



Nairobi News

**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
—James, apostle of Jesus**

Jimmy Anuru: Jimmy has HIV. He tells me his story and it is sad. How his wife died, how he was misdiagnosed, how his little kid is infected. But he ends with, "But I praise God." He told us he has been blessed by this disease, because it helps him to depend on God and it helped him to see his weaknesses. He has no job because of his status, he doesn't have food, his wife died, his kids are upcountry, and he stays alone in a house he can't afford to rent. But He loves and praises God. His faith in God, his unswerving faith, leaves all of us who hears him speechless. I haven't met anyone who has had everything taken from him, but still has not been robbed from that which cannot corrode: faith in the Almighty Father, Who will one day bring him home and surely give him a crown with many jewels, and a seat toward the front of the banquet table.



During devotions at work one morning, we were discussing being thankful to God. Genesis spoke up and said, "When I have an empty stomach at night, I just thank God because it's a reminder that I am alive."

My own trials vary from the comical to the pitiful. I've had monkeys interrupt my carefully prepared teaching, I've had to borrow shoes because I immersed my foot in a terrace of questionable water in Kibera, and for the first month and a half, I couldn't cross the street on my own. I have been challenged on my knowledge of Scripture to encourage people with, on starting meaningful conversations, and on being okay with not knowing everything right away. I've also been heartbroken over my staff, our clients, and the street children begging.

But with each new trial, I am brought closer to the Cross, to where I know that I can't do this on my own. Serving cross-culturally is stretching me to my limits—limits I thought were not so close. I thought I was more flexible, I thought I was more joyful, I thought I was more open. But as each new trial continues to show me, it is that I'm not there yet, but that I'm on my way. That is my joy, knowing that *the testing of my faith* will make me *mature and complete*.

Praise and Prayer:

Praise Him that He is a big God who does more than I can ask for

Praise Him that visitations have been enriched

Praise Him that I understand more Swahili

Praise Him that I can navigate through Kibera better

Pray that He keeps me at the foot of His cross

Pray that He provides opportunities to bring the Good News

Pray that the completion of our new building and its clinic would be finished quickly

If you know someone who would like to receive my email updates, please have them email me. Feel free to email or write to say hi! Also, check out my blog, now with updates, at www.melissaskibera.blogspot.com!

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