



RUCKEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

August
2026



COMMISSIONED TO SERVE

On April 25, our family stood on the stage at the annual When the Saints banquet surrounded by hundreds of people who paused to pray over us. It was a moment we'll never forget. That evening, When the Saints officially introduced us as the missionary family who will relocate to Nkhosakota, Malawi, to establish a second long-term trauma counseling safe home. While we've spent many months praying, planning, and preparing for this calling, this was the first time we shared that vision publicly with the broader When the Saints family. Looking across the room as friends, supporters, volunteers, and ministry partners prayed for us reminded us that we are not making this journey alone.

The banquet also celebrated another exciting milestone for the ministry. One of the evening's major goals was raising support to build a boarding facility for girls who complete the one-year trauma counseling program in Mponela. The facility will allow them to continue their education while remaining in a safe, Christ-centered environment rather than returning to economically vulnerable homes. Although the project was only partially funded on the night of the banquet, supporters continued giving in the weeks that followed, and the entire boarding facility is now fully funded. Construction is already underway, and it is exciting to watch another important part of the ministry become a reality before we even arrive in Malawi.

For our family, however, the banquet represented something even deeper. It marked the beginning of a season of intentional preparation. Over the coming months, we'll continue building our team of ministry partners, preparing for our November vision trip to Malawi, learning more about the community we'll soon call home, and making practical preparations for our planned relocation in June 2027.

Lord willing, on September 1, 2027, we'll open the doors of a second safe home in Nkhosakota where girls who have experienced abuse, trauma, or trafficking can find safety, healing, and the hope found in Christ. Thank you for praying with us, encouraging us, and walking this journey alongside our family. Every prayer, every conversation, and every act of generosity brings us one step closer to what God is preparing in Malawi.

JOIN US IN PRAYING

Redemption Road Church: Pray for faithful leadership, unity, and continued care as we transition from our current roles.

Our Children: Pray that each of our children would feel secure, loved, and grow deeper in faith through this season.

Preparation for Malawi: Pray for the Lord to give us peace and wisdom and that we would trust his steps along the way.

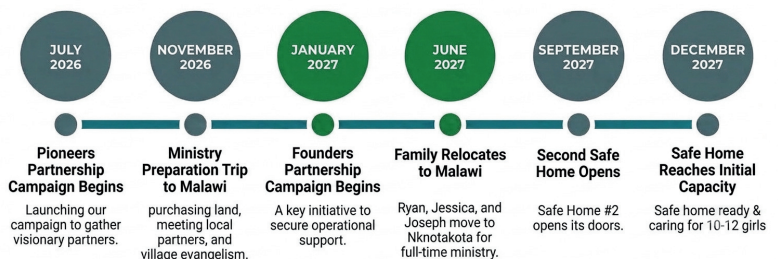
Our Marriage & Family: Pray for unity, strength, and grace as we navigate this transition together.

The Future Safe Home: Pray that God would prepare the staff and provide every detail needed, that these girls would find safety, hope, and the love of Jesus Christ.

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10

UPCOMING MILESTONES



GATHERED AROUND THE TABLE

Over the past several months, many of you have gathered around our table to hear the story of what God is doing through When the Saints and our call to serve in Malawi.

Our fundraising dinners have been more than meals—they have been opportunities to share the vision, answer questions, build relationships, and invite others to partner in opening a second safe home for girls who have experienced abuse.

Thank you to everyone who attended a dinner, prayed with us, encouraged us, and helped share this vision with others. We are especially grateful to those who stepped forward in partnership and helped us cross the 75% funded mark for our 2026–2027 ministry support.

Every conversation, every prayer, and every partnership represents another step toward our move to Malawi and the opening of a new home where girls can find safety, healing, and hope.

We are humbled by the people God continues to bring alongside us on this journey. Thank you for joining us around the table and walking with us toward the road ahead.

If you know someone who would like to hear more about When the Saints and what God is doing in Malawi, we would love the opportunity to connect. Whether it is a Bible study, a cup of coffee, a small group gathering, or a church setting, we enjoy sharing the vision and meeting others who want to learn more and pray with us.



ROAD TO A SECOND SAFE HOME

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| ☒ Accepted the call to serve with When the Saints | ☐ Family relocates to Malawi (June 2027) |
| ☒ Commissioned by When the Saints | ☐ Second Safe Home prepared |
| ☒ Partnership Campaign launched | ☐ House mother hired and trained |
| ☐ Ministry vehicle secured | ☐ Counselors on staff and trained |
| ☐ Move Preparation Trip completed (Nov 2026) | ☐ First girls welcomed into the safe home |
| ☐ Land purchased for the Second Safe Home | ☐ Safe Home 2 reaches full capacity |
| ☐ Rental homes secured in Nkhotakota | |

Follow along as God provides each step on the road to opening a second safe home for girls rescued from sexual exploitation and abuse in Malawi.

FROM JESSICA

Over the past several months, I've had the opportunity to volunteer with an organization called The Hands and Feet of Jesus, bringing food, water, and supplies to the homeless on the streets of St. Louis. Serving there has challenged me in ways I didn't expect. It's reminded me that ministry isn't just about going to some place far away. It's about seeing the people around us the way Jesus sees them and being willing to step into their lives.



As we've continued preparing for Malawi, I find myself thinking often about 1 Corinthians 12:27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." God has a role for each of us to fill, and I'm thankful for the way He's been using this season to prepare my heart for what lies ahead.

Serving here at home has only strengthened my excitement for serving in Malawi. Jesus made time for people that were often unseen or overlooked, and I want that same compassion to shape my life, whether I'm serving on the streets of St. Louis or caring for girls in our safe home in Malawi.

Thank you for praying for our family as we prepare for this next chapter. I know God is already using this season to teach us, grow us, and prepare us for the work He has planned.

JOSEPH'S ADVENTURES

Meet Tangy!



This is my new kitten, Tangerine (Tangy for short). He's a little over a month old, and full of energy. He's really sweet, and it seems like he never stops eating!

One thing that's different about Tangy is that he likes to be held like a baby. I've never had a cat that would let me do that before.

I've also learned that if you're eating, you have to keep an eye on your food... because Tangy thinks everything on your plate is his too!

DID YOU KNOW? Sometimes, it's safer for cats to fall from a higher place than a lower one. Cats can spread their body out flat like a parachute, and a higher fall gives them more time to slow down before they land. So, now you know!