in their end-of-year giving and believe that we now have enough in the project account to take us through to the end of this calendar year. We are praying that the Lord would raise up a few churches, individuals, or other donor sources who would desire to help fund this project through to the end of its current project cycle (December, 2028). Please join us in this prayer.

Good news!

Just this past week, Bob learned that Kijabe Hospital is now seriously planning to open inpatient hospice services! As past medical supervisor of the hospital's outpatient palliative care services and past chairman of its Oncology Committee, Bob has long advocated for the need to provide inpatient hospice care. With the soon completion of the new Cancer Care Center, it seems that the hospital's leadership has now seen the need to fill in this gap in the continuity of the care it provides for those suffering from life-ending conditions.

Give Thanks for:

- Our safe arrival back in Kijabe.
- The improving health of Bob's parents and our son.
- Classes so far are going well.
- The ministry of the prayer garden.

Ask God for:

- His touch on our son's health, especially that this new episode will respond well to treatment and be very brief.
- Continuing progression of healing for Bob's parents.
- The speedy completion of the "Carter Cottage", including resolving the problem with the solar water tank and making the doors and windows secure.
- Hope's preparations for the remaining lessons in the disability course to be completed well and on time.
- A successful interview process on Feb. 4, which will lead us to God's choice for Martin's successor.
- Sustaining partners for the Moffat Community Health and Development Project.
- Direction, wisdom, and anointing as the hospital plans to begin providing inpatient hospice services.

Contributions towards our support may be sent by check to:

SIM USA, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273.

Make the check out to SIM-USA and indicate its purpose on the "memo" line:

Bob & Hope Carter (#09892)

Moffat Community Health and Development project (#KE 92163)

Alternatively, contributions may be made by **online** donation at **www.simusa.org/get-involved/give**.

- Our SIM missionary number is **09892**.
- Our SIM project account is **92163** - "Moffat Community Health and Development".

Thank you!