

From: "Sheryl Howe" <sahowe@wbt.org>
Subject: Just a bit more lively...
Date: Wed, 27 Jun 2007 13:27:35 -0400
To: sahowe@wbt.org

Hello! How are you?

We're staying at a guest house at a convent (just some random information for you). Apparently the sisters are not aware that guest houses should have a small library --- because books are heavy; it's not possible to bring enough reading material to last for two months so guest houses ought to provide a couple books at least. Nothing here.

Luckily I'm on a team and we have between us enough books... and my teammates have fabulous taste in books. I'm currently reading "Compassion" by Henri Nouwen. It's amazing. Highly recommend it. (there is some pressure though because two people are waiting for me to finish it --- they have something to read while they wait, but still...). Also nice is between us, we have enough decks of cards to play Nurtz (which I'd never heard of before, but it's Dutch Blitz with regular cards). And between us, not like it was coordinated, but we have just about anything we might need, somebody thought to bring... We're very interdependent (a word from yesterday's Level 3 Social Studies class).

Here's a thing: I am surrounded by people --- all the time --- up until the last move, I was sharing a room with three other people; Kibera is crowded with people; and the place we go on Saturdays, the wild children place, I have children attached to me -- feeling my arms, my hair, my leg, my face, braiding/pulling my hair, my elbow is particularly fascinating and tracing the veins in my arms...

So we moved and we're now all in single rooms. Three short weeks ago I would have preferred this. Now, it's just weird. Today, I'm the sole healthy one so I really am by myself for five minutes and I don't like it. It's very odd to me how fast I adjusted to constant people... I wonder if it's a lasting personality change or just God's grace for me during a time I need it (I'm okay either way, just curious).

Stuff you could pray about:

- health, energy --- I am so much better than I was when I wrote last. Thanks for praying and writing encouraging things --- However, my teammates are now where I was last week... and sick too... Pray that they all recover tomorrow so they can enjoy our time off (we have a trip outside Nairobi planned)
- remembering names --- still a problem and mostly they know my name --- "Sheryl" is hard to say so I'm "Sharon" for some and there's a Kikuyu name, "Sheer-rill" that works for others. I feel bad when I'm greeted by name by a person I recognize but can't remember their name. I feel horrible when I'm greeted by name by a child I could swear I've never seen before.
- thank God: as it turns out, falling into a sewer river is not as bad as feared. Sunday was my day --- slipped off a rock, but it was shallower than it looked. And Tuesday on our way out, someone had added a rock to the place where I slipped so the chances of me doing it again are reduced (at least in that place).
- Swahili acquisition is good. I'm having fun learning and using what I know: I can ask people their names and also I can find the Bible passage in church or Bible study because book names are similar to English and I know numbers.
- relationships