

Dearest friends and family,

After returning from our second expedition, I find myself at a loss. I can barely think of a way to capture the experience for you. Summarizing seems such a shortcut, a bypass around a meaningful walk with God. However, for your sakes, I will save many of the details for family letters, journals, and books to come. Meanwhile, let me plant a few seeds in your minds of greater things to come.

Once again, we embarked on our expedition looking like gypsies. The Land Cruiser wore a canvas top hat taller than Dr. Suess ever dreamed of, and the truck we'd hired was heavy laden with gear and food for survival, camp construction items, luggage, and PEOPLE. What was not tied on had to be hand-held during the dusty, swaggering journey or else it went overboard. We arrived with only minor losses and major dust.

Setting up camp was less traumatic this time, as we did not have to clear the land before pitching our village of tents. A small, log kitchen had been partially constructed for our cooking shelter. We completed it by roofing and siding it with our giant tarp. While the women organized the kitchen for supper, the men left to fill the 55 gallon drums from the hand-pump well at Mabbolas. Just after sundown, we were eating and relaxing around the evening fire, dozing between bites and sentences in our fatigue. We all retired to our tents without anyone's coaxing.

Our team this time was Munkombwes, Lucy, Theresa, us, Jake and Mary, Josh Pack, Beth Sussenguth, and two other translators—twelve in all. Our mission was planting seeds for the kingdom and tending to young plants. Our labors were focused and purposeful, but the soil out there is full of stones, thorns, weeds, and hard-packed paths of habit. The key "hoes" that God used to break up some of the surface layers were the camps, the community school, and a "seed of a clinic."

We were really excited about the camps and the impact they made. They were enjoyed, but more importantly they made a difference in the way the kids began to think and reason about God and His word. I think if we had only used traditional forms of teaching, the seed would have remained on the surface for the birds to eat. But the learning games forced them to think through what the Bible means and what it says. We have already begun to see some of them receive the Word and act upon it. Six teens have demonstrated clear understanding of Christ's work for them, and placed their trust that alone. We were thrilled that some of these are ones for whom we've been praying for months. Camp helped us see that that the Lord is raising up a new generation for His own glory! It's exciting. It's hope. It's joy.

Men's camp was not as productive. The turnout was evidence that good seed, sown among thorns and weeds, does not grow well, if at all. Jim observed that a true commitment to Christ and to godly leadership was negligible. The good news is that the few who came with good and sincere hearts were nourished and strengthened. God is growing two good leaders, but it is evident that the men need more consistent teaching and personal involvement in their lives. Until we get help out here, there will be struggles that will slow their progress. Please pray for

Jamie and Mandy's support to come in so that they can join us before our short furlough next year.

The community school is where Lucy, Beth, and I plunged our hooves each morning. We all had lesson plans for nine days; we each accomplished objectives for less than half of that. Lucy and Beth taught children to hold a pencil and crayons properly, as well as slowly progressing with literacy and art. The kids were beginning to enjoy learning, which was huge. According to the textbook for social development (inclusive of their religious education classes), the kids were supposed to learn about parables. I taught four parables and repeated each story each day. By the end of our two weeks, at least **I HAD LEARNED** rather intimately the truths of the sower, the lost sheep, the good Samaritan, and the lost coin. Very slowly and only by repetition do the first grade children grasp the story or its meanings. The older students (grades 4 and 5) have become much more responsive to both learning and to me as a teacher and to the truths we are discovering. The camp made a significant difference in attitudes about learning as well as grasping Biblical truths.

As soon as we came home from school, there were usually people waiting for help at the tents. The cases were extreme—from a nearly dead four-month old dehydration case, to a severely burned first grader, to a rotting flesh infection. Every single day we were inundated with people coming for help, some with self-treatment which had failed; some from failed witchcraft cures. The classic case for the books was a young teen boy who reported through a local translator that he was paining in his placenta. I tried to look professional when I replied, "I don't think so." The translator looked offended. "Why NOT?!" I whispered, "Because males don't have placentas." So, to save face (his and mine), I asked where his "placenta" was paining. Once we eliminated the placenta, we could fix the pain! 😊

Somehow the word has spread, "Now we have a mission here. They can help you!" I cannot name the number of times I heard the request, "Please, open a clinic for us here!" Our help was but a seed that God could use. We look to the Lord for the time and means to get Dr. Leesa Mc Cauley and her family here. Just after returning from the bush, we found an e-mail from our mission with a notice of an RN who may be available for up to two years! We don't know what the Lord will grow, but we DO need help!

I had so much more to share. I guess it will have to wait. 😞 I want to thank everyone who took time to pray for us. We were so dependent upon the Lord every single day, and every single hour. You have no idea. I am confident that the prayers of God's people—his own holy people—accomplish much. We saw so much done, and yet were overwhelmed by so much to do. Pray for us, and accept our deep appreciation for the intercessions already offered. We are not living on human wisdom or human power, but on the divine and excelling power of Christ. We'll share more and again so that you can enjoy it with us.

have to close...
with much love...

and for God's glory...

Jim and Rachel, Lucy, Mary and Jake, Beth, and Josh