

# *The Cormier Family: Reaching the Deaf of Kenya With The Gospel of Christ*

March/April 2020

Dear Pastors, Supporters, and Praying Friends,

The year 2020 is nearly halfway done. It's hard to believe that it is already May. We hope this update finds you and your church family well during these uncertain times. In our corner of the world, just like everywhere else, many restrictions are in place in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. This is the first time in nearly eleven years that I have gone this long without leaving Nairobi. Until this year, even when I was back in Kenya while on furlough, I have made trips to areas outside of Nairobi every week for sign language, Deaf discipleship, Bible college, or church planting endeavors. It definitely feels strange for me to not leave the city on a regular basis!

This forced isolation, of course, severely limits ministry opportunities. For the past two months, here in Kenya our church has been unable to hold services. Likewise, our ministries outside of Nairobi have also been hindered. Because of this, I've been very thankful for the internet which still provides a way for me to minister to our people. We greatly miss them though and cannot wait for COVID-19 to be behind us and for the government restrictions to be lifted in our country.

In November of 2019, we broke ground for the second facet of what we call the "farm project". Although it is still in its beginning stages, our goal for the project is that it will one day fully support a Deaf Bible training institute - a place where by God's grace the Deaf will be equipped to reach Kenya for Christ. To effectively do this, we'll be training the Deaf in several areas of study including Bible doctrines, Christian living, agriculture, and basic business skills. In addition to a 14 ft. x 30 ft. greenhouse in which tilapia and heat-loving plants such as tomatoes and bell peppers are raised, we started a 50 ft. x 200 ft. garden behind our back fence. Then in March, we were able to add an additional 80 ft. x 200 ft. tract of land to the farm project bringing the total area under cultivation to approximately one acre.

During the past several months, we have been amazed at how God has blessed the garden. It is now producing a large variety of vegetables in abundance. Little did we know that God would use the garden for "such a time as this." At a time when many Kenyans are jobless and in need of daily provisions, the garden project is currently supporting five families on a daily basis and others as the need arises. God knew ahead of time what the year 2020 would be like and graciously provided us with this unique opportunity to minister to others. Please pray with us as we continue to "cut our teeth" in the beginning stages of the farm project so that in the future we can start a Bible training institute for the Deaf. This goal has long been a desire of our hearts.

Thank you for your prayers concerning our work permit. After almost a year of waiting, it was approved the second week of March. Thank you also for your faithful support which enables us to be here in Kenya serving Jesus Christ.

Because of Him,  
B.J. Cormier



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