



A Mzungu in Kiminini, Kenya

By Megan Meyer | November 17, 2011

I am having a great time here in Kenya! I am currently in the middle of the 4th week of my internship and time feels like it is literally flying by!

As far as the work I have been doing, I am working on a few different projects. One is called a Memory Box project, where I am going into the villages to interview women about their lives. I ask about their families, what their life was like growing up, any stories, tribal traditions, or memories that I can record. I take this information and am typing it up along with a family tree and then will give it back to them in a sort of booklet, along with a picture of each woman. This way, they are able to pass the book on to their children and grandchildren, and know that their stories and family history will remain within the family. (RIGHT: One of the groups of women who I have interviewed, these women are also in a micro loan program which I am helping with as well.)



I have also been working within the school, not teaching regular subjects but more like doing workshops. I did a few workshops with just the girls in grade 7, talking to them about having confidence, what it means to be a girl, and what their futures are going to look like. They also had many questions about puberty and adolescence (though too shy to ask out loud, so they wrote them down), which I was happy to answer for them. Then I asked if there was anything they wanted to learn about that they thought I could teach them, and they almost unanimously said HIV/AIDS. So, thankfully I feel comfortable talking about this and will be starting that next week. All the children seem very excited to talk to me about anything and it's a great feeling to know that I am actually benefiting them by being here. (RIGHT: The class 7 girls at Pathfinder Academy Primary School)



One of my favorite things to do has been to go into the villages. It is amazing to see how the people live here, and not to mention it is beautiful as well! Most homes are made of mostly mud and sticks and are very simple on the inside. Even though they seem so small and simple to me, all the women are very proud of their homes and are always excited to have me there. That is very cool to see.

Anywhere I go I am constantly stared at and every child will shout "How are you!?" or "Mzungu!" (meaning white person). I always answer or wave, as they often shout from a long distance away, and when I do they get so excited and laugh a great deal. Some are scared and run away, but many will come up and want to shake my hand. And I

love all of it! The kids always make me smile and often crack me up with the things they do or how excited they get just to see me.

I can't believe I have already been here for a month and I am nearly half way done with my time here in Kenya. I realized today that I think time is going by so fast because I do not have to plan practically every minute of my day, and I am not running all over town doing 5 different activities in one day. It is a nice change and I am still so grateful that I am getting to have this experience. I know I will be sad to leave her when the time comes. (RIGHT: Boys from the school, they kept getting closer and closer to me with their excitement for a picture!)

