



Heather In Moz - May 2017

Winter has arrived!

Greetings to you all from a much cooler Mozambique (thankfully!). This is the time of the year that we all look forward to. It's winter, meaning that day time temperatures drop from 35-40ish C to a lovely 25-30 C for the next 6 months. It also marks the beginning of the dry season when not much rain is expected until the weather starts warming up again. Not only is it nice not to feel hot and sticky all the time but it's a time when we all discover energy we didn't have! It's also a great time to come and visit us as you are almost guaranteed days of beautiful sunshine and blue skies. Tempting anyone!?



Floods in Beira

Before the start of winter we had a lot of unexpected late summer storms and big rains. Sadly many places in and around the city of Beira were not equipped to cope with this amount of rain fall, not having proper drainage and being very close together. It meant that for many people it was a very difficult few days when they experienced their houses flooding with water, their possessions being ruined and in a couple of cases, the loss of lives of children caught in the water.



For us at Kedesh, we did not experience the same difficulties as our property is on a gradual incline so the water was able to easily drain off. Looking at our over flowing pond and the thinking about the amount of rain we've had this year it's strange to remember the beginning of last year when we were experiencing such a severe drought that we were bathing in pond water!

Celebrating Passover & week of unleavened bread

Last month we celebrated passover here at Kedesh with the boys. It's one of my favourite biblical feasts and I love remembering the fact that Jesus celebrated with his disciples before he died. As well as feasting, we tell the boys the story of the passover, watch a film version of the story and explain the significance of the passover events to us today. Following on from passover is the festival of unleavened bread. This lasts a week and I think is possibly the boys favourite biblical festival as they get to make their own unleavened bread every day as a snack!



Outside Kitchen gets a makeover

Over the last few months we've been busy on a few projects to improve Kedesh. One of them was to renovate our outside kitchen area where we prepare, cook and serve lunch and dinner every day. It was in much need of repair and in the process it got new work surfaces, floors, stoves and soon to get a new roof!



House for a Widow

Another project that we've been working on is a new traditional style house for one of our widows. Sara is in her 80's and never had any children. Her current house was about 10 years old and due to weather, termites and attempted break ins over the years it was falling down so, with the help of a donation from friends of Kedesh, we have been building her a new, stronger and slightly bigger house. This is Sara outside her former house.



Goodbye to our Bull

People who have visited Kedesh will be familiar with our famous Bull that we called Bude. He, plus two females, were the first cows we received at Kedesh and he had learnt to love us and us him over the years. Despite his size and terrifying horns he was actually a very docile Bull, more so than the other cows and would let us stroke him. Sadly he had a fall this month and after a few days of not being able to get up we realised that we had no choice except to put him down. Our sadness of losing such a great cow was all too quickly replaced in the hearts of the boys by the realisation of how much meat his sad demise would create! We now have a freezer stocked full and the boys have many meaty meals to look forward to! RIP Bude!



Football challenge

Last month we met a group of Spanish people who were linked to and visiting an orphanage in town. They had the idea of our boys playing their older

boys from the other orphanage at football. The game was played at Kedesh and although we didn't win (4-5) it was a lot of fun!



Random other news

Bailey found the spare bed!-My dog Bailey is the Alpha male of our pack of 7 dogs, being 8 years old and having been here the longest. He takes his status very seriously and as a result he also feels he's entitled to other privileges, such as the spare bed in my house!



Team work tree chop-During the process of renovating the outside kitchen it was necessary to cut down a very large tree. It meant that all hands and strength was needed as the branches and trunk was cut and lowered safely bit by bit. Always good to see some successful team work!



Fun in a tent - Recently we got given a tent that became quite popular for hanging out in during the

day!



Answers to prayer

There have been quite a few answers to prayer. One that I really want to mention is the health of the young widow with diabetes that we've been supporting for the last couple of years. I took a photo of her recently and it was only when I compared how she looked when she came to us two years ago that I realised how well she's now doing. Praise God for this as we really did not know if she would get better at the time!



More answers to prayer

- The ceasefire declared between the two rival political parties in December has continued beyond the original 2 months and there is more hope that a long term solution can be found peacefully.
- The new boys that we welcomed at the beginning of the year are doing really well. Our youngest, who's just 5 seems very at home and is mostly a joy to be around.
- The boys started their school year in January, with the younger ones starting a new primary school. They seem to really

enjoy their new school and the opportunity to learn other subjects like French, English and bible studies as well as learning how to sing songs and pray in 3 different languages (Portuguese, French and English)!

- We were recently shocked at a letter we received from the counsel saying that we needed to pay thousands of pounds in land tax. As a boys home, relying on donations to operate, we obviously don't have large amounts of spare cash lying around! Our employee met with the president of the Counsel and explained and he has given his verbal assurance that we will be exempt from paying. We are now just waiting on the writing confirmation

Prayers needed

- This month myself and John (Leader at Kedesh) are renewing our visas. It should be straight forward but is often complicated so please pray it will go well this year.
- We have quite a challenging group of 16 year olds at the moment. Please pray for wisdom and for them to change their behaviour where it needs to change.
- We have an American Lady in her 20's called Julia who is coming to help us for 3 months from July. Please pray for her and her time with us.
- For the written confirmation that we are exempt from paying the land tax
- For continued good health and safety for us all.

Thank you for reading and for your interest and support of us here at Kedesh Santuario. We welcome visitors so if you would like to come and visit just to find out more about us, to share a specific interest or talent you have with the boys such as a sport, music, craft or to help out with a specific project, such as building a widows house, please get in touch using my email hevdawnpev@gmail.com

Love and blessings to you all

Heather