



Photo by Phil Crozier
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Running With The Dubberrs



Fun Times!

After a fun time swimming in the muddy waters of a beautiful little river set down in a gorge, we hiked out with our thirteen wet and happy dorm girls. We ate lunch and got into our vehicles and headed back to RVA. On the way back we came across a group of RVA boys and their dorm dad who had been camping near the river we had been swimming in. After we had left the river they watched a 6 foot long python slither off a fallen tree and into the pool of water we had been swimming in. It had most likely been sitting there watching us the whole time. Not a nice thought!



Swimming Hole

The End of an Era

...well not quite. But we did come to the end of two years with this group of dorm girls. Unfortunately we had a rough last term with them as they struggled to the end of their time in junior high. Thankfully the last two weeks were a wonderful time together as

we took them on a camping trip and spent lots of time talking about memories. We are going to miss them as they head into grade nine and high school. We are excitedly anticipating the next group of girls that we will be welcoming into our home at the beginning of September. We have already met several of them and their families. It looks like we will have our smallest group yet at eleven.



Fun Times!

New Things Ahead

September will bring many new things in addition to our new dorm girls. Todd will be heading up the PE department. He is excited to be able to implement some of the ideas that he has. He is also nervous about the increased work load and heading up a department that will have no trained PE teachers in it this next year. We are having a 50% turn-over of staff for this new school year. Some have already arrived and it has been fun to get to know them. It is always exciting to see how God provides the staff that we need even when so many are leaving.

Hard Times

In spite of the many good things that have happened, this has been a really tough year so far. We will never forget 2008. The political unrest in Kenya has been stressful. Our dorm girls had many difficult things happen in their families as well – an airplane crash, a beating in Sudan that almost took the lives of one of our girl's parents, car accidents, traveling into difficult areas of Africa, and even a broken family. Our staff experienced many tough things as well and some even had to return mid-school year back to North America to deal with extended family issues. Most recently we attended the funeral of a wonderful twenty year old young man who had been in Todd's classes and graduated from RVA two years ago. He came out for his younger brother's graduation and died two days later from an infection that reached his heart. It was an incredibly difficult time for all of us. It has also been difficult to see the effects of the world wide increase in food costs here in Kenya. Many people are desperate and we have seen an increase in crime. Peter, the Kenyan man who works on our dorm grounds has been struggling to buy staples in spite of his steady income that he receives from us. He has a wife and four children. We have been helping him with extra money, food, and school fees but we do not want to give too much and make them a target for thieves as well.



Peter and his family

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Bonus Jobs Our main responsibilities here at RVA are dorm parenting and teaching. We love the extra things that do as well though. Todd has been continuing his volleyball ministry and visited an Internally Displaced People's (IDP's) camp about an hour from here. People were so thankful to have a day of diversion from the situation they are in after the political unrest. He had a successful coaching season as well. His team finished second in their league. Kylie has been enjoying mentoring a couple high school girls. They meet weekly for discussion and prayer. This next year she will be heading up a great grade ten girls Sunday school program that has been such a wonderful time of connection and discussion. She has also been working with another lady to redo a cookbook that helps missionaries as they start cooking here in Kenya for the first time. The old one was over thirty years old.



Our Kids

Cassidy is eight and will be entering grade three in September.



Cassidy

She had a wonderful grade two year. Her teacher loved drama and passed that

love on to Cassidy. She faithfully memorized her many lines and loved every play that they presented. She has also been playing the piano and participating in ballet classes taught by a grade twelve girl who Cassidy has come to admire very much. Her closest friend since Kindergarten just returned to the States permanently. It was a hard "good bye" but she is looking forward to making new friends next year.

Titus is six and will be attending a full day of school now as a first grader. He loved his Kindergarten teacher and was so excited to find out that she will be teaching him in the afternoons next year as well. He



Titus

loves sports of all kinds and discovered that he is a natural at kickball. Todd and he just built a little fort for him in our back yard. So far, it has provided hours of fun for him. His friend that he grew up with just returned from the States, but he has been horrified to find out that she is into girl things now. Next year, he will finally have some new little boys joining his class. We are hoping that he connects with a friend. He also received his first set of stitches this year as he fell off a hammock and hit his head on a flower pot.

Ella is fifteen months old and is a wonderfully content little girl (unless she doesn't get her way ☺). She loves phones, remotes, and generally anything else that she shouldn't be touching.



Ella

She loves to be outside and going for walks is her favorite thing to do. She has so many people here that love her. When we go into Nairobi she assumes

that everyone knows her there too. We have to watch her closely as she is not afraid of anyone. She has the Kenyan hand shake down and delights everyone when she shakes their hand as a greeting.

A Dream Realized!

We are excited to report that we have been able to purchase a vehicle! On June 30th we became the proud owners of a 1993 Land Rover Discovery. It is really basic but is in great condition and we have enjoyed our new found freedom. Thank you so much to all of you that have contributed to our car fund. We are so thankful! It has already participated in many grocery trips to town, ministry opportunities, and transportation of all kinds of things (ie. wood for Todd to build things with ☺).



Praise and Prayer Requests

- Praise God for the celebration of 12 years of marriage in July.
- Praise God for the provision of all the staff that we need to run school for another year.
- Praise God for our new vehicle.
- Pray for Todd as he takes on leadership of the PE department.
- Pray for Kenya!
- Pray for the Entwistle family as their oldest son went Home to be with the Lord.
- Pray for good connections with our new group of grade seven dorm girls and their families.
- Pray for a good start to this next school year. We begin September 1st.
- Praise God for a good break from school so far. It has already involved feeding giraffes, fort building, visiting a 100 year old tea farm, camping with wild animals, visitors from the US, a wedding, moving people, painting in the

dorm, time in the wood shop (Cassidy and Titus are already becoming quite the wood workers), lots of "good byes" & "hellos", and a Kenyan music concert and fund raiser that was quite the cultural eye opener.

KENYAN CULTURE

As seen on home dry cleaning fluid label:
"Warning - Highly Inflammable"

—
Advertising for Margarine—"Good for the Heart"

—
A cell phone carrier here in Kenya changed its name to "Zain Communications". In a big advertising campaign they painted thousands of dukas (shops) along the roads, fluorescent pink with fluorescent yellow accents. It is definitely a brighter Kenya right now!

—
A movie is categorized as a public performance here in Kenya. So before we watch a movie in the theater we must all stand and listen to the national anthem. They project a Kenyan flag on the screen.

Communication Info:

Mailing Address:

PO Box 80
Kijabe, Kenya
East Africa 00220

E-Mail Address:

tkdubber@kijabe.net
tkdubber@aimint.org

Phone Number:

011-254-20-3246-397

PROJECT IDEAS:

Our gym floor is desperately in need of replacing. It is hoped that our basketball and volleyball equipment can be replaced as well. If anyone is interested in being a part of helping to replace it; please look at the rva.org website or contact us for more information.