

Dear Family and Friends,

I arrived safely in Kenya Wednesday evening. The flights were all right and went pretty quickly. When I arrived at the airport I was able to buy my visa without any trouble which is a huge answer to prayer. Beka and two of her kids picked me up from the airport, along with two Kenyan boys. Ryan wasn't able to be there because the car had broken down and he was working on it. From the airport we went to Beka's sister's house where we stayed the night. On the drive, I saw a lot of Nairobi and many backstreets. I also learned how people drive in Kenya, which is Beka's sister Rhea (Ray-a) runs a childrens home, so I was able to meet and interact with orphans as soon as I got there.

My first day in Kenya was very busy and I pretty much got thrown in the deep end with culture. My first morning I went with Beka to one of the slums in downtown Nairobi to a children's school run by Pastor Jon. Our ride got us close, but we still had to walk for an hour before we reached it. Beka's friend Dan-Kon went with us so that we wouldn't be alone. Walking through the slums was interesting. Beka told me that this wasn't even one of the bad slums. I saw a lot of poor people and a lot of children running around that should have been in school. Pastor Jon's school turned out to be two small rooms down an alley. The rooms were very small and about twenty little kids were squeezed into one. The classroom was composed of wooden benches for the children to sit on and a small chalkboard that sat on a chair. Beka told a story and the kids sang songs, (all in Swahili) I was introduced also. After seeing the kids we were invited to Pastor Jon's where I got my first taste of Kenyan hospitality. Chai tea was served in warm milk, and some kind of pastery. After we had finished the tea, we were offered soda, which we had to accept and finish. I was very full by the time we left Pastor Jon. Kenyan's are very welcoming, and they make sure you do not leave unsatisfied. After tea, Pastor Jon, Beka, Dan-Kon, and I took a matatu to the main part of Nairobi. A matatu is a sort of van that takes passengers, and they sometimes drive a little crazy. Once in the main part of Nairobi we walked around and shopped for school material for Pastor Jon. I also learned that when your host crosses the street you cross the street no matter what you think. I did good and didn't get hit.

We ended up staying until Saturday at Rhea's because the car was not ready yet. Friday was pretty quiet, I played with the kids at Rhea's house. Two little girls decided that I was a good seat and claimed my lap a few times. Saturday started with a 4:30 am wake-up call because we were leaving for Kakamega which is a 8 hour drive. Before we went to Kakamega we had to side trip to a Bible school because Beka had a meeting with some of the pastors. There was a class in session when we got there and we got invited in and introduced, and I was asked to share about what I was learning in school and why I was in Kenya. First time I have ever spoken through a translator. At the end the teacher told the ladies in the class that if they had an question that they should ask me and I would probably have the answer. I talked a most of the ladies after that. No questions but they were all very nice and encouraging. After Bible school we finally made it to Ryan and Beka's house. Their house is really big, and I ended up with my own room. On Monday however, I think Beka and I are headed back to Nairobi via bus to pick up an orphan from one school and bring her to a better school.

Pray:

- Please pray that I God will use me here and that I will be able to learn some of the lanuage quickly.
- Pray that the car does not break down as we do a lot of traveling and depend on it for a lot of things.
- Please pray for Pastor Jon that he will be able to buy a bigger space for his school.

Blessing in Christ,
Jen