

DRU'S VIEWS
Nineteenth Edition – August 2009

Continue to love each other with true Christian love. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! Hebrews 13:1 – 2

Lifesong School

The past few weeks have been filled with God's blessings as we have been given opportunities to offer hospitality to strangers who have visited our school—and we have had no doubts that they were truly angels!



On the 23rd of July, 80 students in grades 3 through 7 and their teachers from Tom and Jo School came to spend the day with our children. There is a private school in Kitwe; many of the students come from wealthy homes, and a few are orphans who attend on scholarship. One of them is Andella, the young girl I have been sponsoring for the past 8 years. They mingled well as they helped prepare food and wash dishes, shared lunch, played sports and games and read books together. When they left we were all touched by the friendships that had been formed; the administrator of Tom and Jo said she had taken her students on other fieldtrips and this was the best of all. They left us with gifts of food and used clothing and promised to return again soon.

The next day a team of medical volunteers came from St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Brandon, Florida. They taught the children about good hygiene and dental care and gave them toothbrushes, toothpaste and cross necklaces. The students were weighed, measured, de-wormed, examined by a doctor and given medications that he recommended. He wrote referrals for any children who need further care. The team had spent the previous four days examining children in other compounds and community schools. I asked some of them if they noticed any difference between those children and ours. Their comments: "There's no comparison! These children are happier, better behaved, more outgoing, well fed and healthier." One of the volunteers was delighted when Veronica, one of our littlest girls, jumped into her lap for a hug!



On August 5 a group of 13 volunteers mostly from Peoria First United Methodist Church, my home church, arrived. They led the children in morning bible school, painted and installed ceilings in our two new classrooms, and visited other UMC projects in the area. For some, this was their first visit to Africa, and I am sure they will never be the same again. They shared the love of Christ with our children and received love in return. They all made a great impact on our children and staff. However, I think the greatest was the close friendships made between 11-year-old Arthur Ioder from Chicago and our 3rd grade boys. They proved we are all God's children and should love one another, wherever we are from. Long after the team left, our children were still reciting their memory verses and singing the new songs they learned. We hope the team will return soon.

We are now preparing for the annual visit of the Lifesong Vision Team early in September.

"My Children"

Daudi arrived home from school for his break on August 8 to learn that his father was being harassed by his former brother-in-law and had been badly beaten. This man is the brother to Daudi's deceased mother. To make a long story short, he has accused Mr. Ibrahim of being a witch in an attempt to cause him trouble. He was told by his landlord to evict his house as soon as Daudi returns to school on the 27th. I have been able to help him find a new home in another area far from Kitwe where he has many friends. I will also help him with materials to start a business; he is a wonderful carver and makes beautiful boxes. He also makes chairs and other items of wood. His new home is in an area where crafts are displayed along the highway for passing tourists, so he will have a nearby market for his work. We prayed together for God's wisdom and help in making this transition. It was the first time I have ever prayed with a Muslim, and it was a good experience. This gentle man is a man of great faith, and I have the utmost respect for him. Who knows? Perhaps my witness and assistance to him and Daudi will someday inspire him to accept Christ as his savior.

Events at Kafakumba

Family Camp was held from August 2 through 5. Families came from many United Methodist Churches in the area for bible study, prayer, singing and Christian fellowship. The event was capped off with a huge campfire on Tuesday night. We sat and enjoyed the heat of the fire, the multitude of bright stars in the clear night sky, and the singing and dancing accompanied by the marvelous drum beats that echo the heartbeats of the African people.

Sneak Peaks

- More fun with the “l” and “r” confusion. John told me about a sign he saw in a park, “Keep off the glass.” I had trouble explaining to the clerk at the wholesale store what I meant by “crackers.” He kept asking me, “Clackers?” And I recently saw this sign at the hardware store—“Corn shaped tank.” I think it was in reference to the “cone” shaped water tank for sale.
- The visitors from Peoria were eager to learn some words of greeting in the local language, Bemba. The word for “Good morning” is “Mwashibukeni” pronounced phonetically. Rev. Glenn had a tough time remembering it, so Arthur told him, “Grandpa, just remember ‘Wash your bikini.’”

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Lifesong School as we begin our 3rd and final term of this year.
- Pray for the Lifesong management from Gridley as they prepare to travel first to Ethiopia and then to Zambia with the Vision Team.
- Pray for Daudi and his father as they make a transition into a new home and income generation possibilities.
- Continued prayers for the children who are preparing for their school examinations.
- Pray for me as I attempt to get my work done in preparation for a trip back to the U.S. next month.
- Unspoken prayer requests for my family.

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works I will meditate. Ps 145:5

I was reminded of this verse one morning as I sat on my front porch and just soaked up the warmth of the sun and the beauty of God’s creation. I always keep my binoculars nearby to see the large variety of birds in a rainbow of colors—the white egrets that fill the high branches of a bare tree so that it looks as if it were in bloom, the bright blue waxbills chattering in the shrubs, the Heuglin’s Robin with its vivid red breast, the iridescent green Little Bee Eater, the violet-backed starling, the yellow-bellied sunbird—they all reflect the glorious splendor of God’s majesty. On this particular morning, my eye suddenly was caught by a flash of light. A large drop of dew was hanging from the end of a leaf of a nearby guava tree. It reflected the sunlight, giving off brilliant colors like a prism. It made me think of Christmas tree lights as it flashed and sparkled. In John 1, Jesus is called the true light, the light that shines through the darkness. Like this drop of dew, we are called to reflect that light to the world so that everyone living in darkness will know the glorious splendor of God’s majesty.



In His service,

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