

THE FINAL LEG

Serving with SIM in Kenya from May 11th to August 21st

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FEEL FREE TO
CONTACT ME!

Nurse/Patient/Doctor/Tourist - all for the price of one!

Praise God as he continues to do his work here in Kenya. Its hard to believe that my time is coming to a close here in Kenya, but here are a few recent stories.

NURSE:

Well since you last heard from me, I have been given the opportunity to continue working with Coptic Hospital for the last month and a half that I will be here. There were plans that I might change ministries half way through my time here in Kenya, but it has not panned out as such since I limited myself to Nairobi, when I decided to work with the youth at New City Fellowship. However, since staying on at Coptic, I have been given the chance to work in their HDU (high dependency unit) which is very similar to Canada's ICU (intensive care unit). this was a great privilege as many nurses will never get a chance to work in a place like this even after becoming fully qualified because of the specific needs of the patient. In this unit I learned a lot about working under pressure and about constant work. God really showed me that I enjoy work most when it is constant and when there is some pressure, or a high demand. This has only further developed my own desires to work



Staff sitting between surgeries. (Elizabeth (left), Anne (next to me), Me, and Esther (my right) are all people I have worked with and have learned from.



Wilson (a lab technician who taught me a lot of Swahili) and I having a good chat as usual.

Thank you so much for the prayers and support as I continue to serve our wonderful God here in Kenya.

in either Emergency nursing or ICU nursing after graduating from McMaster. We will continue to see what God does, but I really enjoyed my time in this unit. I had the opportunity to work with fewer patients, which meant that I got to know them better than I did any other patients I have worked with. It was quite exciting to see God at work in the lives of some of these HIV/AIDS patients, or in the case of one, a Hepatitis C patient. I not only learned a lot about these diseases and how to treat them, but God gave me opportunities to become friends and witness to these patients as well. I had opportunities with one lady in particular, who is a Rastafarian. She and I had many good talks that challenged both our thinking and I praise God that he continues to work in her life daily.

PATIENT:

For some of you, this aspect of me (being a patient) is not a new thing at all, since I seem to manage to have everything happen to me, but I must admit that this is a new one. This past week, I have actually not done too much other than sleep, catch up on emails, devotions, and journaling, and write this prayer letter (another blessing in disguise) since I have been sick since last Wednesday. I did not feel well so I decided to stay home, on Thursday I was diagnosed with Malaria, and sent home for 3 days of bed rest and treatment. However, after taking this treatment and ridding myself of Malaria, I seemed to still be suffering from similar symptoms. I went in to the hospital for follow-up where they have done countless tests now, which have all come back negative. I continue to wait out this illness, and pray that God would heal my body as I would like to serve him again at work. However, he is teaching me a lot about patience, a lot about his timing, and a lot about his sovereignty in all things. One of the biggest things I have learned through this is that he chooses to use medicine, doctors and nurses to heal people, but he can also choose not to and he can heal them on his own. Today, I am feeling much better and only have pain in my stomach, so I am hoping this means that I can return to work soon.

DOCTOR:

Now you are probably thinking, when in Andy's few years of life did he ever go to med school to become a doctor? Well, you are right, I haven't had the time, but I do have a doctor story for you. While working in the HDU on July 12 (the day I was originally scheduled to fly out) I was told that next door in maternity there was a mother in labour. Now the nurses told me this because they knew that I wanted to see a natural birth, since I had only seen and assisted with C-sections up until now. So I said, "Great, but hopefully she delivers this morning, since I only work half day on Thursdays." At around 11 am I went in to check on the mother and see how things were going, but to my disappointment, I found her not very dilated at all. However, at about 11:20 I had a funny feeling in my stomach that I should go and check the mother again, so I did and I found the mother curled up on her side (not a good position to give birth if you ask me). I went further in to check again, since I was already there, to find the baby was already cresting!! I yelled, "Baby's here!!" (thinking the nurses better come quickly to help this mother deliver). As they came in the room to check, they immediately left again to grab the birthing pack and gloves and all sorts of things that are usually needed for a birth. This was fine, except they left me with the mother all alone and God decided that this baby was coming quickly into this world.

So sure enough, although I had no idea what I was getting myself into, I gently guided the baby out and by the time the nurses returned with the right equipment, the baby was already on the table and crying. I quickly left the

Can you believe it? Yeah, neither can I.

room to get some fresh air as I was in a little bit of shock as to what just happened. I had delivered a baby all by myself!! The doctor later came to find his job had already been done and came over to congratulate me on a job well done. I can only give God the praise for that as he guided my hands, and put the instinct in my heart to go and check this mother in the first place. The weight of the mother's legs (which were closed when I checked) could have crushed this baby's head and caused serious harm. However, the mother and baby are fine and we can only thank God for his gift of life and perfect timing.

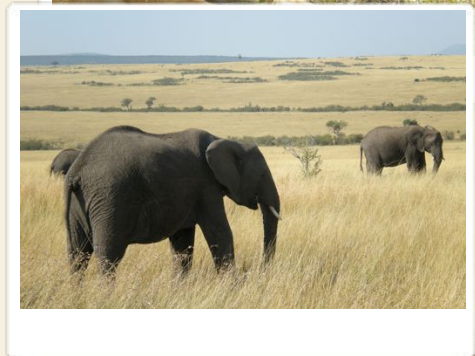
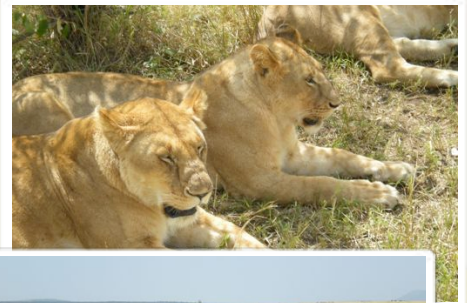
TOURIST:

I must admit that although this next part is exciting, I don't think I will manage to beat that last story. During my time here, God has also blessed me with an opportunity to travel a little bit. 2 weekends ago now, I travelled up-country to a place called Masai Mara. It is a beautiful place in the middle of the Rift Valley and it is a perfect spot to go on a safari - exactly what we did. Along with a few other missionary friends and their visiting relatives, I joined a group of 6 and rented out a safari van for a 2 night safari experience that I will never forget. God allowed me to live out one of my lifelong dreams. He showed me his wonderful creation and allowed me to experience the African Savannah in a way that I have never thought could come true. We camped in tents, just outside the extremely large game park known as Masai Mara. Let me tell you, I have never spent 9 hours in a vehicle

before and not been bored out of my mind. This was amazing, there was lots of scenery to take in, along with the 32 different kinds of animals that we got to see in the span of one weekend. We got to see everything from a lion's pride feasting on some fresh zebra meat, to carcasses laying in the grass, to a cheetah taking a nap by a tree, to elephants, to a very large migration of zebras and wildebeest.

This trip was not only a great opportunity to get to know the other missionaries that I went with a little bit better, but it was a wonderful time to be refreshed. Working in a busy city tends to have its ways of dragging you down, so it was a much appreciated weekend vacation.

I wanted to take this time also to thank you all for your loving emails and much appreciated prayers. I have really enjoyed my time here in Africa and I continue to seek God as he leads my future. I will be flying home in less than a month now and I look forward to seeing you all then and sharing more stories with you along with pictures. May God Bless you and continue to use you where you are during the rest of this summer.



- Please Pray for:
1. My health as I head into this last month of ministry
 2. The youth camp and the speakers that still need to be lined up for Aug. 15-18th.
 3. God's wisdom to know how to handle ethical issues properly as they come daily.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in the near future!