



HEATHER IN MOZ - APRIL 2016

Rain arrived!

First of all, the biggest and best news since I last wrote is that the proper rains finally arrived! Thank you all for praying for us. When it started raining it didn't really stop for several days, filling our well and our pond to overflowing and ridding us from all our water worries. God brought the rains at the '11th hour' when we were days from running out completely and I was reminded how often this is the case with answered prayers. God strengthens our faith as we pray, wait and trust he will answer us and provide what we need and the good thing is that, even when perhaps our hope and faith falters a bit at the end, God's faithfulness to us doesn't - Praise God! It is soooo nice to once again take a shower, have water fights and have a swim rather than a paddle in our pond!



New arrivals

In February we welcomed two new members to the kedesh family. Joaquim (14) and Taibo (10). Joaquim and his older sister (18) have been brought up by their grandparents since their parents died when they were young. A couple of years ago their grandmother had a stroke which left her disabled, unable to walk or speak.



Their grandfather then passed away and Joaquim and his sister came to Kedesh to ask for help. After discussions with the family it was decided that Joaquim should come to live at Kedesh and that we would support his sister to finish school whilst she helped to look after their grandmother. Joaquim has very quickly settled into life at Kedesh and to his new school and is generally a well mannered, good natured, hard working boy. Taibo was living with his grandmother and great grandmother up the road from us,



Both his parents have died and his other brothers and sisters are being looked after by uncles and aunts. Taibo was staying with an Uncle and Aunty for a year but they sent him to live with his grandparents as they said that they had too many other children to look after. He wasn't going to school regularly, the family lacked food to eat and he was sleeping in the same room on the same mat as his grandmother and great grandmother. Taibo is settling in well at Kedesh and making friends. He's very behind with school and is just starting to learn his alphabet. Please continue to pray for Joaquim and Taibo and their families.

International school's donation

For the past couple of years the International School in Town have invited Kedesh's younger boys to go to their school and play football against some of their students. The event is part of their 'bring and share' week at school when the pupils are encouraged to bring items of clothing and toys to give to local children who live at orphanages in and around Beira



Our boys really enjoy the outing, even more so when they win their match! We are also very grateful for the boxes of clothing and toys that the school donates to us. One of the hardest things to keep up with here is buying enough clothes for the boys as they grow out of their clothes so quickly or they get destroyed though lots of play, work and weathering. So to have a donation of clothes is a big help and means the boys all get several new sets of outfits that they've chosen themselves from the donations.



Corruption and stealing

Not a nice title for this section of 'news' but sadly it's the reality of life here. Society seems to function with corruption, bribes and exploitation of the weak and poor being at the centre. Much is said about the need for change but sadly little is done or reinforced so things remain the same. Examples include, police asking for money, having to pay to be treated in the hospital, paying someone inside a company to get you an interview or a job and people in authority such as teachers and officials asking for payment or favours in return for a pass grade or giving what you want or need. Alongside this is the problem of stealing. From the pick pocketers on the streets and employees who steal from their work places to the gangs with make shift weapons who break into houses and harm people in the process of stealing from them. It means when I'm out and about in town I have to be very alert for people who might try to pick pocket me, especially in more crowded areas like the bus station. In the first year I was here I lost a phone from my bag in this way and since have been a lot more careful! At Kedesh it means that we have to be very careful about not leaving things out at night as we know that people come intentionally at night with the hope they'll find things easily to steal on our property. I've lost several items of clothing this way I left on my washing line! Then there's the problem of boys we have at Kedesh who also have a weakness for stealing, due to perhaps a past of being on the street or just succumbing to the temptation of it. This is always one of the hardest things for me to deal with, knowing one or more of the boys who I live with and care for, would,

if given the chance, steal from me. I had this experience very recently, coming home after a day out to discover that someone, during the day had managed to get into my house by removing the bolts by force that secure my tin roof. This all sounds a bit negative but I'm sharing this with you to ask for prayer that I can continue to show the boys an alternative way of life, God's way and for the boys to grow up walking this way - going against their culture and society around them. I heard a preach many years ago by one of my former youth leaders at South Kent Community Church in Folkestone who spoke about, how as 'salt of the earth' part of our function as Christians is to 'stop the rot.' I often remember this when I come up against stealing or corruption and pray that my presence and all of us at Kedesh can act as 'stopping the rot' of some of the negative things in our communities here and instead be bringing something much more flavoursome of God! Thank you Norman for bringing that teaching many years ago!

Other random news

Life guard duty - Now that the pond is back to overflowing (Praise God!) the boys are in it every day swimming and doing somersaults off the cashew tree. Our seven dogs are also enjoying having the water back in the pond, often joining the boys for a swim or taking a turn at life guarding!



Fishing frenzy -The overflowing pond has resulted in small streams leading down to the land. The boys were delighted the other day to find many fish caught flapping about in the stream ready to be caught!



A visit from a friend- Last month we had a visit from a friend from South Africa for a couple of weeks. Greg was living across the road from us, helping to run another orphanage when I arrived back in 2008. He became a good friend to us and a regular member of our weekly bible studies so we missed him when circumstances meant that he had to leave Mozambique in 2011. It's been great having him back and chatting about 'old times' and studying the bible together once again.



Trip to England

On the 25th May I fly back to England for 5 weeks to catch up with family and friends. I'll be based some of the time in Hythe in Kent although plan to do a bit of travelling around to meet up with people. I would love to be able to see every one of you who read this and who invest so much in praying for us and support myself and Kedesh but seeing you all would probably take at least a year and a lot of money (as many of you don't live in England!). But please know that I much appreciate every one of you. This year in July I will have been here 8 years (really can't believe it's that long!) and I've seen many volunteers working in lots of different areas of work, come and go in that time for various reasons and I'm so grateful that I've been able to remain and continue to invest in the lives of the boys I live with and the people in the community. So thank you and like I've said before, you are always welcome here!

Answers to prayer/Thanks

- For the rain in abundance at the 11th hour!
- For the older boys who have moved out and are doing well in their new homes, jobs and studies.
- For the school term beginning well and for us getting into a good routine.
- For the donation of clothes and toys we received from the international school.
- For Joaquim and Taibo joining our family
- For Greg's visit and the fun we had catching up with him after so long.

- For the opportunity to be and work here and for all the people who support me personally and Kedesh as a whole.
- For the girls groups in the community starting up again well.
- For Social Service giving us a four year 'licence to function' as an orphanage - usually they give us a licence that is valid just for a year and we have to apply again, so this is very big news for us!
- For the finances and provision we have had to continue, develop and support others in the community.
- For safety and good health

Prayer needed

- For Joaquim and Taibo as they settle in and for their extended families.
- For my trip back to England at the end of May.
- For stealing we experience within Kedesh - God would bring things to light and we would have wisdom how to deal with it.
- For myself and us at Kedesh to be 'salt' in our communities, helping to 'stop the rot' and bring something flavoursome of God.
- For the renewing of my visa next month, that it would go well without complication.
- For finances to continue well in order for us to continue to improve Kedesh and support Widows and other vulnerable people.
- For the political situation, which is still unchanged. There are more incidents of attacks and fighting between the two parties in certain rural areas, which as lead to over 10,000 mozambicans fleeing to Malawi. Where I live, near to Beira City, there is rarely politically based violence and I feel safe to travel around locally. Please pray for peace and resolution and for all the people who are directly affected.
- For continued safety and good health.

Much love and blessings to you all and thank you for your continued prayers, interest and support.

Feel free to contact me or even consider visiting! - hevdawnpev@gmail.com

Heather