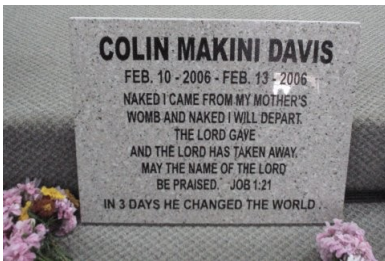


Steeves' Summary #28: In Three Days He Changed the World February 2006



Jeff and Kate Davis came to RVA the same time as we did. Jeff graduated from RVA in 1992. His father graduated from RVA in 1964. His grandfather attended RVA in its early days. This year is the one-hundredth year of RVA. At the "Centennial kick-off" program in October, they were asking who had parents who attended RVA and who had grandparents who attended RVA. When they asked if there was anyone in the fourth generation attending RVA, Kate stood and proudly pointed to her extended belly.

Three days after his birth, Colin unexpectedly died in his sleep. The community of RVA, Kijabe, AIM along with many others was in shock. The tight community felt as if a part of the body had been taken away. The "Celebration Service" for his life was an incredible testimony of faith and the belief that God was sovereign and had blessed them with a few days of life. It was a testament to God's grace that Jeff and Kate could turn such a tragedy into a celebration of praise for the short life of their small baby.

We have walked through the cemetery at Kijabe and seen the number of infants who have died in the community. Over the years many missionaries have lost children, some which could be blamed on Africa, others not. Even at the Celebration service there were 10 to 15 couples who stood when asked who had lost infant children.

God sometimes calls us to give that which is most precious to us. It is our response to the happenings in life which truly shows character.



Blanket Update: A week ago we were invited to go to the Little Lambs orphan center above Kijabe. Although the orphans live with their remaining family, relatives, or others in the community, they come to the center for lunch and after school. Some of them take naps and we thought that giving some blankets to stay at the center would be appreciated. We arrived with our guide, and were treated to an hour of recitations, songs, and scripture from the orphans. The quilts filled with colourful pictures were shown to them one-by-one, becoming an English lesson as the children called all the objects out in unison. When they came to one quilt of sheep their teacher Gladys started pointing to them and naming all the "Little Lambs", much to the delight of the children! Gladys asked how many blankets there were, when told there were 20, we could see her face drop in disappointment.

She told us that many of the children did not have blankets to sleep under at home. The next day we were going to Nairobi, and dropped off 60 warm, knitted blankets at the center, one for each child to take home.

Midterm: It is hard to believe that the middle of term two is here already! This break was shorter than last term and we were late planning.



We ended up at an Anglican retreat center on the way to Nairobi. It was a beautiful, calming place with gardens and birds. The kids hadn't left Kijabe since December, so we took them to the Safari Walk to see and learn about various local animals. We also went to the Giraffe Center where we could see the endangered Rothschild Giraffe up close, and even feed them! We managed to mix rest and new experiences, and returned somewhat ready to face the 24 hour a day job of dorm parenting again.

Drought: We hear reports that this is the worst drought to hit Kenya for 40 years. I was asking our workers at tea time if the drought was having much effect on people here. Sarah told us that she had a hard time getting to sleep because the six children under the age of 8 living next to her were crying from hunger. Their father left them and they had not heard from him for some time. Sarah was saying to her husband that they had to try to do something to help. It is always shocking to hear stories like that, but we know that they are not alone. We were able to provide some food, but it is a much larger problem than that one family. North East Kenya is normally dry, and the drought is causing severe famine. Please continue to pray for rain, and consider giving to help those who are hungry and have nowhere to turn. [The Sharing Way](#) is an excellent choice of an organization to give through as all donations will go to the destination, often with matching funds from government.

What does our view look like from Kijabe? I set up a camera looking over the Great Rift Valley towards Mt. Longonot, an extinct volcano. Take a look at <http://kijabe.org/longocam> to see what things are like right now. You might see more in the early morning or late at night as we are 7 hours ahead of New Brunswick time.

Blessings.

Michael, Bernadine, Julianne and Evan

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