

My Trip to Kenya

Blog of Matushka Marina Holland

Part 9

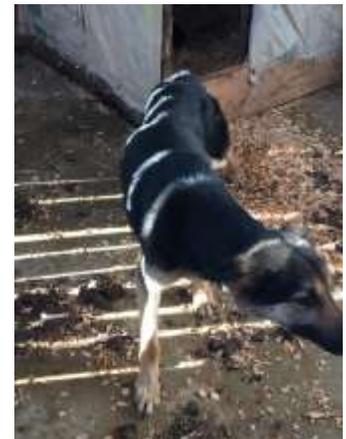
Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Thank God, I slept well again last night – except for an interruption in the middle of the night! The dogs started barking like crazy. Not like we hear them occasionally pretty much every night, but on and on, ferociously. And then there was a different sound. Perhaps like a big cat? Was it a leopard? We had heard that leopards occasionally come from the forest. FS peeked out the door – he wasn't about to go out there, because what if it *was* a leopard? What could he do with his bare hands against a leopard? But he couldn't see anything. So we went back to bed and wondered.

The next morning we learned that it was a mongoose. FM had gone out to see what all the racket was about, and discovered that his dog had cornered the animal in the far corner of the garden. The mongoose was petrified as FM came toward it with his torch (flashlight), shining the light in the animal's eyes; it was blinded and couldn't see. FM beat it with a stick, and it died. Had he not, the mongoose would surely have gotten into the hen house and killed all their chickens! In the morning, the mongoose still lay right there in the corner, with its beautiful pelt. FM explained that one carnivore will not eat another carnivore, so the dog did not eat it. When Blessings got home from school he would bury it. At breakfast little Panteleimon crowed that *he* had gone out in the middle of the night and *kicked* the mongoose and *that* is why it was dead! He also said that if the mongoose came back up onto the ground after it was buried, he would just re-bury it.



That was not the only event of the night: their other dog, a German Shepherd, had given birth to 7 puppies! Their arrival had been much anticipated, so everyone was very excited.



The fish last night was enough of a hit that they wanted it again for breakfast. So we had fish for breakfast! Then FM dropped me off at the school. Today I had *three* classes, level 5, then 1, then 3. In each classes I am using a world map to show them where countries and oceans are in relation to each other, at the appropriate age level, of course. We talked, as appropriate, about Earth, and continents and islands and oceans. We talked about forms of transportation: walking, bicycle, motorbike, bus, van, train, boat and finally airplane. Then I showed them the path we took to fly in three airplanes to get from Texas to Atlanta to France to Kenya. We talked about the snow we walked through to get to the plane in France, and the snow-covered mountains and the rivers and the villages we saw looking out the window. Since I had brought a book to read to them, we talked about fiction and non-fiction books, and authors and illustrators, and wondered if some of them might grow up to become an author or an illustrator, or a plane designer or builder or pilot. Then I read to them the absolutely beautiful book *The Princess and the Pea*, by Rachel Isadora, with such richly textured illustrations of the African prince seeking a princess. In it the potential princesses greet the prince with "hello" in various African languages! All this we managed to fit into 40 minutes! In the level 1 class the teacher translated sentence by sentence for me, since those children speak very little English. But by level 3 they speak English quite well.

After lunch I invited myself to the Level 5 and 6 classrooms, because I had letters I wanted to share with them from two girls at our home parish back in Texas. These classes have kids of the same age as the girls. They listened quite interestedly as I read the letters aloud, and looked in awe as I showed them the pictures. The teachers said they would provide paper for the children to write letters back!



Hello friend,

First, a big happy hello!

My name is Abby and I'm twelve years and in seventh grade. My biggest hobby is music. I can play three instruments but my favorite is the bass guitar. Do you have any hobbies? In school we are doing a project where we have to make a logo. What do you enjoy in school? My favorite animal is a hedgehog. They have little brown and white prickles all over it's back. My favorite subject is band. I play the French horn. It's the unknown instrument no one knows about, even I didn't! ;-)

I love band, the teacher is super awesome. What's your favorite subject? I can't wait to receive a reply.
God bless you,
Abby

Hi, my name is Sophie Norris. I am a member of the parish of Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church. I am 11 years old and I am in 6th grade. The hobby that I love to do is ballet which is one of the many styles of dance. At school I am a member of the band and I play the drums. I hope that we can become friends over time.

God bless,
Sophie



Another American food FM and Papathiya's kids were eager to try was ham, so they bought a package of sandwich ham. Papathiya asked how to cook it? I told her it was meant to be in sandwiches, or we could cut some up and put it in an omelet. Omelet? That was something new, too, so we decided to make omelets. We used eggs from their chickens and milk from Blessing's daily milk trip. We sautéed some onion and tomato and mushrooms, and put that along with the cut-up ham into the omelet. Again, thankfully, it was a big hit! I think ham sandwiches are planned for breakfast tomorrow!

The men left this afternoon for the funeral of Bishop Athanasios. I decided not to go with them. The thought of a 7-8 hour car trip on a bumpy road did not appeal to me, plus there were the children! I would miss them, and I think they would miss me! I just have a few days left here.

This File:

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