

June 29, 2007

Hello from beautiful Mbita, Kenya.

After being here for a little over a week, I've started adjusting to the school (Christ Gift Academy), the faculty, the students, and my host family. An unfortunate event happened when my partner I was assigned with got sick, and wanted more than anything to go home. She mentally checked out and there was nothing I could do or say to change her mind. She was set on getting back to Virginia, somehow, someday. She ended up leaving Mbita on Monday morning, so I have been left partner less at my host families home.

I didn't expect anything like that to happen, but God is blessing me through it. He has assured me that He has a plan for me and to not be discouraged through this. It's given me a chance to catch up with my sister more:)

I thought I would describe my living arrangements a bit, so you can get a little bit of a picture of where I am. Our house is made out of cement, and it's pretty big. There are four bedrooms, one for the chickens and rooster, a good sized living room, and a small kitchen. They don't have any electricity or running water. When you see the looks of the kitchen, it's unbelievable what great food comes out of that thing. I take bucket baths. And the toilet is a shared outhouse that consists of a whole in the ground. With such different living conditions, I thought I would go insane. I was welcoming of the change, and stayed fairly open-minded. Praise God! It helps out a great deal that my host family is so welcoming, and wants nothing more than to make me feel comfortable. Wilis works at the school, and Roslyn is a stay at home mom, not to mention an excellent cook. They have a one year old named Pendo. Roslyn's little brother, Collins stays there as well, who is in the fifth grade at CGA. They also have Jacklyn, who is the house help. They don't let me help fix dinner or anything. They treat me like a real guest, kind of like royalty. They even do my laundry!

My sister left for South Africa today, and it was hard to see her go. On top of that I came down with something. Please pray for my health. My parents are traveling out here next week, please pray for safe travels and good health for them too. It's going to be such a blessing to have my entire family in Kenya. God works in unpredictable, yet amazing ways. I'm getting homesick in the midst of not feeling well. Help me to be strong in Christ, and to take comfort in him. I'm short on prayer requests because I can't seem to get my mind off of my health. It's hard not to be discouraged. Please pray.

Thanks for your continued support.

Love to you all,

Elizabeth