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Cody's Tanzania Report

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From: To: scott.mccracken@iteams.org scott.mccracken@iteams.org

Dear praying friends,

Thank you all so much for your prayers and financial help. Tanzania was an unforgettable experience!

One of my highlights of the trip was when we visited the orphanage. The orphanage has about 200 kids, most (if not all) of whom are AIDS orphans. When we got there, all the kids were singing. It was great. Any random kid would start a song, and then the rest would follow. They sat us in the front and fed us bread, peanuts, bananas, avocados, and fried bananas. Halfway through my meal I realized all the kids got was bread. When they brought out a pot with the leftover bread, the kids went into a frenzy. Whoever was fast enough or shoved hard enough got extra bread. The smaller ones ate the crumbs from the floor after the frenzy died down.

When they finished their "meal", the four of us (Neil, Luke, Phillip, and I) went around the room and passed out candy, which they loved. Afterward, we sang a song for them in Greek. Then Neil and Henry spoke to them, and 56 children came forward to receive Christ. Before we left, we presented them with some gifts. All of us, as well as some Pakistani refugees from Neil's church, pitched in to buy them five big bags of rice and some soap for washing clothes.

We also took lots of pictures with the kids. They love the camera. My favorite kid (if I'm allowed to have one) was Daniel. He's about 8 or 9, and always smiling. He was one of the children who came forward to receive Christ. He also kept switching places when we were handing out candy, in hopes of getting more.

Probably, the low point of the trip was getting malaria. That wasn't too fun. I was sick for about 5 days and ended up missing the trip to the Masai village. But, I can tell you about something important that happened to the others when they went to the Masai. The Masai have a very small church building. Too small to hold everyone. So they had their service outside, in the rain. And while Neil and the others were standing out in the rain, Neil got a vision. A vision to go back in a year with more people and more money, and build a church building for the Masai. Neil started talking to Emmanuel (our translator) and they went over many of the details of coming back. The costs for transportation, lodgings, building materials, etc.

So that's what we're doing right now. We're trying to raise 10,000 euros for the building, plus money for individual expenses (plane tickets, food). So please keep praying for us! As much of a culture shock as Tanzania originally was, I can't wait to go back!

Thanks again, Cody

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