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Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Todd's sister, Joelle, as she raises support & comes to work in Nairobi in April.
- Pray for us as we decide whether or not to remain in the dorm next year.
- Pray that all the details will fall into place for Kylie's visit to Alberta. Especially pray for Todd who will be at home in Kenya with Cassidy, Titus, and Ella for four weeks.
- Pray that we will be wise and insightful in our day to day interactions with these precious kids at RVA.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Running With The Dubbers

Bountiful Blessings

2008 had a rough start for the year, so we were thrilled to have a wonderful third term (Sept., Oct., Nov.) here at RVA. In September we had a new group of twelve grade seven girls join our family. They have been a delightful group that have embraced life in our home. They are helpful, encouraging, fun, and love spending time with our kids. We also have a wonderful small group of grade nine girls and boys that we meet with several times a term and Kylie continues to mentor a grade eleven girl weekly. Todd has become more comfortable in his roll of PE department head. He has two very willing and fun teachers to work with in his department even though they are not trained in Physical Education. Kylie has been heading up the grade ten girls Sunday school program which has proven to be very challenging this school year due to a difficult group of girls in this class. It has been good to start to see changes already. Kylie also had the privilege of helping out with the delivery of a friend's baby and has been able to continue encouraging these new parents. Other blessings this term have been the return of several close friends who had been on furlough; taking several kids on a field trip to the Canadian High Commission; an awesome Multicultural Day (celebration of all of the different cultures represented by our students at RVA); Todd winning the craftsmanship award at our annual Pine-wood Derby wooden car races; and having several good visits with friends and from parents of our dorm girls.

Spiritual Emphasis Week

Every year we have a youth speaker come and speak to the students for a week during special sessions. This year's speaker was former NBA basketball player and former RVA staff member—Bay Forest. His message was so simple, straight forward, and powerful. We saw huge changes in many kids lives and a general renewal in many staff and students. It was a wonderful time!

Retreat

At the beginning of November we were able to go to a retreat (without children) that was so encouraging, relaxing, and full of renewal for us. We were so thrilled to have the opportunity and also thankful that Kylie's parents were able to take care of our three kids and cover our dorm for us while we were gone. Thank you for your prayers for us during that time.

Welcoming More Family

Todd's sister Joelle has recently been accepted with Africa Inland Mission. Pending support raising, she is hoping to be in Nairobi in April to work in AIM's international services office. We are excited to see how God has been working in her life before and after visiting us in Kenya a year ago. Please pray for her as she raises support and moves to Nairobi on her own. I'm thankful that we are only an hour away from Nairobi and can hopefully see her as much as possible.

Christmas Visitors From Afar

At the beginning of December we welcomed Kylie's brother, sister, brother-in-law, and four of their friends into our home. We had a wonderful four weeks with them and enjoyed many safaris. We took them to the coast of Kenya, a game park, the Stenstrom's orphanage, and to many markets. We also visited

in several Kenyan homes, delivered food hampers, and the boys learned how to slaughter a goat. The best times though were spent playing board games, participating in sports together, and just sitting around and visiting. They also spent Christmas Day with us. It was time that we will always remember fondly. It was such a blessing for our kids to be able to connect with family again.



Our Kids



See You Soon!!!

We are happy to announce the engagement of Kylie's brother, Peter, to Ashley King. They will be married April 11th in Edmonton, Alberta. At this time we are planning for Kylie to return to Alberta for four weeks during the month of April. She will try and see and do as much as possible during that time with as much time as possible spent in Edmonton with family. We are excited for this opportunity for Kylie to reconnect with some of you and to enjoy this special time. Right now she is planning to visit family in Edmonton and Calgary, as well as a visit to our home church in Stettler, and hopefully fit in a visit to Lethbridge and Three Hills as well. We seem to have a vehicle lined up at this time for her to use. It is neat to see God working out all of the details.

Cassidy Bronwyn

Cassidy is now in grade three. She has a teacher who is challenging her a lot in her reading and math skills. Cassidy's best friend since she has been here has returned to the US so Cassidy has been missing her very much. She is so friendly though and has already made many new friends. She had the privilege of participating in a Korean fan dance for Multi-cultural Day. She practiced for months with her Korean teacher and the eleven other girls that did it with her. The results were beautiful and flawless. We were so proud of her.

Titus Jaden

Titus is in grade one. He does not enjoy school so much but loves the extra-curricular activities that it allows him to participate in. He especially has enjoyed soccer this term. He does not just play soccer, he performs for the crowd. We have even had people tell us that the only reason they come to elementary games is to watch Titus play. Decked out in shin guards, socks, cleats, soccer shirts, and several sweat bands he is definitely headed for the World Cup—something we are all growing to appreciate in the absence of ice hockey.

Ella Ryanne

Ella is one and is such a delight in all of the new things she does and says every day. She is definitely exercising her will more and already has a time out chair that is well used. Her hugs, cuddles, kisses, smiles, and sense of humor have been an encouragement to all of us this year.



...,January, February, March,...

girls will not be returning. She was having a tough time transitioning into junior high and with our full support her parents have decided to keep her at home for a couple more years. Kylie is going to be coaching Varsity field hockey this term. Todd is hoping to get some more volleyball ministry in. We are excited about the opportunity to take a group of grade twelve students on a mountain bike safari at the end of March. It will be a time of physical exercise, cultural learning, and ministry opportunities. We are also considering the possibility of coming out of the dorm at the end of this school year. The school needs more help in the area of sports administration and coverage of Canadian History. We also feel that our own three children need some more one on one attention from us which is obviously difficult with a dorm full of girls. Please be in prayer for us as we make this huge decision.

Goodbyes...For Now

We attended three funerals in the past five months. One was for John Barnett who graduated from RVA in 1958 and returned to be on staff here for over 40 years. He leaves his wife behind and she continues to work here at RVA. The second was for Ben Entwistle who graduated from RVA in 2006. He died suddenly from an infection while visiting here for his brother's graduation in July. It was devastating for all of us. Please continue to pray for this family as they grieve. Two of his younger siblings are still here at RVA. The third was for Marcus. He was two years old. He had Spina Bifida. The Hogman family from Alberta had been trying to adopt him for two years but were unsuccessful. Two weeks after the Hogmans returned to Canada Marcus died from an infection. This was a tough one for our kids as they loved him very much. We are thankful for the assurance that these "goodbyes" are only for a short time. Our hope is in the Lord.



We love this picture of Titus. It reminds us of the verse that says, "I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward." Mark 9:41 It is neat to see our children wanting to minister to other's needs even at their young age.

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