

# Steeves Summary: Clashes in Kenya

January 2008



Our family has had heavy hearts as we have followed the events in Kenya.

Kenya has descended into violence following a presidential election on December 27th. What started off as a campaign of "establishment" vs. "reform" has become a conflict of tribes. Both leaders are half-heartedly calling for peace but at the same time refusing to negotiate or talk to each other through an intermediary. Over 300 people have been killed, mostly those minorities living in areas dominated by the other tribe. Tens of thousands have fled their homes, many seeking shelter in churches or police stations. Many have lost all that they own.

The missionaries can avoid most of the violence, however they are affected in the same ways as many Kenyans. Stores have mostly been closed. When they are open, shelves have been emptying and gas

stations running out of fuel. Banks have been closed, preventing people from obtaining money. ATMs ran out of cash days ago. Streets that are normally busy are deserted as people stay home in fear of violence. Things have calmed down some in the past couple days, allowing some deliveries to resume and people to move about, however there is much uncertainty and tension.

Rift Valley Academy has delayed opening from January 2nd to January 19th. Homework has been sent to students via email to ease the shortened term. The school administration has had to make a lot of difficult decisions and need to continuously evaluate the situation.

Staff from RVA has been involved with a church at Maai Mahiu, a community 5km from Kijabe. Over 1000 people have taken shelter at a church, leaving behind most of their possessions. RVA, along with the Red Cross, has been able to help with food, water, and blankets. Some people have needed small amounts of cash to travel to relatives.

It takes strength to promote peace when there is violence all around. Many churches are taking leading roles in sheltering refugees, calling for peace and reconciliation. Please pray for the churches in Kenya.

Prayer is required for many things: peace, wisdom, and Christian leadership.

Pray that Christ will be glorified by the actions of his people in this time of crisis.

Blessings,

Michael, Bernadine, Julianne and Evan

*Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.* James 3:18



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