

5/25/09 AUEA

Right now I'm writing during our unexpected night's stay in Heathrow. When I think back on this trip the first thing I realize is how blessed I am to be a part of this group. As this trip has progressed I am assured that God's hand was in selecting each person for this trip. Next I try to think through the experiences we've been through the past two weeks and I recognize it will take me a while before I can understand all the experiences and understand what God wants to teach me through them. I think of the Masai and how they showed us love and how we tried to return the love even though we couldn't communicate through language. I also recognize the grace the Masai had for us when the girls and I threw the goat when no one was looking, because we couldn't eat anymore. I think of the loved ones that we thought of as we bought gifts for them in the market of Arusha, yet they will never understand what we've gone through!... Then as we began doing home visits to T.A.P.P. clients we realized how they just wanted to share their stories too. We learned to serve God in the joy of the children and wondered where He was when the children told us of their sufferings because of their family members with AIDS. We saw the grandmothers that lost most of their children to AIDS yet still cared for their grandchildren. We have many questions of why? In regards to HIV/AIDS yet have seen

the tumaini (hope) T.A.P.P. gives to the many women in the program. We enjoyed fellowship with the T.A.P.P. women as they sang, danced, and shared testimonies with us. They also taught us how to dance which I greatly enjoyed... All of these things I've simplified for the sake of not wanting to write a novel tonight and waiting on God to reveal more things to us about the things we experienced. My prayer is that God can take us through a period of reflecting, processing, growing and never forgetting the things we've seen in East Africa the past two weeks. As I mentioned before, God picked every person on this trip for a reason and I pray he works through each one's many gifting to expand and nurture his kingdom. I can't wait to see what God does in these young people's lives and how East Africa has molded that. I am also excited to see what God does in Sally and Moose who have blessed us continually on this trip. I could not thank God enough for how beautifully he has unfolded everything in this trip. The struggles have only made us stronger and the exposure has given us wisdom to speak from. We serve an amazing God, but at least for me right now I must wait on him!

-Amy