

JUSTINE & GREG'S UPDATE

Hi friends.

We have now been at IGF primary school for just over a week. There are approx 1500 children at this school from K-7. There is also a medical clinic. A vocational training school (business studies, IT, tailoring, carpentry). There are 50 children that live onsite in the dorms which we spend quite a bit of time with. We are staying onsite in the boarding rooms, part of admin building and are being well looked after. Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly. Greg has been very busy fixing lots of machines, motors and engines that are not working. They are asking him already when he is coming back. Today Greg is starting to teach the Mechanics about car maintenance, etc and will be doing an advanced driving course for them. Each morning I have been going to the hospice to spend time with about 18 children and babies and their carers. The children are either orphans, have been abandoned or are sick. We spend time singing, dancing, reading a story and I always encourage the women with a bible passage. I am also teaching English and social science to year 5 (a bit out of my comfort zone) but that's ok. I spend time throughout the day reading stories to kids and it usually ends up with a huge mob, little ones climbing on me. Yesterday I played hopscotch with a group of kids. Each morning we go to staff devotions, which is so wonderful. They worship God with their whole bodies and dance and jump about. Each evening we join the dorm kids for their devotions which is the same. You get a glimpse of what Heaven will be like when they worship. Each night they pray for each other for the ones that are sick. On Fri night we are starting a movie club for the hospice kids. We purchased a DVD and speakers and Greg has repaired their projector. So they will now watch a movie each Fri night. Thanks to Kim Fitzpatrick we purchased a new TV for the hospice as the ladies said their one was broken and they wanted to be able to show movies to the little ones. There is so much need everywhere you look, there are very little resources. There are 4 IGF Schools in this area which we hope to visit soon. They feed the children twice a day which is a huge production as you can imagine. We have had some really good conversations with people and we are getting an understanding just how difficult life is here and how 20 years of civil war has crippled northern Uganda in so many ways. Yesterday we went and spoke to the sponsorship staff as we are going to visit Raelene Schoonbecks sponsor child and her family next week. There are approx 2,000 children that are sponsored at IGF - but there is still 2,000 more children that need to be sponsored - such huge huge need. The staff here are doing a really amazing job, the sense of community, love and acceptance is astounding. Greg and I are really loving it here and already thinking of returning. The children in P7 sit their exams next week which will determine if they can progress to secondary school, so please pray for them. Please pray for lots of opportunities to show God's love to these beautiful people. Yesterday Greg and I went to the medical clinic to visit one of the hospice kids, Kenneth who was unwell. He loves stories and is always asking me to read to him so we went to read him a story and to pray for him. I could go on and on but better get ready for my day. Lots of love to you all. God bless Justine and Greg.

Xxx