

Hi everyone -





Things are going very well! Here are some pics of my apartment and the University. I've been going to my office at the University every day, meeting more faculty and administrators. I spoke briefly to 100 incoming freshmen at the Mindset Training that is required of all new students. There was much talk about the students making good choices, the function of the heart and ultimate goals of happiness, and how by succeeding they bring success to the nation of Kenya. They emphasize reading books because by reading a book they are "capturing the minds" of learned people who can guide them. In fact the presenter talked about textbooks which have gone through the peer review process being especially valuable because the students are then "reading the minds" of five successful and learned people. I have never introduced a textbook to students using that frame - but I might when I return to CSU!

Classes were supposed to begin this week but my first class won't be until next week. It's supposed to go 4 - 6 pm and I've been told to ask the students what time they want to start class. A little different than home! I'll also be supervising the campus counselor at the Dispensary and doing a little clinical work, seeing students and staff for counseling too.

One of these pictures is an example of the lunch served to me in my office! I'm expecting to learn tons more from my students once classes get going. Joshua just arrived from the U.S. last evening and so my other administrative activities will become clearer as we start talking about what he has in mind for me to do. It's a very reflective, slow-paced, kind and heartfelt environment.

Some of the most interesting things I'm learning about Kenyan culture are coming from my drivers, who are very conversant about life in Kenya and curious about life in the U.S. The drinking age for hard liquor is 18 and drunk driving is a problem here but only at night. The rest of this information is my interpretation of what I've heard from various individuals so take it with a grain of salt. The gender roles are pretty rigid, and women who work are still expected to keep their husbands happy and cook well. There is little if any divorce, and polygamy is legal. Wives come with a dowry and domestic violence is common and legal. If there is an unhappy marriage, a wife makes it her business to find another wife for the husband so he will move to the new household. In cases of multiple wives, the husband typically has a weekly

schedule of which house on which day. Sometimes wives intentionally find additional wives on the other side of town to get as much distance as possible from the unpleasant husband.

The practice of FGM (female genitalia mutilation) is common in areas away from the city. Apart from the horror (*my* perception) of the procedure itself, many girls bleed to death or contract AIDS in the process. Not all Kenyans agree that it should be done and in fact, administrators at KCA have “rescued” (their word) a few girls from those communities and brought them to KCA for education and a way out of the oppression. Apparently some other Universities are also sponsoring some girls in this cause all well.

That's what I've got for now...

Hope you all are staying warm!

best,

kathie