



May 2017

Dear all,

We survived Samburu! We're now back in Zambezi, having had a very busy yet rewarding month in Samburu County. Our trip began with a bumpy 17 hour journey from Zambezi to Tuum, the village where we were based for the month and where Stephen and Angelina Cowan, missionaries from Northern Ireland, have been living for the last 27 years. We spent the first few days in Tuum enjoying our first Samburu church service and settling into our new home for the next few weeks.



On Tuesday, we packed up the Land Rovers and set off to our respective villages: Kaisipo, Kileswa, Namarok and Seren. We were in groups of five or six with a mixture of Crosslinks team members and TransformD team members. It was an amazing experience. We spent the time experiencing rural village life: life in which food and water are very scarce and life is simple and different to what we have known. We spent time with the villagers, and were each able to talk to people about the good news of Jesus: that no matter who we are or where we

come from, Jesus died for all of us - so we can be forgiven for rejecting him and be brought into



God's perfect family forever. We all had an amazing time, but there were difficult moments, and it was a wonderful opportunity to be forced to rely wholly on God, having been completely removed from any sort of familiarity or normal comforts.

After a weekend of relaxing in Tuum we were plunged in at the deep end by running a camp for 374 children! It was a fantastic but exhausting week. The theme was 'Who is Jesus?' and we saw who Jesus is: a human, a teacher, the Son of God, that he forgives sins, he is the servant King, and he is worth sharing. Lots of us gave talks - it was a new experience for most of us, especially with the added complication of having our talks translated into Swahili! Each talk was followed by a small group session, where we reinforced the message of what we had just heard through crafts, games and singing. It was really encouraging to see lots of the children grasp who Jesus is - although the language barrier made it difficult for us to build deep relationships with the children.

We were exhausted! But it wasn't over yet... the day the children left, 170 youth arrived, ready for another week of craziness. The focus of this camp was 'Christ's Servants'. The teaching was primarily done by Josh (one of the three boys who have come out with Crosslinks from the UK but are part of the TransformD team) who took us through the book of 1 Thessalonians - looking at how we can respond to the gospel by serving Christ in our everyday lives. It was incredibly challenging to look at difficult cultural issues such as FGM, child marriage and drug abuse but we were blessed to be leading with TransformD, many of whom were in a much better position to sensitively approach these issues in light of the gospel.



In both camps, as well as teaching time, we had lots of fun leading morning exercises and devotions (starting at 6am!) and games and joining in with crazy activities in the afternoons! We had the treat at the end of the youth camp of the arrival of some of the iServe staff. It was really lovely to see them all again and they brought a new burst of energy to the group.



Three weeks down, one to go! We'd worked hard and were all exhausted, and with the end of the camps some of us had started to feel unwell. But there was still work to do! After a couple of days of recovery, much to our surprise, the group was split again - and those who had previously gone to Kaisipo and Kileswa were off to Waso Rongai - a village an hour from Tuum where Okiki, an iServe apprentice, has been based for the last year working on a farm he has set up. Those of us there spent our time helping - so each

morning and evening we hoed and planted sukumawiki (kale!) and got very hot and muddy in the process. We spent the time in the middle of the days cooking, relaxing and playing lots of bananagrams. On our final day, we climbed a mountain which was incredibly fun but slightly scary. It ended at a beautiful lodge with an amazing view where we had a coffee before coming down again. We had a wonderful time and it was great to be able to help Okiki and see the range of mission work which is taking place in Samburu.

Those of us who remained in Tuum spent our week helping out on the compound: we did jobs such as hoeing on the farm with Jessica (another iServe apprentice based in Tuum), painting an office and white washing one of the dorms used for the tri-annual kids' and youth camps. One of the mornings we spent painting a mural in the dorm showing a picture of the empty tomb with the verse "He is not here; He is Risen!" (Luke 24:6) translated into Samburu. The afternoons were spent relaxing as a team, playing games and cooking dinner.

We were joyfully reunited on Thursday evening and spent our final few days making the most of Tuum: climbing the nearby mountain, packing up and preparing to leave. We enjoyed our last church service which was like no other we've ever experienced! Halfway through, the heavens opened and, because the roof was made from corrugated iron, we had to pause the sermon a few times and sing instead until the rain died down enough for us to hear the preacher again! We praised God for the rain, which is so needed for the people and animals in this long lasting drought.



And now we are home! We survived the 18 hour journey back (made longer due the rain, meaning we had to dig and push the bus out of the mud a few times!), and are enjoying settling back into Zambezi life. We would love you to be praying for us.

PRAYER POINTS

- That we would remember and put into practice all that we've learned in Samburu
- That we'd settle happily back into Zambezi life

PRAISE POINTS

- Safe journeys to and from Samburu
- For a full recovery of everyone who got ill during our time away
- For all we've learnt whilst being in a different culture

Lots of love from Lucy, Kezzie and the rest of the Kenya team.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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