

PUTMAN NEWS

September 2024

We have passed the one year post! We landed in Nairobi 31 July 2023 and arrived at RVA 1st August. One year on and we have completed our Africa Based Orientation training (ABO). This was three weeks at a conference centre in Karen, Nairobi with all the other AIM missionaries who are heading out to various ministries across seven countries, including some who have come to RVA with us. We participated in daily sessions about African culture, world view, safety and security, language, health (physical and emotional), church history, AIM history and structure whilst the children attended their own program which included painting, games, visits, snacks, language, journaling and studying books on culture, transition and emotional health. We visited a local church, a mosque, markets, malls, cafes and the AIM Air hanger as part of our orientation. We also had time worshipping, praying and doing devotions in small groups and of course eating meals together with others. We made some great friends and memories, and now we are looking forward to first term of the next academic year.



When we returned to Kijabe we attended a week of dorm parent training back here at RVA and Zoe along with Sadie and Amber, helped at a local holiday club where over 80 children from Kijabe attended 'Mystery Island' and learned about the treasure of knowing God and being known by Him.

And finally God provided a window and funds for us to squeeze in a little holiday to the coast at Mombasa, taking the 6 hour train at a bargain price of £9 each way pp! On the way we saw elephants and giraffe out of the window. It was a very relaxing and refreshing time and we thank God.



Zoe is continuing to teach Kindergarten this year and has six students enrolled; one girl and five boys! There have been some changes to John's timetable and he'll now be teaching 7th grade social studies (History/Geography/Religion) as his main role, and covering some lessons of teachers who are currently away, and coaching football every day.

The biggest change for this year though, is our move into becoming dorm parents. In June we moved house into the family accommodation attached to the dormitory for 7th grade girls. For weeks it was empty and echoey but now it's filled with singing and laughter!

Sadie and Amber are embracing everything and both are doing very well. Sadie was awarded an A* for her English iGCSE which was great. She will sit her Maths in October (just the way it works out here!). They both enjoy sports and music and have lots of friends. All glory to God. They, too are both happy about having seven extra little sisters!

We have seven 12-year old girls now in our care until the end of November when they will return either to their passport countries, or the countries their families live and work in. We have girls whose families work in Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya. They will be busy with school, sports, homework and activities but each night we will have dorm clean ups and family devotionals before lights out.



It is most humbling to be serving families who are working on the front line sharing the gospel with those who have never heard or who do not have an established church. Just as you are partnering with us by supporting us financially and prayerfully, we are now partnered with countless other ministries across Africa and have a particular connection now with our 7 families who have entrusted their daughters to us. Here is a quote from one girl's family about the work they are doing.

“Our family has been working in Burundi since 2015; the poorest country in the world, building a ministry focused on water provision and community development. After completing over 1000 wells, their current initiative, Green Tap (www.greentapburundi.org), aims to harness deep groundwater systems and unite NGOs for coordinated WASH (Water, Sanitation And Hygiene) efforts, all while sharing the gospel and fostering sustainable transformation in rural villages. The longer-term vision and hope is to see deep and lasting forgiveness and reconciliation between the different ethnic groups who have been struggling since colonization. We envision peace in Burundi - through rural pastors and with the efforts of the Body of Christ all over Burundi working together. Although it's a very hard country to work in, it's a huge privilege to be called to such a beautiful people.”

Please praise with us:



That we have been amply resourced both practically and spiritually with plenty of love, support and prayer to do this job.

That God has faithfully provided enough staff for RVA to thrive this year.

That we got a holiday.

Please pray with us:



That the boarding girls in our care would feel 'at home' - a complicated concept for TCKs (third culture kids) who are living in a culture that is neither their passport country's nor their country of ministry).

For our nuclear family that we would find the right balance of Godly self sacrifice and Godly self care.

For the families of our dorm students, as they continue to serve without their children beside them.

For us to find time to plan our visit to the UK at Christmas.