

Dear Family and Friends,

It has been an interesting two weeks. Last week our water started coming on at least at night and we were able to fill the tank back up after using the water during the day. We were really rejoicing. I heard that most people in town now have water again. There are no longer lots of people on the streets each evening going for water. Just as I was enjoying being happy that so many people now had water I was reminded of another problem. Mazambi, our day guard, and I went to the local market. Mazambi had a bottle of water I had filled up with boiled and filtered water from our house. It was a hot afternoon and I thought he would like to have something to drink on our walk there. We visited most of the way to the market. Mazambi is a deacon in one of our churches and he is the main youth leader so we had a lot to talk about. Because I cannot get a good price for vegetables I sent Mazambi to buy the potatoes while I guarded our bags. When he came back he told me that he was sorry about the water. I asked what he meant. He said that while he was waiting for the woman to count out the potatoes he remembered the bottle of water. He pulled it out of his pocket and took a drink. The woman asked could she please have a drink of that really good water. He answered her that it was just regular water like all the rest. She said no it was not. She could tell by looking at it that it was clean and good water. So Mazambi gave her a drink. She drank the entire bottle and then kept the bottle as well. Mazambi was sorry he had lost my plastic bottle. The woman told him she had never had such clean, fresh tasting water and told him he was blessed to be able to get some sometimes. So, now even though the people have water they do not have clean, fresh tasting water like we are all used to having. Clean water is such a blessing and it is one we often take for granted.

On August 27 Mazambi and I went to the church he attends, Bizamana. I had been asked to teach at a children's seminar. Elizabeth Baird was asked to teach with me but she woke up sick in the morning. Mazambi had assured me there would be plenty of people there to help. Last week he told me there would be around 100 kids from 3 different churches. Elizabeth and I prepared peanuts, bread, drink, and papers for that many children. Then I heard that Mazambi was worried there might be as many as 200 children. The women's seminar I was asked to teach at was supposed to have 30 women but only had 15. I decided to increase everything and prepared for 150 children. The seminar was scheduled to begin at 2:00 PM and finish at 5:00 PM. Mazambi and I decided to arrive at the church by 1:30 so I could make sure everything was ready before the children arrived. We got there right at 1:30. As we got out of the taxi I heard singing. When we opened the doors to the church I was amazed to see that the building was full of kids! They all started cheering and clapping as I came down the aisle of the church. It is a board church with a dirt floor. It has several rows of benches and every bench was packed with



kids! We began right away. It ended up that we had 384 kids that were counted and more came in after the count. I gave someone \$10 and sent them for more bread. Every child ended up getting a small piece of bread, a few peanuts, a drink of Kool-Aid and a piece of candy. They were thrilled. I taught about creation in one lesson time and about Noah and the ark in the second lesson time. I taught them to play Simon Says, which had them all laughing hysterically. The three children's choirs that came sang about three songs each. Thankfully they chose songs that all the kids knew so everyone was singing and dancing. It was a

sight to behold. It was 3 ½ hours of singing, praying, teaching, playing, eating, and fujo (chaos) I would not want to do it every Saturday but I would certainly like to repeat it sometime!

You all have been so kind to continue to pray for our water supply. Now that the water is back we are having electricity less and less. It is actually on less all around town. The water level is not low so we cannot understand why the power is off most of the time. It always goes off at 12:00 AM and stays off until at least 3:00 AM and sometimes does not come back on at all. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday we usually have electricity all day. Now it comes on but goes off several times during the day. This makes baking a bit difficult. Last Thursday I made three loaves of banana bread. While they were baking the power went off and did not come back on. The oven was on for about 35 minutes which is about 20 minutes less than the recipe says. I left them in the oven hoping the power would return so they cook a bit more. As it turned out they were edible, not as good as they should have been but still fairly tasty. It is all a guessing game. Please pray that the power at least gets back to normal and stays on all night so our refrigerator will stay cold.

Thanks you so much for your financial and prayer support. God continues to take care of us and we see his hand all around us. Love, Brenda