

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings! How are you all? May the peace of God is with each one of you. Thank you for all your prayers and encouragements! I am sorry for the delayed update. These recently weeks are just getting busier and busier. I think somehow I just feel a little tired both in my heart and my body, but don't worry I will be fine. Please just let me whine a little bit, and then I will feel better.

In my last email, I mentioned about doing the VBS with my partner - Elaine in Merciful Redeemer. We had wonderful time with the children in the first day of VBS, and then Elaine could not be able to work in VBS with me in the rest of the week because of her severe back pain. In the beginning, I worried so much about traveling alone to the orphanage when I knew Elaine could not go with me. (If you know me well, you will know that my direction is very bad and I need some time to learn a new place.) However, our God is always in control. The SIMPact Kenya Coordinator – Dorothy is very considerate to all the shortermers. Therefore she found me a helper in a very short time to go with me and also to help me to translate English to Swili for the younger children. Give thanks to God! VBS went very well and I also learned how to be flexible when the time came. :D Through the VBS, God helped me with two things. First, I built good relationships with some children. Second, I finally learned the directions and even the short cuts to the school.

After the VBS, I had a good opportunity to visit another shortermer's ministry called Stars for Jesus. It is a ministry for street boys, and I went there for two days. It was my first time to go to the rural area in Nairobi, and the country side was just plain beautiful. I saw many coffee trees and big houses. The pastor and staffs there are very devoted to the boys and teenagers that they found on the streets. It is always touching when I find Kenyans themselves try their best to help their needy fellows. However, the ironic thing is that usually only poor Kenyans will do that. The rich Kenyans are always busy with their own business. Before I came back to SIM Compound, they brought me to visit another orphanage which is much bigger than Merciful Redeemer. It has 102 children, and most of them are girls. In there, I saw a tiny baby. He or she looked like only two months, but he/she was already over one or one and half years. I just could not imagine how poor nourishment these orphans or the children who are poor can get!

I have to tell you the lesson that I have been learning since I started this mission trip. It is how to say goodbye. Since I live in SIM Compound, I have said goodbye to at least 6-7 shortermers. Farewell is never easy for me, but I have to do that very often here. There are many godly and special friends in the compound. When I get to know them more, I feel harder to say farewell to them. Although I know we are family in Christ and we will definitely meet each other in the Heaven, the pain won't ease when the moment comes. I clearly remember the morning when I said farewell to my dear German roommate, Barbara. There were all tears. I thank God for letting me meet her. We only knew each other for two and half weeks, but God just blessed us with a great and spiritual friendship. God knows I miss her very much!

Time just flies. I have been in Nairobi one month. The first week of fall semester in Merciful Redeemer was over, and my first week of teaching was full of God's grace. For Elaine's back is not fully recovered, I had to work on my own very often. Although I did feel tired and alone sometimes, God's caring and love were always there on time. He

often showed His consideration for me when I took or waited for Matatus (like shuttle bus, but it can be very uncomfortable when it is crowded or in the traffic jam). He would bless me either a fast one or a comfortable one. When He did that, I just felt how loving and considerate He is.

Again, I want to thank you for all your prayers. Your prayers are my support, encouragement, and weapons. Therefore, please keep praying for me. The following is something I need you to pray with while I am serving here.

1. My father's health. He is suffering with a sickness. May God can bless him with a peaceful heart and heal his body.
2. Elaine's back pain can be healed completely.
3. I will stay close to God even in the busy schedule.
4. May God help me to guard my mind and heart.
5. I have His wisdom and sensitivity to teach and understand my students' needs.
6. My students can understand God's love for them, and they can trust and live for Him.
7. May the communication between students and I is getting better and better. (Sometimes limited English or Kiswahili is really killing me.)
8. The staffs of the school are seeking God's will for buying its own land to build a better home and school for the children. May God's will be done!
9. My safety and health.

I just hope you can meet these kids by yourself. They are wonderful and the best! If you are here, you will love them as I do. I hope this letter finds you are doing well. If you want me to pray for you, please don't be hesitated to email me your prayer requests. May God's love, joy, and peace be with each one of you.