

Habari za siku nyingi? (What's the news of many days?)

Mahongo Mswiswi Building Project- The group of Christians with whom we have been worshipping in Mahongo Mswiswi have decided to build a church building. They made the bricks but needed to transport them from the place they had been created to the place where the church building would stand. So they asked me if I would bring the new hospital truck out and help them carry the bricks. They told me it would only take "maybe 2 trips with the truck" and that the location was "not very far." In the 10 months we've been here, we learned quickly to take these types of estimations and multiply them times two to get the reality. Well, we drove many more kilometers than we were expecting, over much rougher terrain, and after 6 trips, we finished; hot, sweaty, and dirty. Along the way, the Christians had hired a group 8 or 9 rowdy young men who were looking for a job. They helped carry the bricks and provided some good comedy relief as well. They were loud and obnoxious and when they found that I was a nurse, they began to hound me to bring them "protection" from HIV. This gave us a good opportunity for us to talk with them about health, purity, and their spiritual lives. It was an enjoyable day...in a strange sort of way.

Primary School Graduation- We were excited to be able to attend the Chimala Mission Primary school graduation this year. Kyle was asked to say a few words as a hospital representative. Graduations here are a big deal. Each class had a song and dance or a skit to perform for the graduating class, the graduating class performed a skit for the audience, certificates and gifts were presented to those graduating, then we all ate a big meal together (rice, beans, chicken, and potatoes...and pepsi). The mamas actually started cooking the food the night before so that the food would be ready when the ceremony was finished. The food was amazing. Attached is the picture of the graduating class.

Biology 101- This year, Kyle and I have become good friends with Medson Mwilongo. He is 22 years old, but he is still in secondary school. Here in Tanzania, you only go to secondary school as long as you can pay for it. He is finishing school slowly as he can acquire the money to pay his school fees. Kyle and I have been so impressed with his humble spirit and his eagerness to learn and have begun sponsoring him to go to school. He is wanting to be a doctor and hopes to return to Chimala Mission Hospital to serve. We feel it is so important to invest in people with great potential and he is one of the people that has impressed us the most here. A few weeks ago, he asked Kyle if he could come over to practice dissecting a frog and Kyle happily agreed. He had one of the neighborhood kids fetch a frog from a nearby pond and brought it to our house along with his dissection kit and biology book the next day. We also invited Levan Stapleton and his friend Dwayne over to watch. I think they all had a good time learning together.

Primary School Olympics- After graduation is finished, the remaining classes still have to continue with school until the end of November. Tam Raynor, another missionary here, and I decided to approach the school administration with an idea to set up a version of the Olympic Games for their physical education time block. The administration agreed, and Tam and I have been going down to the school every week to assist the classes in competing in different events. We are doing a 50 meter dash, three legged race, ball throw, and long jump. Each class decided which country they wanted to represent and learned to say "thank you" and "good morning" in that language. The classes are really having fun with it. We are going to hold the actual Olympic ceremony sometime in November.

Hospital Canteen- This month, the hospital has opened its very own canteen. This was a much needed service for the families of the patients as well as the hospital employees. The hospital has never had a food service to this level before. Previously, a small canteen was being run by one of the local families but was not being run at the level that we were expecting. So, we hired 3 new cooks and 3 cleaners/cashiers and opened it on September 15th. The canteen is selling beans, rice, meat, vegetables, chips (like french fries), chapati (like tortillas), maandazi (tanzanian doughnuts), chai (tea), water, juice, and of course, Coca-Cola. We even installed a television so people could relax and recharge. It has been a hit! Many people have expressed gratitude for this new service and it is also a good way for the hospital to generate a little bit of extra income to offset the cost of rising medication prices.

Philipo's Visit- Back in 2004, Kyle first came to Chimala as a student. While he was here, a young boy had fallen into a fire and burned his face and left hand. It was so bad, the doctors had to operate, amputate his hand and wrist and perform some skin grafts. Well, long-story made shorter, the boy came up to our house last week with his father and thanked us and wanted us to send thanks to Dr. Schmid, the doctor who had performed the surgery. His name is Philipo and he is now 8 years old. He is doing well and his arm looks super. He is able to use his arm and he has very little contractures. Turns out, his father is a yard worker now, working at the Mission. His father is a dedicated Christian as well and he is so thankful for all of the assistance he has received.

Family Plans- Kyle and I only have two short months left here in Tanzania, and we are continuing to complete the goals we wrote for ourselves before arriving here. We have hired a Tanzanian to replace me (Melissa) in the medicine store room. He is highly trained and is settling into his job quite nicely. Kyle is diligently working with the hospital administration team to empower them to run the hospital effectively when we leave. Unfortunately, we recently lost our very capable hospital secretary to whom Kyle had delegated many duties. She decided to go to Dar es Salaam to further her education. That has set us back a bit because now, Kyle and I are the only people at the hospital who can type or use a computer. We were really depending on her and training her to

take over many of the jobs we were managing. We have recently interviewed a few other potential secretaries who we feel would do a good job.

Melissa- Melissa is doing well and her pregnancy is getting much easier. She is feeling the baby kick and squirm so that's been neat. I still have not felt it move and probably will not for a number of weeks. She is currently at approximately 19 weeks. We hope to go back down to the hospital in 3 weeks or so and see if we can see if it will be a boy or girl.

Economy-The economy continues to worsen here. A sign of the increasing inflation is the dramatic increase in the cost of a bottle of Coke. Three weeks ago, a Coke was 300 Tanzanian Shillings. Two weeks ago it jumped to 400. Again, this last weekend, it jumped again to 500 Tsh. Considering that the average farmer here makes no more than 1,000 Tsh a day, that is a considerable price for a Coke!

Measles Outbreak-There has been a small outbreak of measles in one of the distant rural villages. So far we have had 4 or 5 people admitted with measles from this village and 2 children have already died. We have placed these individuals in isolation and hope that they will recover quickly. Please keep these people in your prayers.

Thank you so much for your prayers and your continued financial support of our work here. We could not do this without you!

Pictures

1. The guys from Mahongo Mswiswi who helped haul bricks
2. The Chimala Mission Primary School Graduating Class of 2008
3. Medson, Kyle, Leven and Dwayne dissecting the frog
4. Kyle and Jairos pushing a heavy bag of rice into canteen storage
5. Kyle, Philipo, and Paulo
6. Our most recent family photo

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