

African Leaders of Tomorrow

Newsletter Two ,
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ALOFT

AFRICAN LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from seven weeks in Tanzania. For the first time, I was able to meet and get to know all eleven of our ALOFT kids. I can't say it was an easy trip because I find the heat pretty challenging, and most things are difficult to do in Africa, at least by western standards.

But I was able to do what I wanted to do – get a good feeling for who the kids are and see where I could make a contribution to the basic work of looking after things that Randal does all the time. For a period of two weeks I played my role as Treasurer/ Accountant pretty intensely because it was new school term time and school fees had to be paid (not a straightforward matter by any means).

Another major task was buying school supplies for all the kids and daily living supplies for those who board at their schools. We were up to our eyeballs in things like mattresses, laundry soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, notebooks, pens, pencils etc.. I don't know how Randal has handled it on her own in the past, especially when she has been working full time.

Actually, I do know how she has done it. She has had a lot of help from our older kids, and I had the same help while I was there. They have been trained by Randal to take a lot of responsibility for themselves and for the younger children. What a relief it was, after 30 minutes in line at the bank and facing at least another hour , to hand off to Robbie the task of paying school fees for him and Fortunatus . The schools will not take money directly because everything is done with cash and it is too dangerous to handle.

One of Randal's goals from the beginning has been to teach the children to pass on what has been given to them. Having received, it is your obligation to give. She calls it "paying forward" , from her business training, and it is our goal to eventually have our graduates contribute to and run our little organization.

Next winter I will go again. All the kids can use extra tutoring in English and a few of them, who have had some trauma beyond losing their parents, can also use some counselling. My friend Dave came with me this time and he helped out with his skills as a counsellor. Is there someone out there who would like to come along and see what kind of contribution you can make ?

In the meantime, please consider donating some cash. See Newsletter One for donation options.

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