

MCC NEWS LETTER

On April 3, 2019, we (Ed and Cheryl) left Canada and headed to Kitale to visit Mercy and Caring Children's Home. We were hosted by Moses and Christine Arusa who graciously opened their home. Joining us were Herb Sinden, Pastor Matt Rowan and his son Eli.



It was great to see all the children again after a year. We enjoyed a new VBS called ROAR. The theme was "When life is wild - God is good." The VBS had Africa as part of its theme and setting. It was fun to talk to the children about their country, the continent of Africa and how awesome it is. They explored stories of the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt, how God set them free and looked after them in the desert. New songs were taught and the children enjoyed singing and dancing to the new tunes. We did something new this year and introduced the station "Spotlight Drama." The children were divided into groups and each day one group had their photos taken while they posed according to a script. These photos were put into a Power Point presentation. During the evening devotions, I showed the presentation. The children loved seeing themselves as the characters in the Bible story.



"I enjoyed the singing and dancing"

– Mercy, Ann, Noel, Ivyne, Betty and Valary



Eli Rowan assisted me with the VBS and was a huge favourite of the children. He helped with leading the actions to the new music and ran the Game station. Eli played Pharaoh on day 2 of the VBS and had the children laughing with his portrayal of Pharaoh and his various ways of saying "NO" every time the children called out "Let my people go." In his free time, Eli hung out with the children and teens, playing some football (aka soccer) and volleyball. He made some lasting friends and is looking forward to visiting MCCH again.

"My favourite VBS activity is the crafts"

– Reuben and Vivian



The children tried new crafts this year. They made a "crazy pencil" with felt and googly eyes, a large tissue paper flower, beaded bracelets and necklaces, a safari bookmark, and an African craft - paper bead bracelets.



"My favourite part of VBS is the Kid Story Videos" – Wycliffe

ROAR VBS included testimonies on DVD from children who live in Zambia. Their stories resonated with the children of MCCH. They heard from 5 different children who live in tough circumstances in comparison to North American standards. In one of the testimonies, a boy and his sister had to walk an hour to a neighbouring village to go to school after their early morning chores. The school they attend is a small room with a dirt floor and the teacher's lessons were being heard over a radio. At the end of this story, I asked the children what they thought about the children in the story. The MCCH children heard the struggles of the children and commented on how thankful they were for the school that they attend, their teacher and the uniform they get to wear. Each testimony helped the children see God's goodness in all things including when life is unfair, when life is scary, when life changes, when life is sad and when life is good – God is good.

"My favourite African animal is the Lion"

– Leventa, Grace, and Esther



It was a joy this year to bring the program's posters that have the Bible buddies, scripture verses, Bible story pictures and other cool African facts on them. These posters are a beautiful addition to the children's dorms and great reminders of what they learned during their ROAR VBS. We gave each child a booklet that had every Bible story in the VBS program. One more way for each of them to remember that God is good.



"Mungu ni mwema" in english, "God is Good"

I had fantastic translators this year. Lovina, Billy, Mary, Gensher and Abigail, all highschool students, helped translate English into Swahili. They also helped with the children during the different activities of the day. All the children were so attentive and respectful, which is a real testimony to the staff and manager of MCCH.