

5/16/09, AUEA

As I start to write I am actually regretting taking the journal. I am at a loss for words... My soul is overwhelmed.

In such a short number of days we have experienced an unbelievable amount of sights, tastes, smells, etc. Watching the group ask questions, discover new things, and become giddy with excitement makes all of the planning and preparation feel so worth it. They have handled themselves beautifully in situations that are so foreign. They make me proud and thankful. I realize that you couldn't just take just anyone into these situations.

It is my deep hope and prayer that this only continues over the next week and after our return... that questions are still voiced, that our ways of thinking are continually challenged, that we continue to take care of one another. I was so touched when I overheard a conversation between the girls and guys where one of the guys told the girls the[y] could pass meat their way if they couldn't finish it so that we could be respectful towards the hospitality extended to us - yes, this is good. I could go on and on, but I think I will pass this along.

I am in awe of what we have seen. The beauty is overwhelming... the mountains, the people, the beads, the African sun, the simplicity, the chai, the GOATS... okay I really am stopping.

-In awe - SEB