

## HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY! New year. New Goals. New Challenges. New Lessons. I'm

both excited and exhausted already. Anyone else?

What is it about the new year that brings about the desire for change? Sometimes we pick the changes that we want to make and the goals we want to achieve. Sometimes those changes come unexpectedly. Allow me to explain. This year brings about a new and very unexpected challenge and learning experience for me. Having admitted two young boys to Ahadi Boys Home who have had very little to no schooling, and having a very limited budget, Mim and I find ourselves teaching a 10 year old and a 9 year old. After the first week I am already mentally exhausted but determined to step up to the task laid before me. I also have a new found respect for primary school teachers. The limited attention span alone is enough to challenge one's patience. As challenging as it has been and I'm sure will continue to be, it's also exciting to watch the excitement as John and Chris discover things they never knew before. They are full of energy and are so excited to learn and be in school. With luck, hard work, frustration and some inevitable ups and downs, our goal is to get them to grade level by the end of this year so we can send them out to school in 2019. I admit that I am out of my league but I know that God equips us for the tasks he lays before us and I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I may have to repeat that to myself more than once this year.

It's going to be a busy and exciting year and I look forward to sharing it with you. Thank you for continuing this journey with me. I couldn't do it without you!



January Joy

Me and my mama. One of the things I love about working in Nairobi is being close t my parents. They are an inspiration and always a source of encouragement. I thank God for them daily.