

June 19, 2007

Greetings from Ngong town!

I am still alive and well after being here for a week. The majority of our team is staying healthy with a few minor illnesses here and there. I had my first African church experience this past Sunday. We traveled to a Pentecostal Church outside of Nairobi where we were greeted by around 130 orphans ranging from the ages of 4 to 20. Many of these orphans were rescued from Kibera Slum, and they are able to go to public school. They were such polite and sweet children. Five girls in particular took interest to me:) At first they were very shy. It took the boldness of one little girl to stretch out her hand to fit in mine, and then four others quickly joined in. They showed me around, and if I didn't have a free hand, they would just touch my arm. One of the girls was fascinated by a hair tie on my wrist. I put it on her wrist and her face just lit up with joy and excitement. During the three hour long service, I had one of the girls in my lap. Two girls on my left just staring at me, and two on the right side of me who were taking turns holding my bag in their lap. They all gave me hugs goodbye, and their faces just looked sad that we were leaving. They have a good home though.

Well, tomorrow we are leaving for our ministry assignments which last for three weeks. I cannot believe all the anxiety we have all been having, wondering who we will be placed with, where we will go, and many other curiosities. I kepts Philippians 4:5-7 close to me, Dad! I found out yesterday, that I am assigned to Mbita point where my sister is! Bwana asafiwe!! The days prior to finding out our assignments I was praying that God would help me not to be dissapointed about where I would be. It was really hard not to want to be in Mbita, but I was preparing myself for dissapointment. Once I heard my placement, I was so excited! I'm not going to tell her either, I'm just going to show up:) I will repeat, MEGAN DOES NOT KNOW THAT I WILL BE COMING TO MBITA, so please don't tell her. I'm going with a girl named Nikki, who I have been rooming with since I've been at Watakatifu Wote Senta. We get along really well and have a lot in common, so I look forward to developing a solid friendship with her. While in Mbita, I imagine we will be assigned a lot of various tasks, but our main job is to assist the teachers in Christ Gift Academy, where my sister teaches. Perhaps I will assist her :) I am so thankful that it was in God's will to have Megan and I together while in Africa. I will be staying with a couple who has one child about one year old.

We leave bright and early tomorrow morning at 5:30. It normally is about an eight hour trip, but there are a group of volunteers that are coming out to Mbita who are flying and have two extra seats, and offered to give them to Nikki and I at no cost. So we get to fly instead of drive in a dangerous matatu! Brian told me to prepare for a bumpy ride though and definitely bring puke bags. So of course I'm not quite looking forward to that! I am overwhelmed by the joy and excitement I have, words just cannot express how thankful and excited I am.

I better be wrapping things up, but I wanted to thank all of you for donating supplies and other items. I am bringing an entire duffel bag full to Mbita with me. I also appreciate your continued prayers while I am here. Some more prayer requests would be for safety as we travel to our destinations for the next three weeks. A few teams are taking two day

trips because their placements are so far away. Also pray that we continue to be obedient to God, and his calling for us as we venture off on our ministry assignments. Thanks again.

Love, Liz