



Africa Update
Monday 12 March

Hi All

Guess What?

Monday was a public holiday here too. National Youth Day.

Everything is going well.

Yesterday was a big church day. I did a tour of three of Medson's branch churches doing a short message at each one before ending up at Medson's home church and preaching there.

As I arrived at the first church, I was quite emotional at finally being in a church to minister. My first two messages were very "Australian" but by the time I reached the third church, I had switched to Africa mode. This was good b/c I was in Africa mode by the time I spoke at Medson's church.

After a generous lunch at Medson's house, I was off to teach for an hour at Medson's bible college. Then I was whisked away to give a short message at a wedding at Medson's church. That was definitely something unexpected and new and I found out that African weddings are far noisier and active than our weddings. The formal parts of the wedding were quite solemn but b/t the formal parts people would jump up and dance whilst they played music. Then they would sit for the next solemn part before jumping up again. Each time they jumped up they would be a bit wilder. The young bride and groom were very solemn and never danced. I think they were quite overwhelmed!

At the cutting of the cake, which was sitting on 4 upturned drinking glasses, a young girl did a very acrobatic dance with the knife before handing it over for the cutting. Fortunately, no one got injured with all that knife waving. Not to be tried at home! The cake was cut in big portions which were then presented to the grandparents and parents by the bride and groom. It was all quite sweet. The service ended with everyone dancing to the front of the church and laying gifts before the seated bride and groom. A nice touch! My wedding sermon was very average as you can imagine but no one seemed to care. Everyone was just happy and excited.

I was exhausted after all of this and the heat and ended up going to bed at 7.30 pm and having a very long sleep till morning.

Tomorrow, I'm off to Kitwe where I want to eventually set up. On Saturday I spoke to a guy from there called Bill who runs a street kids outreach. He has said I can lodge with his team at a place called 'mission house' in Kitwe. This is a great relief b/c there is no really cheap accommodation in Kitwe. Now Medson has to find some accomm there which I'm sure he'll manage well.

Bill runs 'Beautiful Gate' (the kid's outreach ministry) which I think is a ministry of YWAM.

I'm having a great time and I don't think this is going to change.
By the way, my vectra is still for sale if anyone wants to buy it.
Go to www.carsales.com.au and put in vectra and "international". It's being sold privately by Mal who lives in Mitcham. The car is a bargain as the price has come down.

That's it for now.
More from Kitwe.

Lots of love and blessings
Mike

P.S. I hope my emails get through to you all. Drop me a line so I know you are getting them. Cheers