

News from Heather December 2019

Firstly, the great news is that the rains have begun! Some years the first rains have been so delayed that we've almost run out of well water (that we rely on for drinking, bathing and cooking etc) but this year it's come at the perfect time and our well and pond are now full! It's so nice to enjoy the cooler weather the rain temporarily brings too!

The rains have filled our pond and watered our garden:



The school holidays are going well and we've been keeping the boys busy with various big and small projects such as finishing off putting roofs on the widows houses, building a new wash area to wash clothes and building a table football table. I'm also carrying out activities with

the younger boys every morning, such as maths. Portuguese, science and bible stories. It can be hard work but a lot of fun too and the boys are keen, so it makes it worthwhile.



I got the disappointing but not unexpected news that 5 out of the 7 girls we supported last year failed the school year due to bad grades and truanting. I thought and prayed about it and decided that we should stop supporting 4 of them who have shown no sign of wanting to change. It felt right to do this but still sad

because I had such hopes for them and had done my best this year to encourage them and give them support. Luisa, who failed but had improved her grades during the year we decided deserved another chance which she is very pleased about and hopefully will now take school even more seriously after seeing us discontinue supporting the others. We've also taken on 3 new girls who we will be supporting in secondary school next year so with the 2 who passed that's 6 girls we will be supporting next year, and potentially another 2 new girls I'm waiting to confirm with. The two girls who passed, called Alice and Agnes, I took to the local market and as a reward let them choose an outfit to buy, complete with shoes and hair extensions .



Mia (one of the girls I was supporting last year) gave birth to a boy about 2 months prematurely. Despite weighing just 1.5kg and lacking facilities here to help premature babies, baby Shelton seems to be growing and doing well. Mia seems well and has a new boyfriend who, although isn't that baby's father, seems to want to help support them both



School preparations are under way for next year. This is the tailor measuring for the uniforms. The girl in purple is Luisa, the one who failed but improved and has a second chance.

For those who don't know her, this is Patricia from Switzerland who has visited Kedesh every year for 10 years. She's a social worker by profession but also a keen sportswoman, especially running and volleyball. Patricia came 3rd in her age group in a Beira city race recently.



Patricia has settled in really well here but getting her longer-term visa has been a problem as the rules have recently changed and as always here, people don't like sharing the information about what we actually have to do! She's hoping to stay 9 months at Kedesh and potentially come back for longer if she feels God leads her to this. She is currently in South Africa and trying to get a type of Visa we've been told she needs from the Mozambican embassy but we've heard from her that they are saying she lacks some documents to apply for it (despite us calling beforehand and checking more than once what she needed before she went!) So please pray for favour for her there. It's obviously difficult for her to deal with all the uncertainty, traveling and cost of everything.



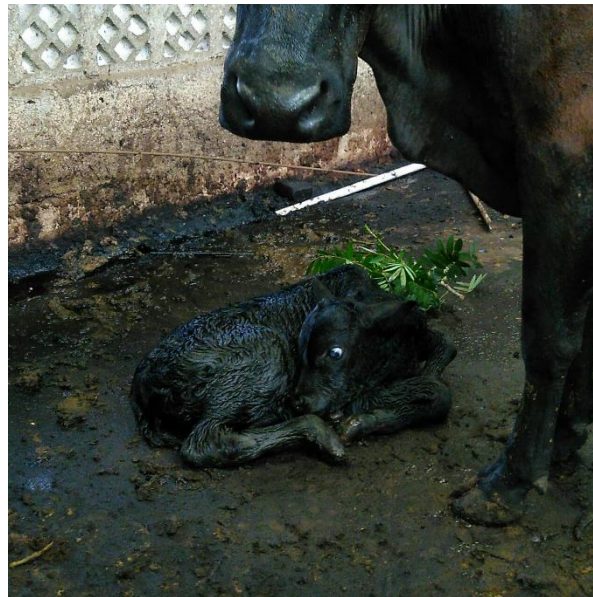
The only other news is that we have a new boy called Nelo, who's the brother of two of our boys but up to this point has been living with their older sister. He's only 5 and recently got really sick and we discovered that he was HIV + and had got sick as his sister wasn't giving him his medication regularly. After that we decided he needed more support and regular monitoring. He's doing really well since joining us and loves joining in everything with his big brothers!

We recently celebrated American Thanksgiving at Kedesh with some Dutch friends (super multi-cultural us!) Anne Marie and Anton.





In other news, Tome has been busy catching our rats 🙄. Not as humane as it looks as he then releases them near a cat!



We've had 5 calves born in the last couple of months. Last year we gave away 3 cows to people so they could start their own herd and God seems to have blessed us with extra in return! The boys are already planning their beef burgers 😊

I caught this sunset moment recently (below). It reminded us of our vision to be a light to our community.



Thank you for all your love and support, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Much love and blessings to you

Heather