

East Africa Update – March 2009 Edition

“...the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.” (Romans 4:17b)

Dear Friends,

I hope that this update finds you well! It's been quite an unusual month here, but good things are happening...

Security

As many of you know, the ICC indicted the leader of this country on seven counts of war crimes relating to the crisis in the West on March 4th. Because we had no idea how people here were going to react to this news, we were asked to pack our bags, leave our home and stay with our team leaders on the outskirts of town for about a week until things quieted down. Thankfully, the worst things that happened were a few anti-American demonstrations and some rock-throwing at the American, EU, and British embassies. Truly, people have been incredibly kind to me as I've moved about the city over the past few weeks.

Unfortunately, the government did expel 13 of the biggest NGOs who were providing food and clean water to the people of the West from the country on March 5th. Miraculously, NONE of the Christi@n agencies who were both meeting practical needs and pre@ching the good news were forced to leave.



Our team leader's front yard. We spent a lot of time playing volleyball here while we were under house arrest!

High School Students

Michele, Jennifer, and I each teach one daughter from the family of the gatekeeper/bus driver at the school. Last week, one of his daughters, a freshman, got engaged, so we decided to pay the family a congratulatory visit. As a gift, Jennifer had brought the daughter a Book and some other small trinkets. After Michele explained in Arabic what the gift was, the father jumped to his feet and exclaimed, “Wow, I have never held one these in my hands before! The Kor@n says that this book is just as important as ours, so I will read it and ask you questions about it the next time you visit!” After that, everyone oohed, ahhed, and clapped. May he read the Book and encounter J*s*s!

University Women

We are continuing to meet new students at every English club, which is a lot of fun. Women are coming from Kenya, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan, which is incredibly exciting because, Kenya aside, these are all very closed countries.

March and April are final exam months at the university, so we took a couple of weeks off with Isabelle and Iris. However, when we picked up again this past Sunday, Isabelle asked if we could meet two times per week to make up for lost time. J At our last meeting, we studied Luke 8, where it talks about the four types of soil and then about putting your light on a stand rather than hiding it under a bush. Ask that their hearts would be GOOD SOIL and that the seeds of the gospel would take root and reproduce many times!



Three girls from English Club

Cultural Experience

Last week, when two girls (Mazzy and Allie) from English Club invited me to go to the pool with them, I readily accepted, eager for some respite from the 114-degree heat. I confess that I was a little nervous about what I would find once we got there, but I was pleasantly surprised to see a pretty clean, chlorinated, 50-meter pool! (It's very difficult to keep anything clean here because of the dust that constantly coats everything.)

In any case, respectable people do not participate in co-ed swimming in this area, so the pool has separate swimming times for men and women. Most of the girls wear wetsuits or bathing suits with short sleeves and spandex shorts underneath or skirts over them that fall to about three inches above the knee.

Mazzy and Allie are still learning how to swim, so I took on a bit of a coaching role, making them swim back and forth across the pool while I watched. Before I knew it, this "swim team" got into the pool and decided to join in on the lesson. One after another, girls were asking me to watch them and to tell them what they were doing wrong! After a while, I coaxed Mazzy and Allie to try swimming in the deep end so that we could have a little more room. I guess I pushed a little too hard too soon, because as they were swimming across the deep water, Allie suddenly became frightened and started gulping water, flailing her arms and screaming, "Umm-i, Umm-i (Mommy, Mommy)"! I had to swim over, and carry her through the water to the edge of the pool as she held onto my neck with a death grip! Fortunately, they want to go back sometime soon. J



A frozen water bottle! I never leave the house without one! (It usually melts in about 15 minutes.)

Pr*y*r Requests

1. Ask that G*d would open my ears to hear Him as I spend time with Him in the mornings.
2. Ask that G*d would break down the walls of unbelief for Isabelle and Iris. They have heard the full plan for s*lv*t**n several times, but are still not convinced that J*s*s is who He says He is.
3. Ask that we would have an opportunity to share the good news with every girl who comes to English Club.
4. Ask that G*d would reveal His Son to “Abe” (our students’ father) and his family.
5. Ask that G*d would raise up a few more women who would like to study the Book.
6. Continue to pr*y for my study of Arabic. My class at the language school no longer exists and I am now looking for a private tutor.

In Him,

Lindsey