



# Richest Words

Spring 2019

A couple of months ago, a flight sequence routed me through Northern Kenya. Rainy season was just beginning. Or more accurately, as much of a rainy season as the desert gets. It was borderline hot with a warm steady wind. Rarely a day goes by that this place isn't windy; unrelenting sun is tempered only by the blowing dust. Men carry a staff for shepherding, women carry babies. Life on the equator is steady; twelve-hour days and twelve-hour nights, year-round. This is upcountry.

By vehicle, we paralleled a dusty foot path to a nearby village. Individual huts made up a great circle with animals stick-fenced in the middle. Each hut belongs to one family, and together they make a small village. When the rains move, they move. Literally. Dismantle the hut, gather belongings, place them on a camel, and move onward. We piled out of the back of the vehicle and were welcomed into a traditional home. Cow hides on clean dirt became sitting areas where women gathered to one side, men on the other. An elderly lady began to tell us her story as children peered through cracks of her hut.

Once married, now widowed, she lives by herself. Late in life she decided to attend literacy training because participants received a goat upon completion. Under the shade of a tree she learned how to hold a pencil, that words flow from left to right and how to turn pages. Her reading included the stories of creation, Christmas and most importantly Easter. In learning how to read she met Jesus along the way. Her children are now Christian, and their children Christians. This is her testimony; how letters on a page became words that changed her life. She finished by telling us that in the end, she didn't need the goat after all.

As we listened, wind pelted rain sounded off the thatched hut. I could only think that her and I live very dissimilar lives. We speak different languages and value different things. The economies of our lives are vastly out of proportion. Despite our differences, I felt wealthy sitting there, but not because of possessions. I felt a deep richness that I was present to hear her story. There's a Kenyan proverb that says "Having a good discussion is like having great riches" as most value relationships over material things. It seems the more time I spend upcountry the more often I meet some of the richest people I know.

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## Recent Happenings

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My administrative responsibilities at work are diverse. Lately, I've been working on curriculum development for our FOUR NEW AIM AIR families arriving this year! We are excited to receive them. And I'm especially looking forward to training them.

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## Praises

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I'm ever grateful for the opportunity to see family over Christmas.

We're thankful for all the interns and visitors checking out AIM AIR this year! May it be an impactful journey.

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## Prayer Requests

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Rainy Season Flying

Please pray for those AIM AIR serves. We enjoy supporting teams and missionaries living in hard to reach locations, loving on hard to reach people!

Friends and Family,

The past few months have been full of travels! In December, I attended the Urbana missions conference in St. Louis. Unfortunately, I came down with a rotten cold the very first day! Thankfully, my family was with me. With rest, and large quantities of tea, I had enough of a voice to present the seminar I prepared. The room was packed, and I was grateful! I spoke on the theology of risk in missions, and enjoyed time engaging with college students throughout the conference. After Urbana I had a restful time with family and returned well to my Nairobi home.

Life at AIM AIR is busy. I've had a decent amount of flying and continuously work to move projects forward administratively. At the end of March, we're expecting a group of students from AIM's boarding school for a week-long aviation interim. I'm leading their time with us at the hangar and taking them all upcountry. Friends are visiting in April, and I'm looking forward to flying them, too! I also manage AIM AIR's internship program. We have a maintenance couple arriving next week, and several single women participating in our summer internship! I'm always encouraged by visitors and appreciate their eagerness and excitement. Confession: sometimes they bring me chocolate chips. Which, I shamelessly need an endless supply of to satisfy my baking addiction.



Rainy season is fast approaching, which means wet, muddy runways. While I appreciate the cooler temperature, I don't always enjoy the challenges that come with constant rain! Sometimes when we bring the plane back particularly dirty, we say that we went "mudding." Admittedly, not my favorite thing! Though I do feel a sense of pride from a well-used dirty airplane.

Thank you for your kind words, and faithful encouragement. Your prayer and giving means the world to me! This season, I'll dirty an airplane on your behalf.

*With Love, Lindsey*

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"AIM AIR is a Christian missionary aviation organization—part of the larger ministry of Africa Inland Mission. Our mission is the coordination and delivery of safe, reliable, economical air transport service to enhance the ministries of evangelical missionaries, church workers, and Christian relief and development agencies in East and Central Africa. The people we serve are working in Church planting, evangelism, community development, medical missions, children's education, pastor training, emergency relief, Bible translation, short-term mission trips and more.

Our flights share the vision of Africa Inland Mission: to see Christ-centered churches among all African peoples."

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