

RUNNING WITH THE DUBBERS

Our Ministry At Rift Valley Academy

Only a month left in this school year! School here at RVA ends in July due to a year round schedule that allows the kids to have more time with their parents spread through out the year. We have had a wonderful group of seventh grade **dorm girls** this year. They have been great to dorm parent. Our devotion times have been so rich and they treat us and our kids just like family. It is nice to know that they feel so at home with us.

Kylie finished a successful **field hockey season**. Her team won the sportsmanship award for the league. One of her team's goals was to be a light for Jesus through sport and they really accomplished that this season. Todd has begun **volleyball season** and continues enjoying connecting with his team, coaches from other schools, and the kids on other teams. We are more and more convinced of the great inroads that **sports** provides. What an opportunity to display Christ and build relationships that eventually lead to sharing the Gospel. We saw that on a recent bike trip that we took some students on. On their own initiative they shared Christ with the men that were our guides. These guides have continued to communicate with the students

and us. We pray that eventually they will come to know the Lord. That **bike trip** was a big highlight for us as we learned a lot about Maasai culture, current issues in Kenya, and especially about water issues due to drought and the flower industry in Kenya.

Environmental issues are huge in Kenya and we have had the opportunity to help out with several **planting trees projects**. So many trees have been cut down in Kenya that it is becoming a huge problem. Cassidy's grade three class raised money to plant over 200 trees in our community and that is only one of the many classes that have raised money and gone out and planted. Cassidy and Titus are now experts in tree planting.

Another highlight for us has been the arrival of **Todd's sister**, Joelle, to work in Kenya for a year. She is in Nairobi but we try to see her as often as we can.

On a sad note, **our dog**, Maple had been very ill after a bout with Tic Typhus. She unfortunately died in May. It was tough for all of us even though we only had her for a year.

Todd has had a challenging year as

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the head of the **PE department**. One of his teachers had been so ill this year that he and his wife had to return to the States for further medical testing. This has put a strain on getting through curriculum and having teachers to cover all of the classes.

In spite of many set backs, Kylie has been able to complete the **cook book** she and a friend put together to help new missionaries when they come to Kenya. It was rewarding to finally see it go to print.

We will be transitioning out of the dorm next school year. We do not yet know what other jobs we will be taking on or what house we will be living in. We love being dorm parents but are looking forward to what ever else God has for us.

Canada Trip

In April, Kylie returned to Canada for her brother's wedding in Edmonton. She had a wonderful time with family and friends. It was a great time of reconnecting. We fully understand how difficult it is to maintain relationships when we are so far away...and unable to be on Face book. The next time we return to Canada for home assignment we would like to come for a full year so that our kids can get a good taste of their home culture and spend time with people that are so important to us. Todd and the kids had a great time here in Kenya as well. It was definitely a sweet reunion though. Thank you to all of you that were so generous to Kylie in so many ways while she was there. The whole trip was encouraging and such a blessing.

Prayer Requests

- RVA is struggling with staffing for next year. The North American economy has made it very difficult for people to raise financial support. Many are delayed.
- We are moving out of the dorm next year. This will be a big change for us. Pray for us as we take on some new roles and move this July into a new home.
- Pray for health and strength. Many staff and students have been struggling with their health this year.
- Pray for more rain for Kenya. Drought has complicated many of Kenya's already present issues.
- Pray for us as we mentor many young people in their walk with God. Pray for wise words that come only from God.

Are you interested? We would like to furlough for the 2010/2011 school year. We would love to have someone come out and live in our home and possibly take over our responsibilities while we are gone for the year. If you would prefer to be here while we are here—RVA needs nurses, accountants, teachers, secretaries, pastors, dorm parents, trades people, etc. Mostly we need people with a heart for kids and for Africa.

Answering Some Tough Questions

While Kylie was in Canada she had insight into what people are wondering about our ministry here at RVA. Hopefully this section will answer some questions that you may have. Please send us more questions that we can answer in future editions of our prayer letter.

Are you real missionaries ?

With the growing desire to reach Muslims and unreached people groups our job here at RVA has become all the more important. A great deal of our students have parents who work in countries that are closed to missionaries, are unsafe, and have difficult conditions in which to live. God is calling missionaries to these ministries but foremost on their minds are their children. We have countless missionaries express to us that they would not be able to do what they are doing if it was not for RVA and the safe environment it provides for their children. We feel that we have a key role in the Gospel reaching the ends of the earth. If RVA was not here, and the staff that work here, many missionaries would need to leave the mission field. In addition, not all missionary kids that come to RVA have a relationship with Christ. We have seen many come to know Him during their time here at RVA.

Do you do anything outside of RVA to reach the lost and hurting around you?

Yes. Our ministry is certainly not confined to RVA. We live in Africa and are surrounded by the issues that Africans face today. Todd's volleyball ministry has been very successful with a recent invitation into a Kenyan prison - a rare occasion. He took his team for an afternoon to a prison that was built for 1500 inmates and currently holds 2500. The conditions were very eye opening. They first of all played the inmate team, then the guards, and then had an opportunity to share Christ with them. He has also taken his volleyball ministry to slums, internally displaced people camps, and schools. We have also been involved extensively with helping local families, orphanages, churches, and ministries in many different ways.

Aren't boarding schools harmful to kids?

We hear it so often. Parents come to drop their kids off at RVA and they tell us that they thought they would never ever send their kids to boarding school. Then God changed their hearts when He called them here to Africa. Our experience is only with RVA which provides a safe and healthy

educational environment in a family style setting. RVA does a lot to encourage good relationships between the kids and their parents and siblings. There are definitely challenges and some kids do not thrive in this environment but a lot of kids have great success here. We are proud to be a part of this boarding school and see amazing kids attend here that have no ill affects because they've gone to boarding school.

RVA also does a lot to support home schooling families in Africa too, including a home school week where families can bring their children to be tested to make sure that they are staying on track in their studies. Alumni week is in about a month. It is a wonderful week in which former RVA students come for a fun weekend of activities and reconnecting.

We are amazed at how these MKs are changing the world. Recently we have seen a lot of former RVA students heading up mission organizations and relief organizations, as well as participating in government and politics around the world. Growing up in Africa gives them a unique set of skills, especially those kids that are growing up in Muslim areas and know Arabic fluently. It is a changing world and we definitely see God using these kids in His big picture.

How have we seen God working at RVA recently?

We think it is important that you hear how God is answering your prayers and using your investment in us.

- At the end of March we took a group of grade 12 students on a difficult bike trip on the slopes of Mt. Kenya. It was supposed to be educational and physically challenging but when we came back all the kids could talk about was the spiritual growth they experienced. We had two guides and a cook that traveled with us who were not believers. On the last day we thought the kids were planning something sneaky only to discover that they were planning to share Jesus with these men. They did just that and are still writing and communicating with them hoping that their lives will be changed. These kids also had a huge effect on the company's Australian owner. It was amazing to see these kids taking the initiative to share Christ .

- We do not only have missionary kids that attend RVA. We also have national student and kids whose parents work in government or for the United Nations. We had the privilege of seeing a young man who has attended RVA from grade 5 to grade 12 finally give his life to Christ. And the change—WOW! Another grade 11 boy also recently gave his life to Christ even though he had grown up in a Christian home. He had been a constant discipline problem since he came here and the change in his life has been dramatic.

- We are so inspired by the cross cultural abilities that God has given many of these missionary kids that we work with. On a recent Outreach Day we had over 300 students of all ages participate even though it was optional for them. They were all smiles as we headed out to many different places - refugee camps,

“...that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”
Romans 1:12

This was Paul’s desire as he began to write to the Romans. We hope that our letters encourage you! We would love to hear how God is working in your life and using you too. Nothing is trivial when we are serving the King.

widow’s homes, church sites, schools, tree planting sites, clinics, etc. So many of them speak Swahili, are culturally sensitive, and are not afraid to show love to the most unappealing person that we come across. It is our personal privilege to see our own three kids ministering to others in these ways too.