

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Title: March 2023 Kenya

Lauren Caldwell, Garden Gathering, April 16, 2023

Let me pray. Oh, Jesus, Jesus speak. I bind, gag, and paralyze every distraction and everything that would work against us. In Jesus's name Lord, have your way. Open our ears, open our eyes, open our spirits. Let our souls align and hear your word. In Jesus's name, amen.

First, I want to say thank you. Cliff is working at the rodeo *grounds* tearing everything down like he does after everything is over, because that is his pride, his joy, and his gift. He "rocks it." So, I am publicly thanking Cliff. I thank him privately enough, but I thank him for being the point man for me. Actually, this was something really fun that I got to say in Kenya as Luz, Holly, and I were there. I said to them, "You may wonder what kind of men send their women over to the mission field. No doubt we *are* three strong women, but it is because we have three strong men, as husbands. My husband is a cowboy. These women each have a husband who is in the military. So, we are strong because Jesus is strong, but our husbands go before us, cheer us on, and back us up. Amen for our men!" You are not off the hook. We need men to come with us. Amen.

Also, I want to thank my family, for going without me, and doing what they do. They stand and support me, bless me, and share me. I will talk a little bit more about that in a second. I also want to thank you, Brandy, for everything, because I would not be doing any of this if God had not led me to you. So, I thank you, thank you. I want to thank all of you who have prayed for us and given financial aid to these missions. Most of the trips I go on *are* a little bit stressful on occasion, a little tense, a little dangerous, but I usually do not feel it much. Why? Because of you and your prayer that goes before me, and keeps going while we are there. Those of you who emailed me and said "Hey, I have this impression. Hey, I get this." Thank you, it matters. We are all going as one.

Brandy said it perfectly when she said that I was going to give a testimony. I had it in my mind already. I am going to give this, this, and tell everyone about what the Lord has done and what He is doing. *All* was great. Then I was on the way here, and *the Lord* said, I have a little switch *to* something more I want you to do.

Robyn Tucker spoke in K3 some weeks ago about vulnerability, and it being where we get power and strength and intimacy with one another from. So, I am going to be vulnerable in sharing more than I thought I was going to. But, I will also get to that in just a minute. Let me make sure I have thanked everyone.

As you know, I do not always dress like this and wearing flats that are incredibly comfortable. But, I picked these to wear today, because they still have a little bit of dirt on them from where I was. That is kind of my point today. We have something to give wherever we go. They have something to give to us. All right, and we are all just "dirt." We are all just His dirt sharing with one another.

I would also like to point out this fabulous frock which was a gift from Carren to me, Holly, and Luz. We all match, and I got to pick the fabric. I did not know that was what I was doing, but I had an idea. Carren had somebody eyeball us, *which means to look at us and guess our sizes*. They pretty much nailed it. She presented us with these gifts from her. This bracelet is from Carren. I have this bracelet from Jeremiah. This bracelet is actually from Kim. What I am saying is, this is about relationships. This is not ministries.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Speaking of relationships. Brandy, this is your “ugali spoon” from Carren. Brad, would you come and get Kim’s for her. This is for cooking ugali here. Why? Because when Carren came to my house and wanted to cook ugali, she needed a ugali spoon which I did not have one for her to use. That is what you do as women, we cook. You guys share tools or ammo, whatever. I do not know. As I was leaving, my precious friend, Dorcas, wrapped this scarf she had been wearing, on me. There was no way she was going to let me leave without giving me something.

When you go somewhere or when you see someone, you might think you do not have anything to give. Do not dishonor the Lord that way, please. If you compare yourself to what someone else has, yes, yours might seem small. Mine usually is, but I know that the Lord has given me something, whatever little thing. You hear me say this probably every time I talk. I know my part is small. But, I take it very, very seriously, because it is the part God gave me to give. We all are a body. We all have something to give to one another. That is our joy. That is our pleasure.

If you think or if you hear a prophetic word or want to pray for someone around here, do not think, “Well, they are this person. Who am I to give to them?” No, no, no, we all need one another. We have got to humble ourselves, but also honor our God. He is doing the work in you. We know if it is “me.” If I am giving you Lauren, you do not want it. But, I trust the Lord that He is depositing and has been at work in my life enough to give me something to give you. That is how this is supposed to work.

I have to confess, it is a little bit easier to preach when you do not know someone or are in a place where you do not know all the people. Because, you can call people out and not accidentally look them in the eye. When you know that word is hitting them, if you do not know them very well, you can look at them. You can preach to them. But if you know them, it is a little awkward. Guess what, you get to be vulnerable. Now, if I make eye contact with you and it is some rebuke, then it is probably not for you. Unless it is. I do not know that part, okay.

I just wanted to tell you that if you are here, and if you are listening to this, God has something for you. Like Brandy said, “Don't check out.” This is a testimony. I am going to give you my testimony of my time and this journey I have been on.

A couple of weeks ago, Amber just bursts out in worship with “This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long.” I loved it. This is my story. I am not going to sing for you, but I will praise Jesus all the day long. In this whole story, God is hiding a message for you, in my testimony to you. Don't miss that. That was good, right? I mean, come on!

We were watching somebody the other night, and he *said*, “I am preaching better than you are “amensing.” Come on, guys. That was good! I had not thought of that, before that came out. That was good. I cannot remember what I just said. But I felt the anointing. Let me put it in more biblical terms and maybe you can “amen” it. “To those that have an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the church.” Amen. Thank you! Okay, so it is scripture we need.

When I was in Kenya, it was the first time in my life, that I have ever been in a church where they give you the TD Jakes, “trilling sound on the keyboard.” It's the best. I want us to incorporate that, please. It scared me the first time because I did not know they were going to do it. Then I said something, and they played the sound again, and I said, “come on!” I was preaching then! Just a side note, we need to do that.

What are we in for today? I do not know. But, what I want to tell you is, I am here to talk about Jesus. I am talking about what happened in my life, and it includes many of your lives. Because I am not here by myself. Right? We are post Passover. That may not mean much to anybody.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

That is okay. I am saying, "you are here, and we are in that "new season." I am going to give opportunity at the end of when I am talking, for you to step forward and to come up on this carpet. Make a move, because God is doing something in everybody's heart, whether you accept it or not. You can either obey or disobey. Now, I am not watching who all will be up here, because I am up here. But, it is okay for you to know that at the end, there is a call for a response. This is not a wimpy response. Okay, this is a "God, you are right about whatever this little thing is you are telling me to do in my life."

It doesn't have to be go to Africa. If it is, talk to me afterwards. But, it doesn't have to be. I did not start out like that in my walk with Jesus. It was, "I do not want to go to hell," was a good start. Then as I got older, I would be having a quiet time, and say "yes, Lord." Okay, "Do this, yes, Lord." "Quit doing this, yes, Lord." Just every little obedience. Wherever you are, this is going to hit, "if you have ears to hear." He is speaking His word. I say that boldly. Because, I know He is. Right?

Here is the beginning of the trip part. Holly, who lives in Michigan, Luz who lives in California, and I went on this trip. Those two are powerhouse sisters and branches of the Garden. You will hear from them via audio file, because I want you to hear their voice. They long so much to be among us. I long for them to be here, but they are not. If you would like to hear more from them, call them. Get their phone number from one of us and call them.

The trip was from March 5-27. After that, I then went to Ethiopia from March 28-April 1. But, actually that is not where all this really started. Do not worry, I am not going to preach the history of humanity which I usually do. I am just going back to 2007 when the Campbells were in Kenya. I actually went to Kenya for the first time in 2004. So, I have been going almost 20 years now. But, that was the beginning when it began there for them.

This relationship with Pastor Carren and her late husband Ismael, began when Kim and Brad obeyed God to go to Kenya as well. I was there in 2004. God is doing something and all of us are converging to get there. How many people in this group here this morning have moved to this area and to this exact congregation and mandate in the last two years? That is a lot of people for such a small group. I do not do percentages, but that's pretty good. God is doing something and He is moving. All of our testimonies are coming together to further His gospel and His plan. But, He is not going to do it outside of relationship with us.

Kim and Brad were in Nakuru, and they invited me to come there, because we had done the ATC there in Ethiopia. We have done some of it in Greece. We have been together in this, and they are amazing at opening doors for people. They invited me to come back with them. It was a tender thing, because I had not been to Kenya since 2016, about seven years, which is actually the number of completion in the Spirit.

I was there and what the Lord was talking to me about amongst many things was my "yes," to Him. A deeper, "yes," always, and by the way, my "yes," to Him has never been bad. It has always made me into who am created to be. This "yes" was to "Let's talk about your family, and leaving them again." He brought that to me in the story of the alabaster box. Because, my best worship I can give to Jesus, is to leave my family. They are my treasure. Your family is your treasure also, I am sure. He was just talking to me. I was saying, I love you so much. I did have to go hide and have an ugly cry outside the children's home. I put my headphones in and played CC Winan's song, "Alabaster Box," and just balled saying, "You are asking me if I want to do this Kenya thing again. I know you want me to and I am going to say, "yes," but I have to cry about it a little first." When we went in to the church, they took an offering for us before I was doing anything there.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Here is a quick lesson in sowing and reaping. They sowed into us and now their ATCs are exploding out of their House, because they gave to what the Lord was doing here. He is giving back to them. Okay, that is how that works In case you are wondering.

As I am there, and I am on my face, the doors and windows are open. My Bible was open and the wind blew the pages. This doesn't happen often so please do not look for a sign always. It's the first time in my life really. After I got up, and I heard the Lord say to "take my family to Kenya for the month of March." This was last year or the year before last. I said, "That is a lot to ask my family. They may be mad at me. They may not appreciate it. But, I know it is you and yes, I will do it." *When* I got up and looked, my Bible was open to the alabaster box story. I just ballled again, and that is okay. I think the closer you get to Jesus, the more you cry.

That is what I wanted to share with you. I want you to *hear* this song right now. If He is moving on your heart, asking you to come closer to Him, to worship Him, to know Him more, in this time, I want you to take the song for yourself. He did not call this woman to come wash His feet. She saw the opportunity, because that was her heart. In this song, when it is talking about the alabaster box, it is my family. But, it is also my comfort. It is my life. It is where I am right now. This story of the alabaster box was my devotional for the day I got home again.

As I play the song, I want you to apply this testimony of Jesus. If He is doing it for me, He will do it for you in your heart. It doesn't mean you have to go to Africa. It may mean you quit doing something. It may mean you start doing something. It is about your worship of Jesus. My point is, really look at who Jesus is. I love my family. I am looking at them right now. But, I do not love them as much as I love Jesus, and I love them a lot, lot, lot!

Now we will play that song, and allow you time with Jesus, before we play the audio testimony from Luz, then from Holly, and I will talk again. There are tissue boxes under the chairs.

Insert audio files.

Amen. I just love those ladies. I am so proud of them. My goodness, I am looking forward to going with them soon. They say this in Kenya, "I won't take much of your time, but..." but, I really won't. I wanted to tell you that we get to go, "as vessels." As I was talking to you earlier, it is what God has deposited in you, that you have to take somewhere else. You do not have to be special. You just have to be obedient.

When I get to be a part of these amazing things, and then the voices *come saying*, "What on earth do you have to offer? What are you doing here?" My response is a favorite scripture, "You did not choose me, I chose you." It is easy then because, "I did not choose Him. He chose me, that I would go and bear much fruit." All I have to do is listen a little bit. I just have to look at Him a little bit. As you heard from the "Alabaster Box," song. I love Him so much, and I am already listening to Him. I am already talking to Him. He made it very clear. We are becoming a part of what He is doing on this Earth in this House. I know that there are believers everywhere else, and they are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

That is amazing and I want to support it, but I am talking to us. We are advancing His Kingdom through relationship and love. It is our pleasure to do it for the King. Remember Jesus said, Look, if the master comes in you do not say, "Feed me." Right? Even if I have been working all day, I *should* say, "What more can I do for you, Lord?" Because, I am His servant. But, I am also His friend. He sets me up for the win continually. He is setting you up for the win. Do not resist Him when He calls you. It is for your good. It might hurt a little bit. It will certainly be inconvenient, and it may make people around you mad. They may be offended. Who are you? Because it is convicting their soul. Good, convict everybody around you. We all need it. Right?

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Speaking of conviction, there was a pastor from Congo, on an African bus. This is not a Greyhound bus. *It takes* two days to get to the conference for the ATC. I am not condemning you. This is not a guilt trip. I am not a travel agent for your guilt trip. This is conviction. I am tired of apologizing for the Western Church. I am tired of it. I do not want to apologize for this House, because this is where I have a voice. I am sorry if you are tired. I am sorry. Get up and come worship God together.

We are together and this granny comes up who can barely make it with legs that are so jacked up. You all know me. I am *thinking*, I cannot look, but I will pray. I don't know how old she was. She hobbles up and I get her a chair. One of the ATC students that we activated that day told everyone to come pray since they did not need an interpreter. They prayed for this woman. Yes, she had been cursed. By the way, dealing with and praying for people in foreign countries is much easier, because they know a curse. When they have been cursed. They know that there is a demon or something against them and say, "Could you help me?" It's much faster. When they prayed for this little woman, she waved her crutch in the air and began dancing and praising God.

But, I hope you do not meet her in heaven and complain about how tired you were, from the joy you had the night before in the United States. You all hear me? What are we going to say to those first century saints that faced a lion. *When you* complain, "Well, you know, my internet was out." Okay, like I said, this isn't guilt, it is conviction. If I am stepping on your toes, you are welcome. You are welcome, because I might as well step on yours. I step on my own all the time. I am preaching. I am being judged by my own word, right? I want you to see that we are a part of something that is going on in the Earth right now.

II Timothy 2:1-2

The first time I went and talked to Carren about doing the ATC, this scripture was just ringing everywhere. By the way, where it says men, it means people and not just men. Praise God for men, but women don't check out or be upset. It means men and women. It is for all of us. I explained the vision of cells to her, explaining that is how we multiply. She said, "Oh, we have done this during Covid. We met in other places." But, she also knew about how to multiply and said, "What you are giving me, I will give to others."

So, that scripture was like the "theme" of the first time we met. I even presented the ATC to her. All right, I want you to understand that in the Kingdom, this isn't a business. This was not a transaction. It was an exchange you get in hearts, lives, and relationships. Have we said relationships enough yet? You are here because of somebody. Could you be that somebody for somebody else, please? You probably already are. So keep on doing it.

I Corinthians 4:7-8

This will help you out when you are saying, "Well, I do not really have anything to give. Well, you are the one doing it, you have on the outfit. You have been to these places and everything." This is a life verse for me as well. In my life, I have been given a lot. So, I am responsible for a lot. But, here is the short version. Basically, I do not have anything that has not been given to me. So, it is easy to give it. But, I do not want you to devalue what you have. You have been given something. All right? You have got something to give. I know of myself, I do not have anything to give. But I have been given a load. I have got a lot to give. So praise God for the opportunity to go give it somewhere. Because, if you do not use it, you might lose it. You might forget it. It is kind of like languages. If you do not practice it for a while, it gets all jumbled up. Use what you have been given. Be faithful with what you have been given.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Next. I want you to know that this trip is building God's kingdom in order. We are following scripture. Like Luz said, "We are living like those mentioned in the book of Acts and continuing." We met and went on this apostolic foundation. There was sowing, there was reaping, and there was relationship. We were saying, give this teaching to faithful people. She was faithful with it. Then we came back.

Before we went this time, I was before Him on this carpet and asked the Lord for some understanding of exactly what I was going to do on this next trip." He always gives me a word. If you need a word from God, read your Bible. It has a bunch of them. Right? Some of it will be like, "ping." It will "ping," and you will think, "Is that for me?" Most likely it will be unless it is the one saying "Judas went and hanged himself," so don't do that, it was not for you.

Titus 1:5

It goes on to state the qualifications of those who are appointed. About eight weeks ago, I am standing right here praying and I feel like the Lord is saying, "I want you to go and help set things in order. Not because Carren doesn't have things going in obedience to God and is a powerhouse. They have so much for us to grab hold of. However, this is what I had and felt led to do. So I have the Scripture. Like you, I will hear the word of the Lord tell me something, or I think I do. Then I ask, "Could you confirm that, Lord?" I am up here praying, "Could you could give me a prophetic word, just to confirm that. I do not want to be presumptuous." Usually, it is not that I am "too big for my britches" for God, but it is I "think too little of myself, or why would He use me?" I do not want to be presumptuous and think I am supposed to do something I am not supposed to.

About then Brandy says, "Lauren, come on up. We are going to pray for you before you go to Africa." I was like, "that was fast!" Thank you! *I go up to the front* and Brandy prays up one side and down the other over me and prophesies about Turkana, which is in the northern region of Kenya. She writes it down and gives it to me. Then Kim covers me with the Holy Ghost and gives me a word about riding a horse through Turkana. For those of you who are not used to prophecy, they weren't listening to each other. They couldn't even hear each other because we are rocking with music at Just A Sound. Okay, Lord, Turkana it is. What does that mean?

The next Sunday, Elisa texts me before church and says, "I see a picture of a bow. I think God is shooting you into new regions." I think, yes, Turkana, got it. Thank you, God. I know Turkana is involved. When I get to church, Wayne says, "Lauren, I have got a word for you. Do you know anything about arrows?" He gives me this wonderful word that is very confirming. So remember, you are going to take this testimony for yourself. You are going to use what happened in my life? Probably not with that much confirmation all at once, but maybe. "Lord, what does that mean? What do I do with that?"

Jeremiah or Jerry, is our Kenyan son and he is really tall. I have known him since 2006. He and his family lived down the street from us when we lived in Kenya for that short amount of time. We just took them in and had a wonderful time. When we went this time, I was reunited with him, and then I was reunited with his whole family. That is a whole other beautiful story. You can call me if you want to hear more. Or actually, I will come to your cell group to share. Great.

Jeremiah is so excited for me to come to Kitale, because that city is the gateway to Turkana, in this northern region of Africa that Brandy and I went to in 2014. We established the Garden Apostolic Training Center there. We put a stake in the ground. It was taking off and being spread, because they are so lacking in practical, anointed teaching and resources. But, then the devil got a hold of it, and tried to wipe it out.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Jeremiah went up to Turkana to visit his mother. He asked if he could I teach them the Garden ATC. I tell him, I am doing a terrible job of discipling you if you do you not know that is how this works. That is the goal. That is what I want you to do. Yes, make disciples, right? So, he takes it up there. All these young men from Turkana, come and they make their way down to come to us. Here is another thing to get in to your heart. A bunch of the young men were able to come. There are about 20 of them all. Ten of them had to stay, because they wanted to go on a mission trip and couldn't afford to come down or they did not have the time to come to us where we were before their mission trip. They went to the hard places. Turkana is a hard place to start out with. They were going with some medical teams to take IVs to people so they would live. So, I do not want to hear about anyone's headache right now. I understand, it is real to us, but we need to "suck it up a little bit people." All right?

The other guys from Turkana who were able to come down say they want to be missionaries so they come to the school. Jeremiah worked so hard administrating and bringing all of these guys together. It is like herding cats and he appreciates me so much more for all I do. He said that a million times. I know you can appreciate that, Brandy.

When these guys come they are lacking some depth in their understanding. They are a little like the people the disciples met who say, "We have not so much as heard of Holy Spirit." So, I am thinking, "All right! This is about to happen here." But, the day of the teaching, they did not all come forward. Later they talked to Jeremiah personally and said "we need some more information." So, we all headed to a restaurant where we ate pizza. I laughed and said I need girl disciples, because boys eat so much. Careful what you say. I had a girl disciple in the last week of the training. Hallelujah! Praise God! Then it occurs to me that girls shop! So, we just need the Lord's provision in every way.

The guys from Turkana have to catch a night bus. So, let me convict you just one more time. One of the guys from Turkana was going to come down, but he had to catch the night bus. There are bandits on this road. In the car in front of him, the driver was shot in the head. So, the bus he was on that night had to turn around and leave the scene, and he did not get to come. Chadbourne street is not that bumpy people, okay?

Let me just tell you guys, we have got about twenty different ATC's happening in Kenya right now. Faithful people eating up this word. right? So, these young men come, and we are eating in this restaurant that Gretchen sent us a text about. She found a restaurant in Kitale. That is amazing. Glory to God, we all bless Gretchen, again! Anyway, we get all of them pizzas. Next they asked me, "Can you tell us about the Trinity?" We have a little Trinity conversation. Then they said, "Okay, let's talk about baptism in Holy Spirit and praying in tongues." I was just able to tell them, because it is a simple thing. I just explained it to them and they are like, "Okay." They said, "Well, we have this question. We have this...." We just sat there and talked.

I said, "Okay, do you guys want this?" They said, "This is what we came for." I said, "Well, actually, yes, it is." So, let me pull out this piece of paper." I pulled it out in that restaurant. Here is what it said. It is from Brandy Helton, 2/26/23. I saw a lightning bolt strike at the road from Kitale in to Turkana. Each city you go to will be like Paul and his missionary missions. Lightning will strike each place. Open door in Turkana and impart the Holy Spirit to these people. I showed these guys that with the date. I said, "So, here you are. Let's do this." Then we stood up. You have to understand these Turkana guys are so tall! My precious friend, Dorcas, was there and our driver was there. We all just began to pray. They received, they were born again, they wanted to be missionaries, but they needed to be equipped. That is what they came for because the Spirit brings you to where you need to be, to get what you need.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

He brings these guys here. I notice our waiter and ask, "What time do y'all close?" He said, "eight." It was 9:30, but he said, "it's okay. It's okay." I know he was thinking, because I have got to see what is about to go down, since they were listening the whole time. I am telling you, we just asked Holy Spirit to come. It was a party! I mean, these guys are praying in the Spirit, weeping, laid out, hollering. Our driver, James, is on his knees just blessing God. It was the most glorious, glorious encounter with Jesus. He just filled that restaurant, amen! Because we just followed His Word, His written Word, and His Rhema fresh word.

He wants to move in your life this way. This is my testimony of Jesus. I am prophesying to you that He will do all of these things and more for you, in you, to you, and through you, if you will say, "yes." I have no idea what I am doing most of the time. But, I know a little bit. What I have been given, what I have been taught, and what I just asked Jesus. I just take that step and I just go for it.

They received the cell vision. Our Church, if you do not know, we have cells. If you are not in one, get in one. How can you have it in your House and not take advantage when it is blowing their doors off? They are like, "yes, yes. It is the Lord's heart."

There was a woman there that I had not seen in many many years. I said to my friend, Dorcas, do you understand cells? She said, "Yes, I know these. I am doing one." I asked how do you know this? Did you get that from back when we taught? She said there was this book? I asked, "Is it blue?" She said, "yes." I said, "Is it G12?" She said, "Yes, it was in the library where I was. It is the cell vision." I brought that book there twenty years ago! Okay, come on! Amen, God! All right. We have to say, Yeah! You are doing something and we get to be a part of it, Lord! Not because of us, but because of Him.

Be obedient to God's Word that He is speaking to you in your heart right now. I do not care if your pot roast is burning. Okay, let it burn. Come on. God is talking to some of you. If not all of you right now, and it doesn't mean you are stepping up here to say I am going to Africa. It means I am stepping up here to say "yes," to Jesus. That is what it is. It started and I ended up in Turkana again because at a women's conference I stepped out into the aisle and I stepped forward, because I moved my body in response to what was going on in my spirit. Then I went out in the truck and hid and cried my face off, but that's a different story. Okay, that could happen to you later.

I do not want you to miss what He is doing in your heart. Even if it is a baby step for God, you come up and step out in the aisle and take a step forward. Linda, you motor on up here. Whatever you have to do. If you have a baby, bring them with you. Okay, come up during this song. I do not even know how old this song is. Right? But, it is an old one. Jeremiah kept playing it, and it was the theme of our trip. I am going to play it for you in that same anointing that is moving in this House and in this world to go forward. Jesus, is here for you. Amen.

Insert link to song Desert Road by Casting Crowns