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Subj: Savuto: It's Here! They Arrived! AIDS Orphan's Fun Day (99)

Written Sunday

1 May 2011

Labor Day

Mailed Monday

Dearest Friends and Family,

"A thick and shapeless tree-trunk would never believe that it could become a statue, admired as a miracle of sculpture, and would never submit itself to the chisel of the sculptor, who sees by her genius what she can make of it." St. Ignatius

Thanks to each of you who prayed for rain for Maua and our area. Your prayers have been answered. The rainy season seems to have come a little over one month late, but we are all "happy dancing". Starting the Thursday before Easter it began raining in Maua and for the next 7 days we received 22+ inches of rain, give or take a few. One night we received 7 ½ inches of rain. The 8th night it did not rain but the last two nights we have had 2/10th and 4/10th of an inch of rain. Our world has turned green, vivid, bright and luscious green and clear, fresh and clean. During the day we have generally had sunny days with huge white clouds and gorgeous blue skies. We are all praying that this rain will continue through May. Some of the farmers have been able to plant again and we are so prayerful that there will be some food available. Already the price of food, from milk, corn (maize), flour, sugar, beans has raised an average of 22% our newspaper told us last week. Our entire area is having some rain so we cannot thank God enough for His goodness and loving kindness.



Mboone River on Friday 29 April



Our green world

The Medical Officer Interns have also arrived. There are four of them, two men and two women. This is a dream come true so we are all very excited about their being here and what it means to the hospital. This makes us a #1 teaching hospital and the interns will give some of our other clinicians a bit of relief from all the night on-calls they do. Thank you to all of you who have helped build and help pay for the staff flats. Each of the interns has his/her own apartment and they are thrilled with the accommodations they have here. The hospital could have never managed without the mission work teams and those who helped build and finance the flats.



Four M.O. Interns



The 4 story flats with 4 apartments completed for interns



One of the completed apartments

Yesterday, Saturday 30 April, was our AIDS Orphan's Fun Day. Yesterday morning it was quite cloudy so many of the children and youth came late. Thus activities didn't start until after 11am but that did not detract in any way with the fun and activities that took place.

As always the day began in the Chapel with prayer, singing (very lively singing), Bible reading and a sermon/ motivational talk. By around 12noon the Chapel was completed full. Bill and I are always given a chance to talk and I can't express our joy at seeing the children and youth. So many have grown up and they all looked healthy, strong, and smart. I can't think of any group that gives me more hope.



Chapel crowded with the AIDS Orphan's



Jerri serving bread



Bill in their midst

At tea time I was given the privilege of serving three pieces of bread with the tea. A woman behind me opened the plastic wrap that covered the loaves and bread and handed the loaf to me and I took three pieces out and gave them to the children and youth. As always they were very thankful for the bread and tea.

After tea they split into groups. The older youth that wanted to formed share groups. The younger children played games; jump rope, soccer, basketball, and Frisbee.



Jumping rope



Playing basketball



Share group

Around 3pm they enjoyed lunch and then went home after a day of fun. It is such a joy to watch them laughing and playing, singing and sharing. One would never guess they were orphans who have dealt with so much loss and tragedy in their lives.

Thank you so all of you who have supported the AIDS Orphan's Program. We don't give donors names or send pictures but for \$10 a month you change the lives of an AIDS Orphan by providing food and education but most of all hope in a future and faith in a loving God. To help feed and educate these wonderful children, you may send your support through The Advance – Advance #140161 Maua Hospital AIDS Orphans Project – of the United Methodist Church. We currently feed and help educate 1,750 AIDS Orphans and other desperately needy children.

Please know that we continue to pray for NM, TX and OK to receive rain and for AL and the southeast with the tragedy of the tornados. May God have mercy on all of us!

In His grip,

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"Evil is not something superhuman, its something less than human." Agatha Christie