



Hi! So I'm going through Kenya pictures trying to select ones to put in this letter and I realize they're all pictures of people (except the ones from safari which are mostly pictures of lions) --- so I have pictures of people you don't know and lions... I was working for Kenyan people and their idea of the best thing I could do while I was there is build relationships with people. I thought this was an okay idea but really of what practical value? Because I'm only there for two months, how great a relationship can you build in two months? Wouldn't it be better to do something of practical value? --which I did occasionally: one day the school connected to the church had an open day so they needed to send letters to all the parents. There's no copy machine (there's no electricity) so they needed a hundred and some letters hand copied (like being a monk in a previous century). And I worked in the kitchen a few times, washing dishes. But mainly, I did like they said and talked to people. And the thing is, whether it's for two months or two minutes, any kind of relationship does matter. Practical value is relative. And another thing I heard a lot was how sad they were when teams came to serve and didn't need anything from the people there. Made no sense to me. Wouldn't you want some self sufficient team to come and just serve (give and not take essentially)? Apparently no.

I feel wiser than I was two months ago (although that perhaps has more to do with hopefully getting wiser each day regardless of which country I'm in). I'm more relaxed, more conscious of God in the moment. Less likely to become anxious and definitely less likely to ache to know any more than the next step right in front of me. More patient and less aggravated with waiting (for God, for a #24 matatu (public transport van) to show up...). More excited about God's radical and ridiculously extravagant plan for his church. More aware of how interconnected God intends for us to be. More aware of God moving in the world --- different cultures, different generations... I'm less sentimental and less judgmental. Really am being sanctified just like God promises. Amazing how that happens just like God says it would.

①Lion on safari at Masai Mara; ②walking into Kibera: this is one of two paths we could take to get in, the matatu would drop us on the main road (unless it was one of our friends driving the matatu who might drop us closer), then we'd walk on the road to this spot, take the dirt path in, cross the stream, then pay a toll to get across a bridge and then navigate through Kibera to the church;
 ③Teachers: Dorothy, Lillian, Josephine, and Abigail in the Teacher's office at tea break;
 ④Teacher Alex re-enacting how he "stole" Lillian's biscuit; ⑤Sarah, Trufana, and Nancy at Shuname; ⑥Shuname: a shelter for girls (18 girls and two house moms live here, and 2 boys); ⑦the church in Mathiga (a slum outside Nairobi where we worked Saturdays); ⑧Mathiga kids

