

Gambia Smile Team Update 22nd February 2010

Hebrews 13:6

“So we say with confidence; 'The LORD is my helper, I will not be afraid'”

It's been an emotional Roller-coaster for the SMILE team over the past week. Whilst we were adjusting to life without Auntie Marie, Timmy Townshend went down with Malaria. Thankfully we were able to forgive his inconsideration when we discovered that his treatment involved a series of injection to his hindquarters. Nevertheless, this was a stressful time for everyone (especially for Joshua who had to watch his darling Timmy suffer), as Timmy needed constant TLC. Matt and Olivia therefore had to work very hard and be very adult and responsible in making sure Timmy received the highest standard medical attention possible. Consequently, the rest of the team had to step up and work hard to keep house and put bread on the table in Auntie Marie's absence. Mercifully, Timmy recovered within a couple of days as predicted and the threatened airlift back to Blighty was not needed. This meant the team could have a much needed holiday down the coast at Boboi beach from Thursday to Saturday. This was intended as a surprise for George and Chris' birthday: they were certainly very surprised as they were bundled into a minivan at Ten o'clock on Thursday morning (George still in pyjamas); and we think they were grateful.

The few days away were a great opportunity for the team to enjoy God's creation, grow spiritually through hours of reading Christian books, get horrifically sunburnt and bond over and around a campfire BBQ: Joshua truly does have a talent for preparing meat. Some of the team even got the chance to sleep up tree houses, and drift off to the sound of the waves on the beach.

Meanwhile Auntie Marie has been steadily recovering in hospital. We were able to move her to a private room with en suite, where she has received better treatment and attention from specialists, and it has proved to have made a huge difference. We hope she will be back home with a few days.

Overall it has probably been the most tiring and difficult week we have had as a team together, but God blessed us by giving us the opportunity to go away together and relax, and we certainly feel that he has been looking after us, and has helped us every step.

Prayer Points

- Thank God that he has got us through the week in one piece spiritually and physically, and still strong as a team. Despite the angst there have been no major falling outs and Bible studies and seminars have still been able to happen and be fruitful.
- Thank God that Timmy is back to full health and hero status
- Thank God that Auntie Marie is improving, and ask that she would soon be fully recovered
- Thank God for making such a wonderful world full of beaches and sunshine for us to enjoy and giving us such a wonderful chance to discover it here in Gambia.
- Thank God that Chris, George and Joshua have *finally* cleaned and tidied their bedroom
- Ask that no one else would catch Malaria.

- That A who heard the gospel on Boboi Beach would come to Jesus.
- Prayers for schools:
 - Agape** – Give thanks for brothers and sisters at Agape, please pray that Liv and Johnny would be able to continue to build friendships with the children and the staff at school. Also that they might be able to use the daily commute to school to plant seeds.
 - Bakau Upper Basic** – Charlotte and George are struggling for ideas on how to attract pupils to their CU, the maximum attendance of which has been disappointingly low so far. Charlotte is also flying to Ireland for her Grandfather's funeral this week, pray that as George covers her lessons he would be able to juggle this increased work load well. Pray also for opportunities for Charlotte in Ireland and safety in travel.
- **Omega Training Institute (OTI)**. Pray that the students would be able to see that life is meaningless without Jesus as they ponder the meaning of life in 'General Studies'. Pray on for friendships too!
- **Glory Baptist Primary School**- Olivia and Fi to be able to befriend the security guard to find out his views on his faith and thanks for P a really helpful teacher who is encouraging.
- Pray for Joshua's sunburn to get better soon.
- Pray for a **Sunday School** meeting on Friday about the inclusion of Games in the session, please pray that the outcome would glorify Jesus, and the the gospel would not be made to seem dull, boring or academic.
- Pray for the team as a whole to prep their Sunday School lessons earlier in the week!