

Dear Supporters,

Words cannot begin to express how thankful I am for all your prayers and financial support you have all given me on my trip to Zambia, Africa. I am glad to say the trip was successful and we all returned home safe. My Aunt Elisa was right when she told me "you will leave part of your heart in Africa". The two highlights of my trip were meeting my sponsored student, Serah, and seeing how much God cares about a simple prayer to share the word of God to a little girl named Abigail.

Let me start with Abigail's story. I first met Abigail on our way to visit a school. As our bus turned off the main street and headed down the road to the school, this little girl started following our bus. Once we got closer to the school and I saw she was still following, I asked her name. "Abigail" she said proudly. I told her she was a good runner. She followed all the way to the school, so once we arrived I hurried out of the bus so that I could talk more to her. I asked if she went to school here. She said "Yes". I asked what grade she was in and she replied, "Fourth grade". I told her we were here to talk about Jesus and since she was not dressed in her uniform I knew that she would be coming back in the afternoon for class. That was the end of our encounter...or so I thought. However, just as I was leaving for lunch, I saw her again and told her "I will see you this afternoon. I will come to your classroom." I didn't really know for sure that I would get to her room, but something told me I should be there. "God, please let me go to her classroom." I asked Tami, the person from our team responsible for assigning us to classrooms, to put me into a fourth grade room.

That afternoon before we were to speak to an 8th grade class, Tami told me she had saved Room 115 a fourth grade room for me. We needed to go to Room 118 before that. Imagine my surprise when we walked into Room 118 and there sat Abigail! I didn't get the chance to talk to her but our eyes locked in recognition and there was an instant connection. Later that day I found out why my room changed and it was a total God thing. Another group from my team went to Room 118 but it was just the start of their break time. This team then went back to Tami to get another room, and since I was still with my team in the 8th grade room Tami switched rooms giving me room 118 and the other team room 115, whose students had already had break. How wonderful are the ways of the Lord.

The second great thing was being able to meet Serah, the student I am sponsoring at the International Bible College. The first time I met her I knew we were kindred souls. We developed a special friendship during the week I was there and she is a wonderful blessing from God. It was so wonderful to meet her and I discovered that it had been her prayer to someday meet her sponsor. That day at church when I signed up to sponsor a student I heard the Spirit say, "Sign up to go to Africa. Do it! Do it." I tried to talk myself out of the notion at first but eventually I took a leap of faith and committed to go (with fear and trepidation I might add). When Serah told me that she had prayed that someday she could meet her sponsor, I told her you must have prayed very hard!! I also got to meet Serah's parents, who live and work at the college. They eagerly welcomed me into their hearts and thanked me greatly for the blessings they have received through my sponsorship of Serah. It was very hard to say goodbye to such a wonderful friend. However, I am already planning to go back next year and this time, hopefully stay for three months.

In closing I wanted to share some prayer concerns. 1) Please pray that the clinic at the college would be able to find a nurse or physician to work full time. 2) Please pray for wisdom as I consider going back for a longer stay next summer. 3) Pray for Paul and Lori Schlick as they serve over in Zambia that God would renew their strength and bring them the people they need to help relieve the burden of running the college all on their own in Zambia.

Thank you again for your prayers and financial support, which allowed me the opportunity to go to Zambia. God has done amazing things!!

Samantha Johnson