



Muutukis Update

**Joe & Elfi
in Nairobi, Kenya**

Dear Family and friends,

“Things turn out differently—and rarely as we expect!”

Every summer, we look forward to spending a few weeks in Germany. We hope for lovely, warm weather while it is cold in Kenya. But our main reason for going is to see our family, children and grandchildren and stay connected with them.

Elfi’s plan this year was for her to be in Germany from June to August. When she boarded the plane, she had a bad cold and cough and felt weak. Then everything turned out quite differently from what we had planned.

“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.”
—Proverbs 16:9

A severe coughing fit triggered a sharp pain on her back. At first, she thought it was muscle spasms. She at first tried to do some exercises, heating pads and strong painkillers, but nothing helped. The pain was unbearable. Usually, a little medication is enough for her but not this time. At that point, she had no idea how much she would need God.

After about four weeks, she had an X-ray and a CT scan done. These revealed that one of her vertebrae was broken—or, more precisely, splintered. Osteoporosis had made her bones fragile, and despite treatment, her vertebrae had remained vulnerable.

To make matters worse, a small fragment of the broken vertebrae was protruding into the spinal canal. She was told that she could become paralyzed and would need surgery immediately. The hospital in Bremen wanted to admit her immediately, but we decided that she should travel to Munich, where our children live and could care for her after the surgery if necessary.

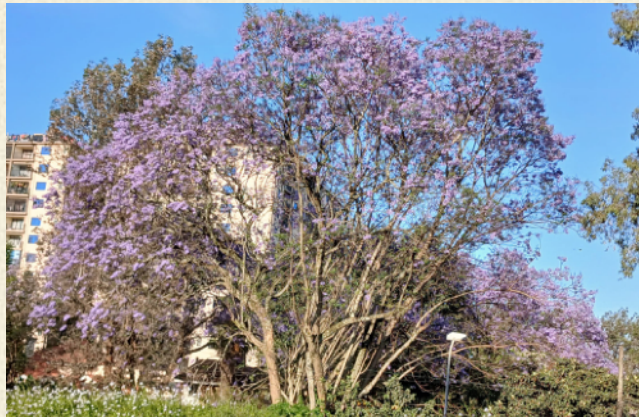
She was very afraid of becoming paralyzed. The thought was frightening. But God helped her and stood her side. A Bible verse that a friend had shared with her became a great comfort.

In Munich, our daughter took her to two other hospitals. As expected, she longed to hear good news—to be reassured that everything would be all right. To her great relief, the doctor at the university hospital told her that she would not need surgery. The fracture was already healing. At that moment, she felt a deep sense of peace and the assurance that this came from God.

During this time, God taught her to depend entirely on Him. Her faith was tested, and she often had doubts. Yet God strengthened her again and again. **His grace and mercy were with her throughout. To Him alone be praise and thanks!**

Meanwhile, Joe was trying to join her, but it took several weeks before he finally received a visa. Here, too, our patience and trust were tested. He arrived on 7 August, which was a great encouragement to her and the children. We even managed to travel to Bremen for a weekend to visit Burkhard her brother and Karin his wife!

We were able to postpone our return to Kenya until 5 September. When we arrived, the jacaranda trees were in full bloom. *What a beautiful sight!*



What had been happening in Kenya meanwhile?

In April, the women held their annual women's retreat. They reflected on Ruth, Boaz and Naomi from the book of Ruth. They were all deeply moved, especially as the women recognized aspects of themselves in these different characters. Several women could relate closely to what Ruth had experienced.

During the following months, while Elfi was away, the monthly women's fellowship continued under the leadership of Lois, Sabia and Marolyn.



In May, five of our M*slim refugees were baptized after they received Christ.

Then, from June to August, Joe welcomed several visitors to Nairobi, some of whom were able to help him with preaching. He was very grateful for their support.

At the end of July, we welcomed sixteen people from five different ethnic and racial backgrounds as new church members.

More and more refugees from this Central Asian country are coming to Kenya. Five of the recent arrivals have put their trust in Jesus and are also attending our church. We now have over thirty-five refugees and children. It has been overwhelming to say the least. Nevertheless, we praise God for these dear new brothers and sisters. Pray for a new full-time pastor to help us in the ministry.

Elfi will be in Germany again from 1 November to 20 December for surgery on her lower eyelid and follow up on her broken vertebrae.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Joe and Elfi

Joe and Elfi Muutuki
PO Box 580, 00606 Nairobi, Kenya
WhatsApp +254 733 622 960 *
joe@ncfnairobi.org
New City Fellowship of Nairobi *
ncfnairobi.org