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“Mom, I can’t see anything! Everything is black!” —Sarah

I helped Sarah move into her new college dorm in St. Louis the weekend of August 19, and on Monday we stood on my big brother's backyard deck right in the path of the eclipse! We wore the official dark glasses and watched the moon cross over the sun. But Sarah and I noticed that when we looked around us through the protective glasses we couldn't see a thing--it was all blackness! Only when we looked directly at the sun through the glasses did we see the light. And it was amazing! The glasses found the viewpoint—our eyes were forced to focus only on the sun.

More recently our eyes were focused on the news as we watched Hurricane Harvey hit Texas—following the big swirl on the radar, the winds, rain, and flooding. And now Hurricane Irma is coming our way. Stores are crammed with residents stocking up on food, water, and other essentials. Will it hit us, or pass over? Could a tree fall on the car or house? How stressful and tiresome to live in the shadow of impending doom!

Not to further dishearten, but over in Burundi, because of curtailment of foreign aid, (and because of external factors such as too much rain or not enough rain), the beans are bad and expensive, and those hungry people who could eat only one meal a day are now able to find food for only one meal every OTHER day. Mothers are bringing their babies and children to the Rainbow Centre for food. My colleague, Leah, just sent this photo of one such mother and her baby seeking help. A Burundian student friend and a worker friend had both of their small homes ransacked by desperate people! The needs around the world are overwhelming.

These are not easy days anywhere. As you pray for the bereft people in Texas and those in the path of Hurricane Irma, thank you for also faithfully continuing to pray for the needy country of Burundi and the impoverished people there.

“Be careful, keep calm, and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart.” (Isaiah 7:4)

May God’s blessings and mercies all like rain!

Ken and Melli and children

