

H A B A R I L E O



IN KENYA EVERY PART OF HOME CONSTRUCTION IS DONE BY HAND. EXTREME HOME MAKE OVER IN 7 DAYS? NOT A CHANCE.

Lessons from a house built by hand

I'm not a builder by trade or training but I have had my share of building projects over the years. Houses, fences, decks, furniture, remodeling, you name it, I probably tried, or at least helped out on a project. I used power tools both industrial and personal. If I didn't have what I needed I'd run out to Ready-Rental and pick up whatever I was missing. Nearly every project involved the conveniences of modern ingenuity. In fact the last house I helped frame I don't think I picked up a hammer, I just wielded a gas powered nail gun. The only blister I got was on my trigger finger. In my experience I've never been part of a building project like the ones here in Kenya though. Everything is done by hand and nothing is standard. Every stone in the foundation and walls of the house is cut and shaped by hand by two men with cold chisels and hammers. All the boards for the trusses and stringers come in different sizes. If you want all your stringers to be 1x8 you have to cut some of them length wise with a hand saw to get them to be 8"; others you

have to add the bits you cut off to build them up to 8". Once you get the walls up you have to finish them to make them smooth and somewhat even. Then you lay out your electrical outlets and switches and begin chipping out the stone by hand to lay the conduit for the wire. Then you seal it all back up again. The most advanced piece of equipment on the site is a cement mixer if you happen to have one. We were fortunate enough to have metal scaffolding for the higher up work. Most sites here have to build their own with wood twine and nails. It's truly amazing to see the type of work that is produced via these means absent of all the conveniences of power tools and wooden frame construction.

At the beginning of our tenth year here at RVA, stepping out of one role and into another I am beginning to see the value of slow meticulous construction. Building a house like this is similar to building character in the lives of students. It takes hours, weeks, months chipping away all the rough bits and building up in them a structure of

godly character that will last for years to come. In our time here at RVA we've labored to build character in students in our dorm, our Sunday school classes, our teams that we've coached and now through discipline, training and correction. When I think back over my life as a teen and all the people within and outside of my family who helped build and frame up my life I look back with humility and gratitude. I doubt I would have said that at the time as much of my character building was painful, however in the end that's the way it had to be. Character building takes personal effort, time, and attention to detail. There is no convenient, quick, efficient way to produce character. It must be done by hand at the expense of yourself. In the end though, the results are never as polished as things manufactured but they are quality, unique and will stand for years to come.

Football Behind Bars

At the beginning of each term, RVA organizes an outreach day where students and staff participate in outreach events all around our area. Students and staff take part in many different events, from cleaning up trash alongside the roads in our community, to building rocket stoves for individuals, to playing with orphans to sports outreach. That's where I came in. This year I was asked if I would take my varsity soccer team to a nearby maximum security prison to play a game against some of the inmates. I agreed not fully knowing what to expect. When we arrived, we were met by one of the chaplains and escorted

WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH ABOUT 500+ INMATES AFTER THE GAME

into the prison facility. As we walked through the prison facility, we didn't see many inmates, only a few milling about. Finally we were led through a large gate onto the playing field. There along two sides of the field were 3,000 inmates all anxious for us to kick off. The game was hard fought and oddly enough some of the best officiating I've seen in 10 years. After the game we were surrounded but excited inmates eager to shake hands. Soon the crowd made its way over to our bench and formed a tight circle around us. In that circle two of my players were able to share their testimonies and the gospel with a captive audience, literally. We closed our time with prayer and singing. As we left, the inmates were begging us to come back for a rematch. We'll be back and next time we'll win.

THE TEAM AT



NAIVASHA



MAXIMUM



SECURITY



PRISON



Family Updates

Megan is off to third grade and she is enjoying her class, her friends, and her teacher. We are especially proud of her for her love of reading and how well she is doing in that area especially. **Lyndsey** started kindergarten this fall and also loves her friends and her teacher. She comes home and tells us every little detail about school! **Ian** is home with me, but is involved in a “Toddler School” once a week with other 3-year olds on campus, which there are actually quite a few this year!

The kids are all enjoying having **Grandma and Grandpa Hazard** only a 5 minute walk away from our house. They are volunteering at RVA for Term 1 until December. A blessing to have them so close for a while. **Jeff** is coaching Varsity Soccer this fall and enjoys the outlet of hanging out with students, outside of his office. **Joyellen** is enjoying being in a Ladies Bible Study. She is also teaching grades 1-3 P.E. and mentoring a junior girl once a week.



MEGAN

ON THE WAY HOME FROM BIBLE STUDY ONE NIGHT WE FOUND A HEDGEHOG IN OUR DRIVEWAY. THE KIDS NAMED HIM ROGER AND KEPT HIM AROUND FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS. HOWEVER ROGER WAS WILD AND MISSED HIS FRIENDS SO WE LET HIM GO. BUT NOT BEFORE HE SPENT THE DAY AT SCHOOL WITH THE GIRLS.



LYNDSEY

LYNDSEY STARTED KINDERGARTEN THIS YEAR. HERE SHE IS WITH HER TEACHER. SHE LOVES SCHOOL SO FAR AND IN MY UNBIASED AND COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE OPINION IS EXCELLING IN ALL AREAS ACADEMIC.



IAN

IAN IS IN TODDLER SCHOOL (A GLORIFIED PLAY GROUP) THIS YEAR. IF BY THE END OF THE YEAR HE LEARNS TO SHARE HIS LIGHTNING MCQUEEN CAR WITH THE OTHER BOYS THIS YEAR WILL BE A HUGE SUCCESS.

LIFE AT RVA



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Prayer and Praises

- **Pray** for Jeff as he adjusts to his new role as Dean of Men and for the Lord to grant him a “spirit of wisdom.”
- **Pray** for our new house to be done by Christmas, Lord Willing!
- **Pray** for our interactions with the students at RVA – whether it be mentoring, teaching Sunday School, coaching, disciplining, teaching, etc. – pray that we would show Jesus in all we do.
- **Pray** for our kids as they adjust to a new life out of the dorm, new friends at school and eventually a new house.
- **Praise** that Jeff’s parents can join us on staff for this term!
- **Praise** for a change of pace for our family.
- **Praise**, ADSL and wireless internet have come to Kijabe!