

Malcs News

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MDT April 2014

I know I said in my previous newsletter that I'd share the outcomes of the Inside Out module - I think the outcome will come during my life. I'm still working through the Inside Out module, but the key things are that I discovered that I had relational, trust and boundary issues to work through.

The Lesotho Rural Outreach

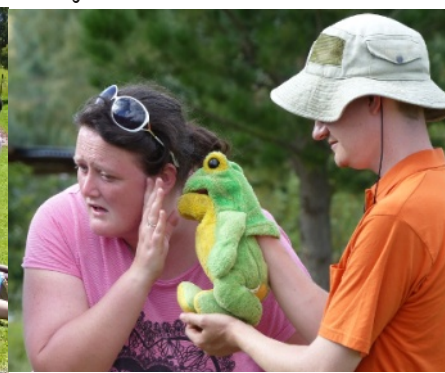
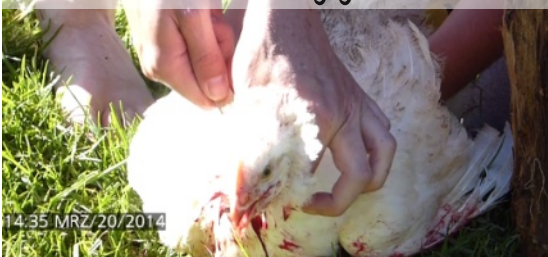
Waking up on Wednesday morning at around 02:00 to get to the dining area at 02:30 was no easy task. The amusing part was that we left the base at approximately 03:30! The ride to the border was long and cold especially through the fog and as the combi-door allowed the cold wet air to rush in. I unfortunately sat next to the hole which I tried in vain to close. I had luckily packed some warm clothing with me.

Delays at the border caused us to be late in arriving in the different villages. The village assigned to our team was called Ha Malesapana. As we were coming into the village, we saw one child tapping his wrist. Almost every child in that village followed the combi till we got to our destination! By the time we had our four tents set up it was dark and so we prepared supper by torch light. The boys decided to sleep in two tents - we regretted that decision in the morning, as we all felt the cold! For the rest of the two weeks we all slept in one tent. The view in the morning was beautiful. We were blessed to be living for two weeks in the garden of the village chief's widow who said we could call her Mama instead of her full name, Mamakhabane. We had access to running water, a bathroom and a kitchen with a fridge and stove, but we decided to live outside and appreciate rural living. We filled up two 25 litre water containers, used the long drop, had bucket baths, and did almost everything else on the fire!

I had volunteered to be the caterer for our team before we left the base. My task was to make sure that all our kitchen supplies and tents were packed into the trailer. After we arrived and unpacked the "kitchen", I divided the supplied food into good portions and made sure that the food was not wasted or consumed before it was meant to be. A good humorous example would be when I kept the hot chocolate for the off-day out of the team's hands until that great day. They even tried to find it the night before, but they failed to check the tent bags!

I was more excited for the door to door visits than for the children's program. For some strange reason I was afraid of the children when we interacted with them in the afternoon when we first arrived. The children's program was run a few meters in front of our tents after lunch. I soon found out that the ministry with the children was far better than the door to door ministry in the mornings. I saw from this that I'm better suited amongst children.

I killed both chickens!
(I was begged to...)



We had two weekends in Lesotho. For the program on the first Saturday Sibu and I were a clown for 30 minutes and then I helped with the crafts. We prepared for 40 children, but in the end all 46 sheep hand puppets and 30 cut-out hands were used! For the program on the second Saturday, we were not informed that a large portion of the children would be at an athletics day. So Sibu and I ran around the village dressed as clowns to collect only a few children. By the time we came back to the hut to change out of our clown outfits, we were absolutely exhausted and literally collapsed on the floor! We both agreed to write a letter to Dodo, "Dear Dodo, You said nothing about being fit to do clowning. Yours sincerely, Clowns Sibu & Males."

I'm glad that I brought my puppet Fred to Lesotho. The children loved Fred and didn't realize that I was talking for Fred. I had thought that my ventriloquism and puppet skills would not be used in ministry - I was wrong! Fred featured in most of the ministry that we did for the children.

On the second Saturday night I dreamt something about choosing the correctly baked cupcake and because I chose the one baked best, I was asked if I would accept the position to lead the kitchen team. I remember being able to choose and so I chose to accept the position. On Sunday morning I was quite amused about the dream and laughed at such a possibility. I had no idea that I was going to be a kitchen team leader back at the training base.

After the Lesotho rural outreach I was informed that I would be the kitchen team leader for team number 8 which is the smallest group of 6 including myself. The role is not only for leading my team in the kitchen, but I'm also responsible for lock-up of the lecture hall & kitchen area, library, computer room and office. The night before my team's kitchen duty I need to lock-up at 21:30 and then wake up early to ensure that the lecture hall & kitchen area is open by 06:15, and the office, computer room and library are opened during breakfast. The following day we have bathroom duty.

We were treated to a week long break while the MDT leaders went on the OM retreat. I went to Heinrich's house which is within a game farm. I wrote a blog about that experience on www.pilchards.co.za. It was difficult to accept that when we returned from our break on Saturday, Sunday would be back to the usual schedule. On Monday we began lectures to prepare us for our next outreach to the inner city of Pretoria in May.

During the practicals I was given more opportunities to drive the John Deere lawnmower. It is so noisy that I can talk out loud to God without the fear of anyone hearing me!

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; We are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)

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