



Heather In Moz - January 2017

Summer greetings

Greetings and Happy New Year from a very sticky Beira! We are very thankful that, unlike last years drought, we've already had lots of good rains which has meant we've continued to have enough water. The boys are now on their summer holidays from school. Unlike previous years, we are not hosting any World Race teams this year during the school holidays as the political conflict here has meant that travelling by road to us from neighbouring countries has become too risky. We do however have a return visit from Patricia, our friend from Switzerland who is making her 8th visit to us! It is always so great to have Patricia with us as she feels like part of the family and knows us all so well.



Newcomers

Since I last wrote a newsletter we have welcomed 2 new boys to our family. Lirio is 12 and has been brought up by his grandmother since he was 5 years old when his parents died. In recent months he ran away from home and had been living on the streets in town. He tired of this kind of lifestyle and turned up at our gate asking to stay. It took a while to find out the truth and still the reason as to why he ran away initially isn't clear but after finding his grandmother and speaking with her and with Lirio it was decided that Lirio come to live with us permanently. He's a friendly, cheerful boy who loves playing with the dogs. He's been skipping school a lot so is only in 3rd grade but we hope that he will soon catch up.



Another newcomer is Luis who, at 7 years old, is our youngest family member. What he lacks in age though he makes up with confidence! Him and his 5 year old brother were living with their grandmother who we support. Their father has died and sadly their mother was not caring for them properly, often leaving them alone, forcing them to look for food amongst the rubbish. Luis and his brother were covered in sand fleas (fleas that lay their eggs under your skin) and had obvious signs of malnutrition. At the moment Manuel, Luis's brother is a little too young to live with us so we are supporting the grandmother to continue to care for him. We hope though that the brothers can eventually be living together.



Luis and family's New Home

Earlier in the year we were given some funds to build a house for a young widow and her family who we have been supporting. Unlike larger blocks, the family chose to have their house built out of smaller, reddish bricks, giving the house a very attractive, unique finish and plenty of opportunity for our boys to perfect their bricklaying techniques! Last month the family were able to move in. Well done to all the boys who were involved in the building process. We hope Maria, Luis, Cardoso and Manuel will be very happy in their new home.



Beach trip with the girls

As most of you know Kedesh only houses boys. But for the last few years I have been working with some of the girls in our community in helping them learn to read. At the end of the year I like to reward the girls for their hard-work with a trip to the beach. For some of them it is their first ever experience of the ocean so it's always great fun to see their expressions as they experience the waves and salty water for the first time! Thankfully Patricia was here again to help me as most of the girls don't know how to swim! Usually when I take our boys to the beach we go with a few easy-too-carry snacks like bread and bananas but with the girls it is a whole different affair! They insisted on cooking spaghetti with beans and a salad and having a cake for dessert! It was a tiring but fun day.



Boys moving on

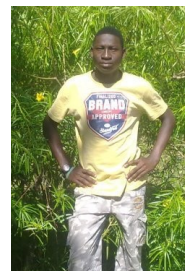
This month, 3 of our oldest boys, who just turned 20, will be moving out of Kedesh. Joao and Steni are being supported by friends of Kedesh to build themselves houses to move into which they are busy building, with the help of some of our boys. Jose will be supported to study at university but this year has to repeat a few of his 12th grade subjects. In the mean time he will move out and move in with Joao and all three boys will look for jobs. Over the last year, we have been giving all 3 boys the opportunity to earn money at Kedesh in order to make preparations to leave and to practice the art of budgeting and living within their means. They've also been a big help to us at Kedesh. Please pray for them as they make this step of independence and especially that they find good jobs to support themselves.



Joao



Steni



Jose

Now to Other Random news

Mattress donation - Last month we had a very welcome donation from friends of several mattresses. The boys tried them out - princess and the pea style!



Learning to cycle - During the holidays the younger boys have been learning to ride a bike with the help of the older boys. We don't have child size bikes or stabilizers so it's a case of trying your best to reach the pedals and quite a bit of courage! But they all did very well and even after falling off or riding into something they carried on trying!



New Year's party fun- New years eve party is a bit of a highlight for many of the boys, for several reasons, including playing silly games, being allowed to drink coffee and staying up much later than usual!



But the grande finale of the night is always what the boys talk about - the fireworks!



This year, one of our older boys accidentally spent a lot more on fireworks than we usually spend which meant that our display was extra dramatic this year - appreciated by everyone.....except the dogs!



Wildlife at Kedesh - With cows, sheep, goats, dogs and cats, you can always expect to see a bit of wildlife at Kedesh!



Curious cow!

Answers to Prayer/Thanks

- For early rains and plenty of water
- For a fun and productive school holidays so far
- For Luis and his family moving into their new home and the people who so generously donated the money to build it
- For Patricia visiting us again this year
- For donations for Joao and Steni to build their new homes to move into
- For Lirio and Luis joining our Kedesh family.
- For Luis having the right medication for his epilepsy and having no more seizures
- For Cisco (16) returning to his normal self following a period of mental illness and for us experiencing God's help and grace in the difficult moments
- For safety and good health over the holiday period.

Prayer needed

1. For Joao, Steni and Jose as they prepare to move out and look for jobs.
2. For the political situation. Last month they agreed a 2 month ceasefire which is the first positive step we've seen for a long time towards a long term resolution. Please pray that the two warring parties will come to a permanent agreement so that peace and stability might continue.
3. For the start of the new school year this month. Many of the boys are changing schools as we're also changing the primary school that the boys attend, so pray that they will get quickly into a good routine, make friends and study well.
4. For Lirio and Luis to continue to settle in well at Kedesh and for Manuel, Luis's little brother, who at the moment has remained with his grandmother.
5. For more short term visitors and longer term helpers at Kedesh
6. For continued safety and good health.

Thank you for reading and for your continued prayers and support. Feel free to contact on the following email hevdawnpev@gmail.com, or on my facebook or John's under Kedesh Santuario

Love and blessings,

Heather