

# Steeves' Summary #27: Knock, knock... "Come In!" January 2006



Mike and I would be the first ones to tell you we weren't given the gift of hospitality. On the Spiritual Gift Inventory, hospitality ranks somewhere in the middle of the scale. In other words, our strengths are generally in other areas. Mike and I will also tell you that the whole idea of dorm parenting seemed to be a misfit to our personalities since we are generally quiet, private people. The circumstances led us to become dorm parents, so we trusted that God would help us to become more hospitable.

I have received a few emails from friends asking me what a typical day as a dorm parent is like. I have been procrastinating to answer that question because we haven't had a "typical day" yet! We do see the students at times when parents would see their children during a regular school day. Weekend activities vary quite a bit. They can be the most challenging busy times and once in a while they are our quietest days. One thing that stays consistent is the door is always open!

I wake up the girls, then we see them before class, during lunch hour, after school, after supper and most of the evenings right until bedtime. They sometimes come to chat, need some advice, fix a minor health issue or emotional upset. They may want to do some baking in our kitchen, buy food from our duka, play a video game, watch a movie, or may just want company as they read their book. Not only is the door open 24 hours a day to the dozen girls, their friends and siblings come to visit. Parents often show up any time of the week and need to chat or need somewhere to stay for the night. As our outside door remains open most of the day, the two year old neighbor, Micah, makes his grand entrance into our apartment at least once a day to visit with our children. Even cats and dogs from the station make their way into our apartment from time to time. What a different life we have here! Only with God's grace we could have taken on this role.



## Blankets

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the blankets have arrived! We've donated a few of the quilts to the RVA Student Health Services. Head nurse Lillie was so excited to see the quilts, truly convinced that the extra color will make a difference to the recovering students of RVA. Two local women who work in the infirmary have helped us know the need of three families in the Kijabe area. Thanks to them, 2 families of AIDS orphans living with their grandmothers and an unemployed family with a disabled child have warm blankets at night. We've made initial contact with a small orphanage nearby who are connected to the Bannisters, former RVA missionaries. Parents of one of our dorm girls will be delivering more blankets to an orphanage in Tanzania that looks after infants and toddlers. Staff from Bethany Crippled Children's Centre will be coming by soon to pick out blankets for their facility. We are not short of connections here and it is quite exciting to see how things are unraveling!



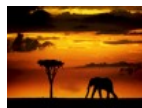
## A Note from Mike

The day after our last newsletter was "Titchie Water Field Day". Every January, during the warmest, driest time of year they have a day of water games for the elementary school. This very dry year, everyone was wet before the games began! It rained all day, a very unusual occurrence for January. One day of rain isn't going to change the drought situation, and many people are going hungry.

**Bernadine, Michael, Julianne and Evan**

You can see our previous newsletters on our [website](http://www.kijabe.org/mission2005) at [www.kijabe.org/mission2005](http://www.kijabe.org/mission2005)

Michael and Bernadine Steeves  
Rift Valley Academy  
P.O. Box 80  
Kijabe, Kenya 00220  
phone: 011-254-20-32046-101  
cell: 011-254-0735-317094  
[steeves@kijabe.org](mailto:steeves@kijabe.org)  
[www.kijabe.org](http://www.kijabe.org)



Africa Inland Mission  
1641 Victoria Park Ave.  
Scarborough, ON  
M1R 1P8  
(877) 407-6077 (Toll Free)  
[www.aimcanada.org](http://www.aimcanada.org)



Canadian Baptist Ministries  
7185 Millcreek Dr.  
Mississauga, ON  
L5N 5R4  
(905) 821-3533  
[www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org)



