

Prayer Letter

November 2007

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Important Info...
 All packages that are mailed to the P.O. Box must be 8 1/2 x 11 or smaller. Letters are very much appreciated as I can read them over and over again.

Karubuni

Zai saa zino?! (Zi saw zeeno – How is your day?) I just recently returned from Machakos, Kenya where I spent three weeks at ABO (Africa Based Orientation). There were 25 missionaries there from Canada, America, Ireland, Germany and Britain now serving in various capacities in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Chad and Sudan.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn a great deal about African culture and worldview – how we understand the world – from African guest lecturers and resident missionaries! It

was also a fantastic time of fellowship to talk through some of the things facing us here and to be encouraged by how the Lord brought all of us to Africa together, but in such unique ways. As well, our

team celebrated the end of our three month technology fast with movie night!! (Several times!) It, too,

was a great opportunity as we had a chance to invite and fellowship with the Kenyan students at Scott Theological (our host site).



In the Village...

Since our team returned just after the end of the month of Ramadan many celebrations were afoot in our village – multiple weddings, a school graduation (photo pg 4), two memorial services for deceased kin, and one huge coming out ngoma (drum dance). We were welcomed back on a Friday in which a three day ngoma had just began right next door. Five young women celebrated their coming of age while two live drum bands played all day and all night – did I mention it was right next door? ☺ (photo pg 4)

I had the pleasure of two interesting and encouraging encounters after my return. A neighbor of our team leader had cut his wrist near or down to the bone while the team was away. Tim and Emily did a great job of helping this man, but requested I look at it to see if anything more needed to be done. He happened to be out of town the day I went by to look at it, but came to Tim's house one night while I was having dinner with them. He was so grateful and thanked us profusely. He said it was a great thing that I left my home to come and help his people. He said we treated him no different than us and even left our dinner to take care of him. The night of his accident he sought help from Tim and Emily as he had gone to the local "hospital" 30 minutes away but the watchman was unable to find the person with the keys to open the place up and help this man. I was very touched by his kind words and thought of the words from a worship song, "and they will know Him by our love..." Incidentally, two days prior to leaving for ABO I was awakened by my roommate one morning to come and help a neighbor's daughter who had been stabbed in the jaw by her husband. Within the hour we made the 30 minute walk to the local "hospital." After our 15-20 minute wait this young girl was seen for maybe 5 minutes and only received a prescription for antibiotics. So, we returned to our village and brought her to our house to clean her wound. She was sent to Dar shortly after we left for Kenya so I haven't seen her again, yet her mother assures me she is well.

The second encounter I spoke of was with a visiting relative of my neighbor. We often share Swahili Bibles with the neighborhood children for them to look at. One day this week, Amina was very interested in the book and read it for hours. When she came to return the book we charaded back and forth about the stories she had just read. She was particularly interested in the story of Abraham attempting to sacrifice Isaac and talked passionately about it as if I understood every word. ***** **I wrote this newsletter be-**

fore the story ended though. My original words were – "I trust the Lord, that He will not even allow His word in picture (I thought she was illiterate at first) to return void!" WOW! God went above and beyond anything I could imagine – "He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work in us" Eph 3:20. Amina came back a second day to my house and asked to read the children's Bible. She sat and read it on my porch for 3.5 hours while noisy kids crowded around playing games and several other of us women sat and talked attempting to keep dry from the pouring rains. After talking with her I knew she would be heading home soon (about an hour away) so I asked if she would walk with me to visit Emily (who speaks Swahili) and talk about the book and she agreed. So, yesterday afternoon we walked 15 minutes in the pouring rain (both ways) to sit and talk with Emily. Here's Amina's story as she shared it

I go to the mosque and am muslim and have heard all my life how Jesus was a good prophet. But, something inside me has made me think Jesus was more than just a prophet. Yet, all I was taught and heard said He was only a prophet. Then, one day I became very ill and went to the hospital. I was so sick I could not even get up out of bed. While I was there a padre came and asked if he could pray with me for my healing and I said yes. The padre said, "you know I'll be praying to Jesus?" and I said yes because I knew He was more than a prophet and thought that He was God. So, the padre prayed for me and even returned a second day and offered me some bread and prayed for me again. By the next day I was completely well; I could even get out of bed."

Emily asked Amina a few more questions and she confirmed again that she thought Jesus is God!! Praise the Lord! Amina married into the Zaramo tribe and is my neighbor's in-law so please pray that she'll have the courage to share with her family; pray that she'll be protected from persecution and instead will have a voice of truth that is heard within the family. Emily was able to give her a Swahili Bible of her own as well as a children's Swahili Bible for her son.

****UPDATE****

Tim's good friend Dulla came to Tim sometime after his big dream and asked Tim to teach Him God's word!! Tim is using the "storying" method to share the gospel to Dulla who is so interested he also came back and asked if they could change meeting three times a week to daily. Dulla is truly seeking and asking deep questions about the Bible and God's word. Yet, Tim feels certain that a great deal of suffering will come to Dulla from many in the community when he becomes a Christian.

Please continue to be in prayer for our team, the Zaramo, and God's work here.

Praises

- Dulla wants more!!
- The team has had a chance to live out very different and Christian lifestyles to and talk with so many people as they have been coming from Dar in droves for all of the celebrations.
- The team made the 13 hour roundtrip from Kenya safely.
- We had our first snake in the house!... but Salome and I and a couple of sticks took care of it with the Lord's protection.



Prayer Requests

- Miriam (who has a feud with our landlord) still feels certain she may die if she comes onto our property because of a curse. BUT, she has come closer physically. Please pray that she'll feel the protection of God to come.
- Pray for the Spirit to call those you've read about in this newsletter.
- Pray for protection for Dulla and courage. Pray that the Spirit will help him understand the gospel and accept it.
- Pray for our team as we're tired from busy weeks.
- Pray that we'll acclimate to the heat.

It's been in the 80s (but remember we have no AC) and summer is coming Feb-Mar when it will be high 90s with 80% humidity or higher.

- I am the team's alternate driver. Please pray for my astuteness and caution at the wheel and ability to maneuver safely through the CRAZY city traffic where traffic laws are more of a suggestion.

*Pray for language
learning.
In Him,
Monica*

Pictures from the ngoma...



The coming out ngoma at my neighbor's house.



Me and my language helper Mon Ayesha at the ngoma



Paulina and our neighbor's girl Hallema at the ngoma



The graduating class!!



My friend Amina (2nd to the left) is graduating; her mom Bibi Heli



Graduation time! The families are getting ready to present gifts to the students.

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Me and friends in a Tuk Tuk in Machakos, Kenya



Our mountain hike – on the way up – I'm in the back.
I'm also the only one who made the 1.5 hour hike in a



Our visit to the local mosque. (Take notice of the sign
next door 😊)



This is a great photo of my teammate Jeremy and our new friend Louise
(serving in Uganda) Coming down from the hike with several kids that fol-
lowed us.

More pictures have been posted on
my website. Please check it out...

[http://mysite.verizon.net/resxpvo/
monicamiller/](http://mysite.verizon.net/resxpvo/monicamiller/)