



Doug and Donna
STAMPER
Your Missionaries In
KENYA



January 2006

Dear Friends,

2005 -- A YEAR WE WOULD NOT WANT TO FORGET

We began the year in Kenya, having just returned from our 3rd furlough, and were very excited about getting back to work in Thika. Then, we got the word that the income tax issue had come to stay. After repeated efforts to be exempted, we found that the news was even worse than we first feared -- we might even be taxed on ministry funds, bringing our family tax bill to nearly \$1,500 a month.

Tax Update -- We met with the Commissioner of Income Tax in late October, and were assured that they are looking into our situation. Then, in November, Kenya had a Constitutional Referendum that went to the voters, and the government was defeated in their attempt to bring a new Constitution into being. As a result of that loss, the government is making some changes, the Cabinet members were all removed and many were not returned to their post, and the Commissioner that had been "helping" us was replaced (accused of corruption). We believe that at this time, although the long awaited tax relief for missionaries has not yet been seen, that the law will allow us to be exempted from a portion of our income; the question still out there is what the percentage will be. Please continue to pray.

We decided to return to the States before the tax deadline came, allowing Martha to graduate with her class at the Milford Christian School, and to raise the additional support needed to pay the tax bill. We spent 6 months on the road, and thanks to many of you, we were able to increase our monthly support by nearly \$300 a month, which is just about what we expect we will have to pay.

Family Update -- Mary is doing well in her studies at Baptist Bible College, and is very active in her church ministry. Martha is working at McDonalds for now, and preparing to enroll at Baptist Bible College in August this year to take the Missions course. We are proud of them, and their continuing stand for the Lord. Matthew has just turned 12, and is "enjoying" the return to school after the Christmas Holidays. Donna and I are well, and very happy to be back home and among the people we love and work with. The saying is sooo true, "There's no place like home."

We returned home to Thika in October and have spent the last 3 months getting things going, meeting with our people to talk about the last year, and to plan for the ministry this year. The church in Thika is doing well, even though I was absent and the young intern we had did not do his job right. The deacons did a great job filling in the gaps. Our national pastors in the other churches have helped out. Your prayers have kept them going. God has kept them going. THANKS for your concern for the people in the Central Province of KENYA. Pray with us that 2006 will be the best year we have ever had, both in your area of ministry, and in ours.

Doug and Donna

"STAMPing the Message of Jesus Christ into the Hearts of Kenya"

Sent out by: First Baptist Church 6062 Old Shawnee Rd. Milford, DE 19963

Baptist Bible Fellowship International PO Box 191 Springfield, MO 65801

dougstamper@bbfi.org

www.bbfi.org