

Sally's July Newsletter

July 15, 2009



Where am I and when does my plane leave?

That is thrust of my life these days. I am about to depart for my fourth trip to Africa since April 1st. There truly are days when I'm not sure if I'm coming or going, but **I wouldn't trade this for the world!**

This summer, VCI teams have had the pleasure of seeing first hand how the work Village Care does directly affects the people of Kenya and Tanzania. Many communities have put things into practice that are contrary to their traditions and culture, but no doubt are beneficial to their health and well-being. Hand-washing stations have sprung up all over (where there is water), more children are attending school, men and women who once would not sit and talk in the same room are coming together for the sake of their children and families. VCI teams have brought so much skill and talent, wisdom and love to the people of Eastern Africa this summer! In one community, traditional Masai families are now working to create loving relationships with each other rather than continue the centuries-long separation of men and women within the home. Children are the beneficiaries of this change and through love and understanding, they'll grow up in healthier, happier homes.

I want to thank you all once more for all your love and support throughout the years. I feel like the luckiest person in the world at times, despite not knowing what direction I'm headed next. You are all a great blessing to me and I appreciate each of you very much.

I hope the rest of your summer is great!

Sally

With the resources you have on hand today, what can you do to make a difference?

While visiting Kenya in April we got a great and fun surprise - we had an opportunity to visit President Obama's grandmother in Kogelo, Kenya. She is a very nice lady, who is very proud of her grandson. She shared pictures of him helping her at the corner marketplace shortly after he graduated from Harvard, sitting humbly in the dirt helping Granny sell her vegetables. Life is a bit different today for both of them, I imagine, and although we didn't stay long, we committed to bring more teams for visits and to bring more quilts for the hundreds of orphans "Mama Sarah" supports in her community.

Pictured below are me, Mama Sarah, and her niece (the President's cousin), Dr. Saida Hussein. We have kept in close touch with Saida who hopefully will be joining us in Kenya in October. She and her husband work in Mt. Meru Clinic in Arusha, Tanzania, where Village Care has a very large presence.



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