



17 May 2017

Dear all,

We can't believe that this Saturday we're heading home! The three weeks since our return from Samburu are flying by. We were delighted to get home to Zambezi, though the weather was quite a shock — so cold and rainy! At least we won't be too surprised to return to the British summer.

In our first week back we had a good time to rest and to reflect on our month of mission. We had an exciting day out to Masai Market; we practised our haggling skills, trying not to come off as the ultimate tourists, and got some lovely gifts and souvenirs. The next day we cooked mandazi together. These are traditional Kenyan doughnut-like snacks, but we added our own twist in two varieties: the Kenyan version of Nutella and ham and cheese. Sunday saw our last First Priority prayer meeting, praying for Syria with iServe staff and friends. We were encouraged to learn from Psalm 125 and pray with our brothers and sisters.



Last week we enjoyed a great holiday in Bissil, Kajiado. We stayed in a luxury bush camp; it was absolutely beautiful, the infinity pool being our highlight! We had a relaxing few days sunbathing, swimming, playing games and reading by the pool and, with Sophie and Phoebe in charge of the kitchen, the food was incredible. On the last night we had a wonderful three-course meal! The camp was beside a watering hole, so we got to

see a lot of monkeys, warthogs, deer, gazelles, elands, tortoise and buffalo. There were also two horses onsite, Simeon and Ndaka, and we went riding around the countryside looking at the beautiful scenery. The staff were really welcoming and it was a great opportunity to have some time off and continue to bond as a team.

Since returning from Samburu, we have carried on with our bible studies in John. We have only one study remaining, and we've all been amazed afresh by Jesus' love for us as we've read about his

death on the cross. We saw in John's gospel that Jesus' death was always part of God's sovereign plan to save us from death, the penalty for our sins, and this gives us hope, joy and certainty. Life is about to change as we leave Kenya, but the truth of Jesus' sacrificial love will never change.

We have also continued with our seminars, learning about relationships, making choices, university and image/self-worth. We've been encouraged by the truth that our identity is solely in Christ and we want to take this with us as we return and start university.

On Sunday we had our last service at GracePoint Church, Kikuyu. It was a sad day as we said goodbye to our family there; we all stood at the front and shared highlights from our time in Kenya, and not all eyes were dry! We saw GracePoint's first ever service in March, and it's so encouraging to see how it's grown in such a short time! Though it was hard to leave, we are so blessed to have been part of this church family, however briefly. GracePoint will be in our prayers as we return home.

In our final week we have joined with the TransformD programme. We are hearing from Harrison Mungai Macharia (iServe's leader) about fundamental Christian beliefs; yesterday we learnt about the Doctrine of Scripture, that is, the bible's history, unique character, infallibility and all-sufficiency for life. This morning we looked at God's creation of the world and humanity, and how we rebelled against Him; a frightening truth that leads us to the amazing news that



Jesus can bring us back to God. We have also been out into Zambezi to do street evangelism. In a culture where the vast majority are professing Christians and churchgoers, the challenges of proclaiming Jesus are different, but we praise God for the amazing conversations we had with locals as we shared our faith in Christ. It was hard, but evangelising here gives us more and more confidence to tell the world about Jesus when we come home.

With love (we can't wait to see you all!),

Emily, Sally and the rest of the Kenya team

PRAISE POINTS

- The fun we've had as a team on our days out and on our wonderful holiday.
- Our continued learning from God's amazing word, in our own bible studies and with TransformD.
- Our last service at GracePoint, which has been such a blessing to us.
- The love and support the iServe staff members have shown us throughout our time here.
- Our trip as a whole: for all we've learnt and experienced, for our safety, for our leaders' care for us, for our love for each other as a team.

PRAYER POINTS

- That we could make the most of our last week here. We all have conflicting feelings of excitement about coming home and sorrow about leaving Kenya and the friends we've made.
- TransformD, who have two weeks left of their programme; iServe Africa, for their continued gospel work; GracePoint, as they carry on growing and proclaiming the Lord.
- Safety on the journey home.
- That we will know God's presence with us as we return to life at home and that we won't struggle too much with reverse culture shock.
- That we will take the lessons of Kenya home, returning with a renewed passion for Jesus and desire to share him with everyone.