

Subject: Monday, September 24 Update
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This update is for Monday, September 24. Fred Schreiber and I have had three great days of ministry in the Kiroba area with the Kiroba Community Presbyterian Church. This is a church plant that is being sponsored by Hixson Presbyterian Church in Hixson, Tennessee.

I trust you will remember from the previous trip that Dr. J.D. Bonner has been working to get surgery on Moses from Kiroba. Emmanuel Agaba, pastor of the church, traveled with Moses to Kenya for the surgery and they just returned this past Friday. Moses had asked us to stop by his house on the way into Kiroba. To our surprise, over 70 people were present to greet us and express thanks for what had been done. I felt bad getting all the thanks when Dr. Bonner actually did all the work. A before and after photo is below as well as a couple of photos of the crowd that greeted us. One guest was the equivalent of an American country commissioner.

The Sunday morning service was the largest I have seen at the church. They spoke of buying more chairs but I questioned that since there is no where else they could put them. We enjoyed being with the church and after a meal served to all present, we visited several families in the church. The visit that set us back was the worst situation I have ever seen. The father had died leaving a mom and two teenaged daughters. There is an older daughter that is married and a brother who abandoned his family as the situation is so tough. The mother works all she can, including working in the gardens of others to raise what little money she can. She has managed to keep birth girls in school but they live from hand to mouth. In fact, the only food available on Sunday was what was served at the church. When we came by, the mother was off working somewhere and we learned from the daughters there was no food left in the home at all.

This morning we went shopping and bought one of the "Christmas baskets" we have distributed the last two years and took it to their home so they now have food. We have also taken steps to provide school fees for the remained of this year so that burden is removed. The mother has done all she can, but their needs are greater than she can provide. A photo of the two girls is below.

After delivering the food basket, we visited several other families including one in which every member had medical issues. Both parents are HIV positive, but doing ok on government provided medications. The daughter has a several injured leg that did not receive proper treatment and she walks with a limp. The son passes blood every time he has malaria. In another family, we found a daughter with a broken leg (they had an xray) but no funds for a cast. We are not sure how to deal with all these issues, but the Kiroba church is certainly building a testimony of a place where people care about the community. We hope to have some part of a team back in the area in January.

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