

From: "Sheryl Howe" <sahowe@wbt.org>

Subject: Sunday

Date: Mon, 16 Jul 2007 15:59:51 -0400

To: sahowe@wbt.org

Hello!

Thank you so much for praying for Bible Study Thursday --- it was fun again. And apparently, I'm up again this Thursday.

So Sunday this week was maybe my favorite day --- Although today was pretty good... this morning our guard, Bernard, went running with us. Lydia and I are out of breath running. Bernard's stopping to chat with people. He buys a paper. He's reading as we run. Then he invites some woman who's walking down the street to run with us. The woman is loaded down carrying stuff. She's running. Bernard's running reading the paper. It was both bizarre and hilarious.

So Sunday, my last day at church (because I leave Friday), I taught Sunday school, the youth class (another one of those surprises --- but I did get informed the night before... I wasn't listening because people were talking in Swahili and suddenly the pastor's wife is asking which one of us would like to do some thing. The pastor tells her not to ask, to just appoint someone. That would be me. And then I had to figure out what it was I was appointed to do).

So I teach Sunday school. It's good. Church starts. I think I'm finished. Church is wonderful. I kind of know most of the songs --- meaning I know enough to sing the words, not what the Swahili words mean. And then the pastor is talking, in Swahili of course... So I'm not actually paying attention until I hear my name. And I'm not sitting around anyone I know who can translate for me because my friend Abigael said she might come to church so I'm sitting in the back in case she comes... I'm a little panicky about what he's asking me to do (like possibly sing). It turns out he wants me to share a testimony. So that was okay. I talked about how much I've learned about faith on this trip. How I used to believe it still counted if I prayed with a backup plan in mind... but this isn't faith at all: God is just one of a number of options. There's just God. That's it. And people I work with don't have options --- which removes that whole relying on self/anything or anyone other than God temptation.

One of my favorite people, Douglas was sitting near the front and he was smiling and nodding the whole time I talked. And when I finished and went to sit down, there was Abigael. I love how God worked it out for her to sit right where I was when she came in. And then pastor had someone pray for me. It was all so, so nice. A fabulous last Sunday...

You could pray

- for Thursday's Bible study
- that I finish well... God can still use me the whole time I'm here; I'm not done until I'm done
- continued safety --- and I really would like to go one day without hitting my head --- I've been saying since I got here.
- really grateful I was able to visit the Wycliffe office in Nairobi and connect with colleagues there. I would love to also be able to visit with a pastor and his wife my home church supports... we've talked, but I'm not sure if we'll be able to arrange a time to meet. Would like that to happen in the next four days...

Little cultural experience this week:

Spent the night at the girls' shelter... a 3 bedroom house with one bathroom and 21 people live there... it was practice for next Friday sleeping cramped on the plane (minus the roaches) sleeping in a twin bed with two other people...

Sheryl