

Hello again from Africa! I am finally settled in some and I started to work. I LOVE IT! The patients here are so loving and grateful. Work on the ward is much more laid back here than in the states. We are allowed to wear flip flops to work if we want (I don't, even though I would LOVE TO! The juices that I get on my feet sometimes though don't really appeal to me...) We start each shift off with a prayer and we end with a prayer, which is something that I am going to start doing at home because the effects are wonderful. It gives you a good boost and cheers you up in the morning, and when you are flustered at the end of the shift it calms you down. It is so revitalizing, and there isn't the rush to just jump into work run, run, run, non-stop. If we have time, instead of being pushed by administration to work on extra things, we can sit and talk with our patients, color with them, or like today I played catch with a little boy with a balloon made from a glove!

I will soon probably feel like a pediatric nurse; getting a lot of experience with that. They are the best patients though. Just today, Essie, who I took care of on Tuesday, caught me in the hall and tackled me with a hug. Every time I pass and she is there, I get wrapped in a hug for at least a minute. God is so good to the people here and you can really feel His presence in these patients. It is truly amazing!

I also spent my Wednesday night at an orphanage with Sarah (for those of you who also hear from Sarah Miller-Becker, this is Mama Vic's orphanage). We did a Bible study with the girls there and loved on some babies. Then I was introduced to a new game "lapas." It is kind of like dodge ball except there is one person in the middle and two people throwing a ball. The one in the middle though is busy matching everyone's shoes and lining them up while trying to dodge the ball! You have to see it, I laughed so hard! I am sorry to say that I am not very good at it either. ☹

I am still missing my mom's cooking and the woods and the hills and my dog, but it is getting easier now that I am working. I am trying new things. I have had plantain chips and cooked plantains (both of which are AWESOME!) Potato greens and rice...pretty good. Reindeer cheese from my Swedish roommate Emma, which was really good! She also gave me salt licorice which I had to spit out! I couldn't eat it! I had a grilled Cassava root from the market in town which was pretty delicious too! So I am broadening my horizons and making the most of my time here. I miss everyone at home!

Love
Emily

Ps. I will have more pictures next time!