

# BROWN



FAMILY MISSION

Jeff and Tammi Brown  
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Our family arrived in Nairobi on the evening of July 2, at 7 pm Kenya time. Just getting here was a whirlwind of airports, terminals and in-flight meals and movies. The kids traveled great and even Edison, whose attitude is our biggest “X” factor, traveled much better than we expected.

Arriving under the cover of night, which by the way comes at 7pm each and every night throughout the year, left us longing for our first sights of the country we will call home for the next couple years. And once morning came (that should read 1pm in the afternoon factoring for jet lag) we were in no condition to venture out beyond the house and its surrounding yard.

The next day, however, I (Jeff) decided it was time to get out, practice driving and see some sights. I was in rare form, prepared to step out of my comfort zone in a vehicle where the steering wheel and stick shift were backward to what I was accustomed, and I started the truck and put it in reverse and off I went—right into a small concrete storage building that I clipped with the left front quarter panel of the truck, knocking down one of its three walls. Tammi and the kids stood at the steps of the house- for encouragement, I’m certain, but just then the looks on their faces turned to one of, “And this is the guy that will be driving us?!” Undaunted, I made sure everything was still in working order and proceeded out onto the left side of the road for my first foreign driving experience.

We are still working to get into our house, but need to accomplish a few things first. The phone line needs to be hooked up, our security system needs to be installed and the hot water heater timer needs to be repaired (otherwise we have to get up 2 hours before our shower to turn it on!). We also still have to acquire appliances and furniture, all of which are here in storage and available for our use (thanks to some furloughing missionaries) once we can get to them which may still be a few days yet. The kids are excited that they will again have a yard to play in after having lived in an apartment complex for the past 18 months.

Perhaps the biggest adjustment we will have to make in the immediate future is not culture shock, but lack of internet access. Tammi and I have been spoiled by broadband! The internet situation here has been pretty bad. We have been wishing for the dependability of even a dial-up connection but so far have no even been able to get that. We have not been able to e-mail reliably since we have gotten here. One evening we tried to get on-line and check our e-mail and just getting on took 15 minutes. Once we

could see our e-mail box and clicked on a message it took another 2 minutes to get the error message that we needed to try again. So we tried again, and again, and again. After another half hour we just gave up. Needless to say, we are looking into alternative (aka more expensive) methods of keeping in touch with all of you in the states.

July 4<sup>th</sup> we were invited to a gathering of CMF missionaries for a cookout of hamburgers and brats!! It was so fun to get a chance to meet and hang out with some of our team mates. Emily and Elliott and the other kids got to light sparklers and some little noise makers. We made homemade ice cream and had cake. It was a great time but a little weird to think that we were among the very few in this country to be celebrating America's independence.

We have been here 4 days now and have gotten to venture out to the supermarket, an outdoor vender market selling local wares and handiwork, and Emily and Elliott and I went into the edge of the city to a shopping plaza to check it out. In town, we all got a little taste of the aggressive street vendors that will approach your moving car trying to sell you anything from flowers to peanuts. One little boy selling peanuts came up to us at a traffic stop and as the traffic began to move he held on to the door and walked along side the truck. Emily and Elliott couldn't believe how "unsafe" that was and wondered why he wasn't in school like the other kids. I guess they will be getting a first hand lesson in just how blessed we are, as will we all.

I hope to be able to stop by an internet café tomorrow (Saturday 7/7) to send this, but if you receive it later, please understand why.

Please continue to pray for us, especially for our adjustment as we transition into a new way of life. We do feel out of place and out of our comfort zone- which is natural, but pray that God places in our path those people who will be helpful to us and with whom we can build true, God-honoring relationships.

Thanks to all of you who have placed us here. We are so grateful for you support and interest in what we are going through. God bless you all.

In His hands,  
Jeff and Tammi  
Emily, Elliott and Edison

PS- WE HOPE TO BE POSTING SOME PICTURES ON OUR WEBSITE AS SOON AS WE CAN GET A RELIABLE CONNECTION.

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