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From: nick collins <nccajun86@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 10:44:54 AM

Subject: kenya

Dear friends and family,

Sorry about the delay for the first of who knows how many updates, but I am in a convent that has poor electricity and even worse internet. The times when the room to the computer is unlocked and the computer is working and the power is on are few and far between. First things first, thank you so much for all your prayers and support. Without them this trip would not be possible. Many of you heard that my passport was lost four days prior to departure, so I arrived about six days later than most of my team (Brent arrived two weeks late due to the same problem). Life here is slow and to us Americans this is a problem. It has taken our team some time to fully understand how things work in Kenya. I have learned patience and that the way that I want to serve is not always how people want to be served. My team of four boys and three girls and one team leader are mainly working in Kibera, a slum in the southern part of Nairobi. This slum has just taken first in the largest and most dense slum in the world, and the local pastor for the church that is here told us that it is also the rape capital of the world. There is not a girl in his church over the age of nine that has not been sexually assaulted or harassed. They have recently put me in charge of the English department at the school that is feet away from the church in the heart of the slum. Pastor Imbumi started the school and it is very closely associated with the church. Every Monday, our team goes to a small agriculture village outside Nairobi. We teach the children songs and bible stories and every other Saturday we host a bible club where around 300 to 400 children and youth come and participate in crafts and lessons and songs and games. This trip has been an eye opener to many things. Some I feel like I have begun to sort out and others I don't know if I will ever sort out. I enjoy seeing what a ministry looks like from the other side of the ocean and am extremely fascinated and curious to know more. I am thankful for all your prayers for safety and ask that you continue to do so, it apparently is working because I have not gotten sick yet, and I am even drinking some of the water (only at places that the local drinks, he won't drink the water in Kibera). I also ask prayer for me as I sort through some big issues. I am so thankful and blessed to be apart of this trip and say "bwona asa fiwe" (praise the lord!) because God is powerful and I can see him move in places where spiritual warfare is so evident. Please pray for Kibera Reformed Presbyterian Church, as they are on the front lines such evil. To God be the glory and thanks again for everything I hope to write back soon with new updates.

Nick-