

On November 10th, 2010 Summerside Community Church sponsored 20 people to go on a Mission trip to Mozambique, Africa. I was very happy to be chosen to go on this trip. It was an experience of a life time.

We left Charlottetown airport at 5:30pm and arrived at Montreal airport at 6:30pm. We had a five hour wait in Montreal which turned into an 8 hour wait because of mechanical problems with the air plane.

It was 11: 30pm when we left for London, England which was a six hour flight. We arrived in England around 8am. After clearing customs, we left the airport for a walking tour of London. We got to see Buckingham Palace and then it started to pour rain so we had to take cover in a nice pub restaurant.

After we ate lunch we had to catch a flight to Nairobi kenya. We arrived in Kenya at 7:30 am. We were finger printed and photographed at the airport and cleared through customs we went on a visit to a giraffe centre and then we went to an all girls school called the DADA Centre. At this school the girls range from 3 to 16 years old. These girls have been sexually assaulted and disowned by their families. This centre takes them in off the street and gives them a home. The Centre also provides the girls with education and care and love that they need. The school offers trades as well as computer classes. The hope for the students is to learn life skills and eventually to become members of their families once again. They received counseling also.

While at the DADA centre, we gave the girls some clothing and some school supplies as well as soccer balls. They showed their appreciation by singing and dancing for us.

Then they asked us to sing for them and we did. They really enjoyed this. They really need a lot of love and loved getting our hugs. They also liked getting their picture taken and most of them hadn't seen a camera before.

After visiting at the centre, we left to travel a three hour drive to a lake to see hippos. They were big!! I got a little scared when two of the hippos charged our boat. I was very glad to get off that lake.

We went on a Safari where we saw many, many different animals such as baboons, impalas, water buffalos, pink flamingos,lions,monkeys,

zebras, bald eagles, rhinos and others. This was at lake Nakuru National Park. We stayed the night at the lodge. The people at the lodge were very hospitable. They put on a wonderful show that told about their culture. The drumming and dancing and singing was amazing. Some of our group got to go on stage to join in the fun. We had a buffet dinner and early to bed. Off to Mozambique to work the next day.

On our way to the airport, we got to see an elephant sanctuary. The baby elephants are brought to this sanctuary to be cared for by elephant keepers until they reach an age where they can be put back out into the wild. The elephants are orphaned because hunters, hunt their mothers for their tusks to sell the ivory and the babies become orphaned. I got to pet the baby elephant.

We left Kenya and arrived in Pemba Mozambique at 6:30 pm and it is dark. I kept wondering how we were going to get settled into the compound in the dark. Hurrah, there is electricity and it is working!!

We are briefed on our accommodations and then we are off to bed.

Our showers are rain water and our toilets are flushed, but sparingly on the water. We sleep on foam mattresses 1 inch thick. We had one sheet and one sheet for a blanket. We are given bottled water to drink. Breakfast is a roll. Lunch is rice and beans and Supper is rice and something (fish, chicken, cabbage, and spinach sauce). These meals are the same everyday. Since we arrived on a Sat., we have church on Sunday morning. Although these people have very little, they dress up for church and they take pride in it. The colors of their clothing is so bright and beautiful.

The church service lasts for 4 hours. They sing and dance and worship the Lord. Heidi Baker the founder of Iris Ministries supports the orphanage that we stayed at. We were a guest of Iris Ministries. The children were so happy to see us and they look for hugs all the time.

At the base there are schools. There is a regular school, a sewing school, an automotive school, Missionary school and a Bible school. There were many missionaries we met while we were there.

The compound (base) where we stayed had a boys orphanage and a girls orphanage and also a toddler house (age infant to 5 years old). Our job here was to provide love to the children and to play with them and give them clothing and toys and some dried food we brought. We brought 40 hockey bags of supplies with us and yes they all arrived and everything was in them.

We brought soccer uniforms and soccer balls to the boys orphanage. We brought skirts for the girls. We also brought school supplies and medical supplies as well as 100 pairs of eye glasses. We gave 30-40 Canada games jackets to Pastors who were studying at the Bible school.

Although the people have very little, they are happy. There are no phones or tv's here. There are no computers in the class rooms. The desks are wooden and they don't have anything on their walls. These children are orphaned because their parents are dead because of the aids virus.

We get up at 5:30 am and we went for a swim in the Indian Ocean. The water was so warm. The temp. was 30-35 degrees by 9 o'clock. breakfast and then work.

Summerside Community Church sponsors an orphanage in Meizie which is a 45 minute drive from Pemba. We drove there each day to do our work. We also got to meet the children we sponsor in the orphanage. At this orphanage, there are 20 boys and 20 girls. I sponsor an eight year old girl named Augusta. Both her parents died of aids and her and her three sisters were left orphaned. Their grandmother brought them up for a short time and then she died. The village women took the four little girls to the church and the Pastor--Pastor Juma decided to start an orphanage. This orphanage is where we did most of our work.

We brought the children gift boxes which had clothing, school supplies, toothpaste and tooth brushes and toys etc. in them. The children would run out to meet the trucks we travelled in. They loved all the attention. We taught them English one day and we played games with them. We repaired the playground the missionaries built for them in 2006. We gave them dried soup mixes and dried fruit.

We helped out with the medical clinic. At this clinic, we gave 400 children (village children and the orphanage children) pills that would help with D-Worming and make them healthy until the next D-worming clinic.

Many of the children suffer from malnutrition and Malaria. Thanks to our church sponsoring the orphanage, these forty children have a chance to live a normal life. They go to school and they are fed properly. With the new goat ranch that is being built, they will have meat, milk and cheese. It will also provide employment to some of the boys who will be too old to live in the orphanage (age 18). They also have a fruit and vegetable garden that will help provide the orphanage with healthy food.

The Friday night before we left Meizie, we bought the children a tv and a dvd player and we had a movie night. It was like Christmas ,they were so excited. One of our team members purchased movies in Portuguese and donated them to the children. They got to watch Madagascar and they loved it. On Sunday we went to church in Meizie and then we had lunch with the children and then we took them swimming and treated them to cookies and pop which they only get for a treat a couple of times a year. They had lots of fun and then we had to say good -bye because it was our last time to see them. It was very hard to say good-bye. The language barrier was a big issue. We spoke English and they spoke Portuguese. We did learn about twelve phrases in Portuguese but it wasn't enough but it was a great help.

On Thursday night, we went to see a tribe in the bush. They are people who have very little. They live in grass huts and live off the land. We showed them the Jesus film in Portuguese. One woman got a miracle and received her eye sight. She was blind for many years.

In the bush, there is no running water and no washrooms (a hole in the ground). They loved cameras and balloons. I don't think they ever saw them before that night. They cooked outside on open fires. They eat with their hands. The children were happy with nothing. We gave them lots of hugs.

Also while we were in Pemba, we visited the Noviana project. This is a very small village that has three homes that are run by five grandmothers (three are blind) and they care for 30-35 children. We were able to play

with the children, do face painting and nail painting, and give them school supplies. They were so excited to see us. they had very little and they were happy.

I found it very hard to be carrying a bottle of water with me everywhere and the children drank dirty water. Although I ate the same food they ate, I knew I was going to be getting different food in a short time but they eat the same thing each day 365 days of the year. the children steal because they have nothing. The village children will steal water bottles so their parents can buy alcohol with the money they get for the bottle. They continually follow you everywhere hoping that you will give them something or find a way to steal something from you. We brought clothing for the village children and we gave to about 50 kids and on the other side of the gate there were about three hundred more children waiting for clothing. That was heart breaking. I was the one assigned to give the clothing out. I still can see their faces from when I ran out of clothing.

To live with nothing and to be able to sing and dance and enjoy life to the fullest with nothing is a lesson I will never forget.

Thank you to CUPE National for Sponsoring me with a financial donation for expenses for my Mission Trip to Mozambique, Africa.

I hope you enjoyed a few of my stories. I have many more.

Submitted by
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We left Pemba Mozambique on Tuesday morning and arrived back on PEI at 1am on Thursday morning Nov.25th.