

KOBOKO KIDS June 2017 Coordinator Report

Greetings from Koboko! This month began with all the staff working on their various responsibilities in preparation for the coming team from River Valley. Since the rains are coming regularly the main compound and the gardens need constant attention to control weeds and plant veggies and crops. I constructed a raised bed in which to use the good fertile soil from the area around the clinic building where ground had to be leveled. Stones and bricks had to be removed and it was a tedious project, but the seeds for snow peas, eggplant, beets, several types of tomatoes, spinach and other seedlings are doing very well, and should bring some good fruit.

Collins arrived in Koboko on the evening of the 2nd in his vehicle. He was transporting the vision clinic equipment that he had gotten from DHL. Other big equipment, including the chair, were sent by KKT Cargo, and I picked them from the bus terminal in town. Collins stayed with us until very early Tuesday morning when he left with Tom Muzuro to go to Son Shine to visit our orphans there, since it is the beginning of the second term. He had many things to deliver, as some parents had brought items to the office to take to their children.

Work on the vision clinic building is wrapping up – it is now mostly plastering the outside of the building and installing the glass in the windows, as well as cleaning up the area. It is a very nice building and will serve well.

On 8th the RVCC team arrived in Entebbe after a long couple of days of air travel. They slept in Entebbe, and since they planned to fly Eagle Air to Arua, they had to wait until Saturday to fly according to their schedule.

Meanwhile, we were busy finishing up the last of the school uniforms that we were making for all the primary orphans. They were to come in uniform to the camp we were having on Saturday afternoon for all the orphans.

The RVCC team had requested that we have a camp while they were here, so we had contacted the children to come in the afternoon on Saturday after the team arrived from the airport. It was very nice to see the children in their uniforms, and a few were very happy to remove their torn uniforms to put on new ones we had made for them. Everyone enjoyed the camp, and the kids sang and sang for the visitors. As usual we served lunch, but it was special, because we had slaughtered a goat and cooked it, serving it with rice. There was also odilo and beans for those who don't eat meat. There was an excited atmosphere because of the visiting team from RVCC, and the children also received jelly and toothpaste with their soap to take home.

After we sent the children home, the team met with the staff to have a “refresher” for a couple of hours. Tom C. shared many things and gave us some information regarding finances in the future, etc.

The RVCC team stayed at a local motel in Koboko called Blue Dove. On Sunday they came to Hope Land to work on installing an antenna to help us with better reception for phones and internet. They worked hard on it, completing the job.

Sunday evening a dinner was arranged at Koboko Highway Inn for the team and the staff and their spouses. We had a time of sharing about ourselves as a way of introduction, and Tom C. shared more with the group.

Early Monday morning the two Toms and Sunday traveled to the Refugee Camp, Bidibidi, to prepare the pastors and others for the team which was coming in the van. The team and several of the staff members went together carrying the boxes of soap and 1,600 pads that they were taking to distribute through the churches we had contacted there. I was not there, but they reported many people around and good reception. The team distributed a few of the items, but left the majority with the pastors of two churches to give their ladies and girls. Afterward, Tom Muzuro received several phone calls giving thanks for the things they were given.

The trip was hard on everyone because the road is rough and it took more than two hours one way. But they made it and praised the Lord for the privilege of sharing.

In the evening another dinner took place at Delambiance for the team and many Municipal leaders, Board members, and Police Chief. I was asked to share all about KIDS in Koboko, then the invited guests began to share and ask questions. The biggest message from them all was that we need to have a school at Hope Land. They praised all that we are doing, including, of course, the new vision clinic, and they gave estimates of when we might get water and power from the municipality. It was a very nice time to mix up with these officials.

Tuesday morning we took the team to Arua to fly back to Entebbe. From there they were traveling to Iganga to spend time at Son Shine CHS and to visit other rescue units. Dr. Jeff stayed with us at Hope Land in hopes of receiving the last piece of equipment that was to come to Koboko on KKT Cargo truck. He waited until Wednesday evening, but the item did not arrive. So I took him to the airport to fly back to Entebbe Thursday morning, and we will get the equipment when it arrives in Koboko. He will come back another time in the future to set everything up and perhaps train someone.

Tuesday was also the day that Eliza gave birth to a baby girl. It was a struggle for both her and the baby, but we are praying for them to get strong.

After a good Bible study Wednesday morning, the rain came! We were very grateful, as plants were drying. It was a good rain that lasted most of the morning, and the staff enjoyed their tea in the office and had time to chat and sing songs together.

Rain came again Thursday in the early morning hours and continued most of the day drizzling. However, it did not hinder the trip to Arua to take Dr. Jeff to the airport to fly back to Entebbe.

Friday nearly all the staff went to town to do various things including picking up the last of the equipment for the vision clinic. It took four guys to lift the big piece, but everything fit in the back of the van. Then we all went to see Eliza and the baby, and found much improvement in both mom and baby. The baby, however, was still not suckling which worried me.

In the afternoon we had a good guardians meeting with about 40 guardians attending. We shared some advice on handling their children with love and respect when correcting them and disciplining them. We also emphasized the savings plan of bringing money each week to our office to be "banked" for their child's school fees. Most of the caregivers who came are keeping good watch on their children. There were a couple, however, who had issues. One caregiver, whom we had not known before, said she is the mother of our boy who was arrested for causing a riot at his school. He has been in jail for several months, and we had counted him as inactive in our records. Now this mother comes and asks if we can take him back and pay his school fees in a different school. We told her we would get back to her about the issue later. The other man normally claims we are not informing his children of the camps, but one of them always come. He wants us to pay school fees for his daughter who has failed two classes. He is respectful, but always complains. We served rice and beans to the group before they went home.

Saturday I worked on the compound, until I got a call in the afternoon from Tom Eleaza saying that their baby had just died. He called again a few minutes later asking if I could drive them to the village for the funeral and burial (Leiko village). Of course I did and another van also came to carry people, as there were many at the hospital. Our Mzee David was the programmer for the funeral as he is a Bible Teacher in the Leiko Church. There were many friends around to help, and Tom's mother was strong and able to take care of every necessary thing, including cooking food for all the people who came from near and far. They buried the baby right next to one of the houses. Eliza was very weak and broken, and was lying down in the house. Tom was moving around. Everything had happened so fast, but that is the way they do it here.