

July 19, 2007

## **8 Days Remaining!**

I've wrapped up my last day in Nairobi and we leave tomorrow for our debrief in Mombasa. I still am in amazement at where the time has gone. It literally felt like the days flew by. I am excited to be coming back to the states soon though. I feel as though God has been teaching me so much about relationships and other lessons that I so desperately want to put into practice.

I wanted to thank all of you who sent cards for my birthday. I cannot express how special it felt to receive over TWENTY birthday cards that all arrived in a rather timely fashion. Being in Kenya for about six weeks has made me realize what an amazing support team I have. I thank you again from the bottom of my heart for your commitment through prayer and finances while I'm here in Africa. I only hope that through my emails you are not disappointed of how my experience has been and hoped it would have been better. I know at times I am rather disappointed about what I have been offering to others. We were told coming into Kenya that we need to take on the posture of a learner, but I didn't truly know what that entailed until I came to Kenya. I expected still to change lives while being here. I feel that I am learning so much more than I am giving to others. Sure I've served in slums, and orphanages, but I haven't preached the word of God and told people of Jesus. That was hard for me to accept, but my three week assignment just didn't have that in the criteria. I continue to cling to the hope that God still used me even though I didn't verbally preach the Gospel, so that is one of my struggles.

Let me briefly tell of what I've been doing this past week. It was so great to be back with the team. For the first few days we couldn't stop talking with one another, and since I arrived a day later everyone wanted to hear from me. I was welcomed with such joy, it felt so good. On my birthday I got to shovel human waste and other various garbage out of the sewage at Mathari Valley Slum. After all it's just not a birthday unless you get to shovel poop! For those of you who know how I feel about my birthday, you can imagine what a humbling experience that was!

We also got some Hindu and Islamic training. I didn't expect to have as hard of a time being introduced into these new religions as I did. I think a major part of it was that I was still trying to adjust to Kenyan culture and then two more very different cultures were presented to me. We visited a Hindu temple as well as a Muslim mosque. My mind is still processing it all and for awhile I was just real uneasy. I was uneasy about the idea of people worshiping idols and fake Gods. I was also uneasy at how devout these people were to praying to something that they never received anything back in return. I was also challenged to see how deep my own faith is and why my religion is the "right way." Needless to say, I was thankful for the simplicity of Christianity. I'm thankful that I can serve a God who accepts me as I am. I can worship, praise, or call out to him wherever I am, with whatever attire I have on, at whatever time I choose too. God has once again blessed me with a peace that he will sort out everything for me, I just need to trust and not be anxious.

Love, Liz

Hebrews 11:1