

| Date: Friday, June 26, 2009, 3:45 AM

Hey folks,

All is well. I'm in town for a week long HIV/AIDS workshop. We just finished today and I am just tying up some loose ends before heading back to the village. I am missing the village alot. All the volunteers(14) are staying in one house right now and there is just no privacy and peace. I miss how quiet and calm the village is.

In this workshop, all the volunteers brought their counterparts ( someone who they worked with and will continue their work after they leave) and it went really well. I brought a teacher from the school I work with. I am hoping to carry out some of the strategies, games (most people don't know how to read and write in the village) and techniques with the assistance of my counterpart in the community.

I'm still doing the same work.. teaching students at the Basic school (grades 1-9), teaching people how to make organic compost (also pesticide), and working with organizations to bring HIV testing and counseling to the community. Next month, I am trying to arrange for a HIV testing event which involves the school and even churches in my area. This time, I would like to arrange for a soccer game the same day. One thing I have learned is that Zambians love soccer and if there was a game in session this would draw people out.

To change the subject up a bit, I killed my first snake in Zambia. A week ago, I was walking to my neighbor's house for supper and saw a snake slithering on the ground. It was a small, black snake near my plants. Automatically I picked up a decent sized stick and started to hit it. The stick broke and then I proceeded to get another one and continue to hit the snake. That stick also broke and I picked up a couple of sticks and finally managed to kill it. Later on that night, I showed the dead snake to my best friend in the village and he stated that it was a mildly venomous snake, called ndele in Bemba.

In English, it is called a house snake. My best friend, Ba Don knew what type it was because a couple of years back, he was bitten by the same one and ended up in the clinic for 4 days. My main reason for killing the snake was because I didn't want it to bite anyone. Most Zambians don't have a flashlight and walk around barefooted at night, I didn't want it to harm anyone.

That's probably one of the most interesting stories I have so far since being in Zambia. There's been so many adventures and experiences. I am learning a lot.

Lastly, I am very excited to share with you I am expecting a visitor from America in mid-Aug. I am very much looking forward to sharing my experience in Zambia with him. We are going to stay in my village for a couple of days, travel to waterfalls a couple of hours away and maybe even go to Mozambique. I am looking forward to traveling more in Africa and will let you know of my future adventures.

Much love,  
Staci

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