

Heathers Newsletter September 2020

Hello from rapidly warming up Mozambique! I know it's been a long time since I wrote a newsletter but I'm glad I've been able to be in contact with some of you through social media. The Covid-19 cases here have not been recorded as bad compared to other places (currently getting to 8000) and we at Kedesh have all remained well and healthy. Praise God!

The lock down at Kedesh started at the end of March when the Government closed the schools and put restrictions in place. Schools have still not opened up so since then we have remained locked down and have tried to keep the boys occupied with various activities. In the mornings they have to participate in projects or some kind of school studies. Projects have included learning how to brick lay and then putting it into practice helping to build our perimeter wall, building a table football table, working in the vegetable garden and recently starting to make a mini golf course.



Gabi learning how to brick lay



Neto and Francisco tiling the benches





Working in the vegetable garden

To produce this for dinner!



Several boys helped to build this table football table from scratch.

During the first month of lock down the boys schools provided them with work to do at home that I helped them complete. After that, I just had to make things up and I mostly worked with the younger boys, focusing on maths and reading and writing Portuguese. More recently I have begun teaching English as the boys expressed an interest (and I am from England after all!). I have four groups of varying ages and abilities and although a lot of work, the boys are keen and seem to be enjoying learning.



As well as schoolwork the boys also have free time in the afternoons to run around and play (or sleep, popular if you are a teenager). Popular past times include frisbee, golf and swimming and fishing in the pond. All the boys have now learnt to ride a bike too with the help of the others and cycle around our properties on the three bikes we brought. The boys have also enjoyed playing with the risk table and table football table that they built.



We received two new additions to our home a couple of months ago. This is Baptista, he is about 15 and is very hard of hearing. He was not getting on well at another centre so was transferred to us. Despite his disability he has settled in well and we are all learning how best to communicate with him (he does not know how to sign and despite being in the social services system since he was a child he was in a normal Government school and has never had any specialist support with his hearing loss). Our plan, after lock down, is to find a doctor to assess his residual hearing and also to enroll him in a school especially for the hearing impaired.



Baptista loves to play the 'drum'



Our second new addition is Jorge and he is about 13. It appears he was staying at another orphanage but they did not like his behaviour so social services sent him to us (not sure exactly why we've been chosen as the home for challenging behaviour children but going to take it as a compliment!). So far he's settling in well. He clearly hasn't been given any boundaries up to this point but is quickly learning our rules and ways. Please pray that he continues to get on well with us.

Sadly, at the very beginning of lockdown in March, Patricia, who had been volunteering with us, decided to go back to Switzerland due to her and her family's concerns about Covid-19. She had originally planned on staying until July and had been considering volunteering longer term but recently we heard that she has accepted a job in Switzerland and will not be returning to kedesh to volunteer in the foreseeable future. This has been a big loss to us, especially at this time of lockdown with all



the boys at home from school. Please pray for God to bring along other willing volunteers and for Patricia as she starts her new job in Switzerland.

To add to the **prayer requests**, my yearly visa expired in May but due to Corona, the Government allowed expired documents to be valid until the 30th September. It's now time to renew it before the deadline and as some of you know, the process can be long and frustrating! Please pray that it goes well this year and that I will remain calm!

Covid cases remain relatively low in our area, please pray that would continue and that we all remain healthy.

There's a plan to reopen the schools gradually starting next month. Please pray this goes well and the boys adapt to studying again.

Other Random News

We were donated money to buy and distribute blankets to people in the community this winter. These are some of the girls we've supported



The group of elderly ladies we support receiving their blankets



'The boys have been learning to cut their own hair'



I have been trying to get the boys interested in growing flowers, with some success!



Lastly, thank you for your prayers and support. Although I felt really sad not to have been able to get back to England this year, especially missing out on a planned family holiday, I have really enjoyed being able to connect with you by the magic of church online! I've also enjoyed the times I've been able to link in with a connect group (sadly not very often as life got busier!). On the whole I feel ok, despite

not being out and about visiting friends and having time off and I know that's only because of the grace of God who's been upholding me and your prayers. So thank you. I don't think anything will stop me from visiting you all next year and if things open up feel free to come and visit us 😊

Much love and blessings to you all

Heather xxx