

DOUG & MARY-ANN HANNA

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Sakeji Happenings:

Well it would seem that our “winter” is here in full swing. Morning temperatures are dipping as low as 7 degrees Celsius and that combined with the wind make it feel even colder. We sometimes ask ourselves... didn't we move to Africa?? But by the time 11:00 rolls around the heat from the sunshine is starting to take effect and afternoon temperatures are still averaging between 27-31 degrees Celsius - quite a range!

A few weeks ago students were happy to take a break from schedules and classes and enjoy some free time. This is a 12 week term so we have two breaks, both are 2 days each. While it's not a break for the staff, the change of schedule is still nice. We have just passed the half-way point in the term. Students have received their mid-term marks and are working hard to make some changes. Some students were fortunate enough to be able to go home over the mid-term break. We'd stopped all in/out movement of students during the term on account of Covid but as restrictions are basically non-existent, they were able to resume this. This is usually only possible for families who live within a few hours of the school. The picture here is of some senior students who braved the cold for an early morning swim at the dam followed by hot chocolate.



This past week was an especially packed one. On Wednesday we celebrated all the birthdays from this term with an Oceans themed birthday party. The staff and students enjoyed a special dinner of fish (very special considering we never get fish here), decorated birthday cakes and skits, songs and a video presentation.



Then on Saturday and Sunday of this past weekend, Doug and I took the 8 grade 7-9 boys out for their overnight camping trip to “the cottage”. It’s a time away from the school for them to spend some special time together. It’s a beautiful spot as you can see and the weekend is usually very low-key but if you ask the boys, the highlight each year is almost always the food. This year was no exception with the



kitchen kindly putting together some “extra’s” for us. The place we go is on on the edge of a river and it’s cold for swimming but that doesn’t stop the boys. They enjoyed playing in the kayaks and tubes, then warming up around the fires. The two oldest boys led the group both Saturday and Sunday in a devotion, one on being a servant and the other on obedience. But now, back to reality..

Work is progressing on the new science classroom. It is one large room being added onto the existing building. The grey concrete beam on top of the brick walls poured last week. Then following this a sixteen foot suspended concrete beam inside was poured. Having never done one of these by myself, it has been adventure. An hour into the pour the concrete forms burst and it took all day to get it back together. The steel trusses are next and being welded up on site this week.



On our weekends off, we continue to work with those at a nearby assembly. Doug takes a young peoples meeting in the mornings before the gospel meeting. There seems to be some good interest so we are praying that the messages will be clear and it will be a time of salvation and growth. It has been encouraging to see some younger men stepping up to take part during the meetings and to take more interest in the things of God.

Prayer Items:

- We continue to pray for God's provision and wisdom with staffing. We are desperate for additional staff to help with the workload on an on-going basis.
- We would appreciate your prayers as we serve the boys in the dorm. Being parents to 36 boys there are always some problems that arise throughout the term. We prayerfully ask for wisdom to know how best to guide them in a loving and caring way as it is easy to feel overwhelmed and ill equipped with how to deal with it sometimes. Additionally, the time commitments required to be full-time dorm parents is a lot and we are prayerfully asking the Lord for some help in the dorm.
- The employees that we work with from the community. Life can be difficult this far in the bush. Pray that all of the devotions, discussions and day to day interactions would lead to salvation and growth. We also continue to pray for their practical needs as well.

Thankfulness:

- We are so thankful for you, for your prayers and practical care and practical support.
- The extra help that the Lord provided to get us over the hump in the term. It's been so encouraging to us.
- Safety for the recent truck that arrived with goods for the school. Goods from South Africa and within Zambia that were needed, especially for the kitchen and maintenance areas.