

RUNNING WITH THE DUBBERS

APRIL 2010

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Tour de Safari!!!



From March 18—24 we had the privilege of taking fourteen RVA students on a bike trip deep into Maasai country. We mountain biked 170 km over challenging terrain and experienced very rough camping conditions. The purpose was to learn about current conservation and humanitarian efforts, to experience and learn about the culture, and to see the effects of Christian mission's and NGO's (non-government organizations) programs and their effectiveness. We see a large number of students from our school alone return to Africa to head up and participate in all kinds of humanitarian organizations and missions. During the trip students kept a journal. Their insights were amazing. They observed how things could be

done better, came up with creative ideas for the future, and contemplated how to reach people for Christ while respecting culture. The students that we had were changed and we saw a passion growing in some of them for future ministry in Africa. The students at RVA and kids in general who are growing up in other cultures have such a unique opportunity to experience other cultures first hand. When they have their own careers later on they already know foreign languages, cultures, and practices. It was so rewarding to be a part of this experience for these children. It was also a huge challenge physically and Todd and I were thrilled that we were still able to keep up with the young ones. :)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Building a predator proof boma for a Maasai family
- Quietly passing elephants that were much to close for comfort.

- Visiting a Maasai women's group that promotes opportunities and rights for Maasai women.
- Learning bush survival skills from Pastor Wilfred. It is amazing what it takes to survive out here!
- Visiting a chimpanzee rescue center.
- Visiting and learning about conservation areas for animals.
- Visiting a cottage hospital for stitches for a couple of students who took a tumble off their bikes. It created an opportunity to see a hospital that also serves as a nursing home for elderly British colonial settlers—also an interesting issue facing Kenya. As these settlers pass away huge amounts of land are up for grabs again and ancient tribal land rights come into play.



The pictures are of our intrepid group (upper left) & Wilfred - a Maasai pastor.

Plagued by Illness

This was a rough term (January—March) health wise for RVA. A single staff member, a student, and a family came down with severe cases of typhoid. Another single lady had to return to the US with a resistant case of e-coli. Another staff member returned to the US for neck surgery. Then...the school became

quarantined when H1N1 (swine flu) reached our student body. Over half of our staff and students came down with it and the rest of us worked madly to cover everyone's responsibilities so that we could keep things running. The after effects were difficult too as everyone's immune systems were down and colds and other flu

strains quickly went around the school. Todd had twelve different teachers go through his department alone this term. Thankfully no one in our immediate family had H1N1. Cassidy had one week where only she and two other students were in her class out of twelve! We are so thankful that no one had a life threatening case.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ◆ We have had a few leads but a job for Todd anywhere(?) Maybe in either Lethbridge or Stettler where we have been before.
- ◆ A place to rent (maybe where the job is?).
- ◆ A vehicle to drive, plus all of the little details of setting up a home. We own nothing in Canada, so this could be interesting....
- ◆ When we first came in 2001 we had several 4th grade girls and boys in our dorm—now they are graduating in a few months! Several of the girls lived with us again in grade 7 & 8. These kids have become family to us. It is going to be hard to say “good byes” and see them go all over the world. We are excited that one of our former dorm girls has been accepted at the University of Alberta. It will be great to be able to be there for her in Canada too!

PRAISES:

- ◆ Rain has finally been falling in abundance here in Kenya. What a huge difference it makes to EVERYTHING!

January - April Highlights

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

In January, Todd was thrilled about the arrival of a full-time teacher to help out in his department. He feels much better about heading to Canada knowing the department will be in good hands next school year.

FIELD HOCKEY SEASON

Kylie had another successful coaching season. She was able to build even deeper relationships with some of the other coaches. After the untimely death of a coach at one of the schools she was able to share her faith with the coach from a British school in Nairobi. Her team was selected for the sportsmanship award for the season.

VOLLEYBALL OUTREACH

Todd had another successful volleyball outreach opportunity. We have often driven by a group of youth playing volleyball in a grassy area along the highway. They had set up a make-shift net. Todd was able to make contact with them and took a group of students to play and share devotions together. Todd starts his official volleyball season at the end of April. He has selected his team and is

looking forward to some more opportunities to use sports to reach out.

TO CATCH A SNAKE

Cassidy and Titus came home from school a few weeks ago and were super excited about the "huge" snake that was caught by their principal. It was lying on a boy's backpack when the bell rang. It turned out to be a boom slang (an extremely deadly snake). Kylie was a little shaken up by how close Cassidy and Titus had been to the snake as they witnessed it being caught. We are thankful that no one was hurt. It has always been common belief that we are at too high of an altitude for snakes but is it proof of global warming that we have had a lot around recently? Today we even went on a snake hunt as Titus' teacher had one in her wood pile that she wanted taken care of. Unfortunately we did not find it but we are always game to try.

CRISIS TRAINING

H1N1 was a learning experience for Kylie as she and the other administrators worked to handle the crisis and keep the school func-

tioning during this time. Kylie has learned and grown so much in the position of dean of women these past seven months.

OLYMPIC DREAMS

Thank you to those of you that kept us up to date with Olympic news. We were thrilled to receive coverage that was recorded for us. Todd was sad to be so far away from Vancouver & Whistler, where he grew up, during this time. He was able to show his Canadian History class parts of the opening ceremonies, closing ceremonies, and of course - ice hockey games. Very exciting!

NEW YEAR'S PARADE

Our local Kenyan church decided to put on the first ever parade this community has ever had. We drove a van in the parade with several of our kid's friends



on top throwing candy. It was a lot of fun and sure attracted a huge crowd who stayed for games, a meal, and a sermon after.

Returning to Canada

We have been praying a lot about our future. We want every day to be spent walking with God and according to His plan and purpose for our life. At this time we still feel a strong call to return to RVA. When we come back to Canada it will be with the intention of returning to Kenya for another four years. We know it will be a challenge to leave Canada with 100% support again, but we know that if Kenya is where He wants us then He will provide faithful supporters to partner with us.

"IF PROOF IS
POSSIBLE,
FAITH IS
IMPOSSIBLE."
- UNKNOWN



See you all soon!



our income by finding Todd a job.

We realize how difficult it is to commit to financially supporting a missionary over years and years of ministry so please let us know if you are unable to financially support us past our return to Canada.

We are looking forward to reconnecting with family and friends, finding spiritual refreshment, watching our kids enjoy a snowy winter (a first for Ella), and especially see our kids reconnect with their home culture.