

OUR VISIT TO KINDWITWI

by

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[accompanied by her friend, Ruth Hastie-Oldland]

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As we drove down the bumpy road into Kindwitwi, with Mr Maulid and Mr Nguyu, we had no idea what to expect from the village. The sun was shining brightly as we arrived at the Guest House to be greeted by the always helpful and friendly cook, Frank, and our wise old watchman, Mr Kingaru. We discovered that the children (whom we had expected to teach while we were there) were in fact on holiday, so we would be spending many afternoons teaching adults instead.



Frank cooking our supper
and
Mr Kingaru clearing away



On that first afternoon, we explored the Village, getting to know our surroundings, visiting the

office, dispensary, kindergarten and ward and meeting many of the villagers, all of whom were very keen to talk

to us. The following day was our first of many adult lessons and we began teaching the adults some basic English – sentence structure and how to use verbs, adjectives and nouns and some general useful vocabulary. This curriculum developed throughout our classes until by the end of the two weeks, we were working on confidence with speaking (some of the pupils even making presentations) and doing short tests to make sure everything was clear.



Ruth making new friends

On the way home from the lessons, we would often pop into the village shop to buy ourselves some water (maji). Everything in the shop seemed remarkably cheap to us – all of it about 20p! Occasionally, we would treat ourselves to a Fanta before dinner that we would often share with the children.



Everyday when we arrived back at the Guest House, there would be a huge crowd of children who had gathered to play with us for the rest of the afternoon. The children were absolutely enchanting. Despite not being able to talk to them in the same language, we were able to communicate enough to learn all their names and ages. They would sing their traditional African songs to us and we would dance around with them for hours.



One evening, we went into the Village because we heard some noise and discovered that the children were having a 'movie night' where they were watching music videos projected onto the side of a building. Seeing the amazement and delight in their faces was magical.

We also took out things for them to play with. We had taken a bubble blower – just liquid and a small stick to blow through. When we showed them bubbles, they loved them – they really seemed to enjoy trying to catch them. We also played card games with them, some English and some African – and frisbee, catch with a tennis ball and balloons. The children were definitely a highlight of our visit and we were very sad to say goodbye to them.



For the mornings that we weren't teaching anyone, we visited Utete market where we each bought a kanga, some peanuts and a few scratch cards for our phone so we could let everyone at home know what we were up to. We also visited Utete Secondary School and were given a tour round the town (including the council building with its endless offices) and had a trip down to the Rufiji River with Mr Francis, a teacher from the secondary school.



We also visited Utete hospital, where we put up a plaque to show gratitude for a generous donation given to the hospital that was used for ward renovations. And that's me on the left with the plaque installed above.

So many of the villagers is hard to single out any But we should mention, fun. We were helping use her new laptop could make graphs and her with her communi- She was a regular visi- House and a very person to chat to, as helpful in explaining village and its inhabi-



Dafres and me - it wasn't all work!

were friendly to us, it particular individual. Dafres, friendly and her to learn how to properly so that she type faster, helping cation and teaching. tor to the Guest charming and funny well as being very things about the tants.



Dafres had also previously invited us to a party where her Women's Hope Group were celebrating their one-year anniversary. This evening was lots of fun; we spent our time dancing with all the women, listening to some speeches and eating delicious food.



Ruth with her younger friends



We had a brilliant stay in the Village, met many hugely interesting and friendly people. It was a truly eye-opening and rewarding experience and we hope that we managed to make a difference - perhaps even inspiring these young learners to work hard at their studies!