

Kaitlin SMITH
MISSIONARY TO UGANDA



Jesus Bread

I was preparing for a weeklong trip to the furthest clinics when I had a craving for a taste from home. I decided to whip up a batch of delicious ooey-goey chocolate chip cookies. The perfect snack to take

along with us for the trip! I decided to leave half the batch at my house for my guards to enjoy and to take along the other half for my driver and myself. We were a couple days into our trip when I asked my driver if he had communicated with my guards back home to see how they were doing. Henry responded, "Yes, madame, I spoke with them and everything is so wonderful! They told me to thank you madame for this WONDEFUL Jesus bread that you have given to us!" Henry explained that they had never eaten a chocolate chip cookie before nor had they ever seen anything like it. One guard said, "I tried to explain to my wife what this thing was that I ate and I don't have anyway to describe it other than that it is Jesus bread." Another guard said, "Madame, The next time you make this Jesus bread, you must show me how to make it! Their pure joy and excitement was fun to watch.

As I reflected on this, it struck me that we, as Christians are the "Jesus bread" of life. There are people in the world who have never seen or experienced anything like a relationship with Christ. When we, Christians, are salt and light to the world, people will taste our goodness and want more. They will want to know how we "make" the goodness that flows from us. They will want to know what the secret ingredients are. They will be so overcome, so excited about experiencing it, that they will want everyone they love to taste God's goodness.

Do you live in a mud hut?

(and everything else you have wanted to know.)

So Kaitlin you live in Africa.... Is your house like.. a mud hut? No. I live in Kampala, the capital city, where there are some houses that are quite nice! My house is located near Heritage, an international school, so that I can be close to a community of teachers and staff that are around my age. The place that I am renting has a cute little backyard and a wall that encloses the compound.

Do you have electricity? Yes. However, occasionally I have power outages that last up to 6-8 hrs at a time. Luckily I have a gas stove, so I can still cook, and a solar charger for my phone.

What about air-conditioning? No. But the temperatures here range from upper 80s in the day, down to the mid 60s at night. So it's usually cool at night when you are trying to sleep. Plus I have a fan by my bed in case I'm feeling hot.

Do you go to that bathroom... outside? Those outdoor toilets you are talking about, those are called latrines. And to answer your question, yes, I use them, BUT only when I am traveling to the village. At home I have the porcelain throne.

What do you eat? At my house I can make almost any recipe from back home. I may have to go to four different grocery stores to find what I am looking for, but I can usually find it-With the exception of a few things like nuts, relish, and chocolate chips.

Local Ugandan food consists of rice, beans, matoke (boiled or steamed mashed green bananas), chapati (the African version of a soft tortilla), one or two chunks of meat a little bit smaller than the size of a golf ball, posho (sometimes called ugali; fine white corn flour is mixed with water until it stiffens into a dough consistency), and mandazi (their version of a doughnut). I eat these items when I'm staying in the village.

What is something interesting or funny about the culture you live in? When I was on a trip to the village, I stayed at a local pastor's house. They made dinner and started bringing dish after dish of food into the living room. Then they disappeared outside and I thought they went to get the rest of the food, but they were gone for over 15 minutes. Finally, one of them peeked back in and said, "What is the matter? Is there something wrong with the food?" "No!" I said. "I was just waiting for you guys to start." "Oh no," She replied. "We could never eat with our dear visitor. We must leave you alone to eat. That is what you do for your most honored guest."

Do you feel safe? Absolutely. I have a day guard and a night guard that stay at my house and I have a driver that travels with me everywhere I go. Uganda's government is very stable right now and has been for a long time. I can travel anywhere in the country and feel free of worry or concern. Ugandans love Americans and want to make you feel special and at home.

Do you like it there? YES! When you know you are doing what God has called you to do, it is quite possibly one of the best feelings in the world.



Food shown above from left to right: matoke with G-nut sauce and greens, posho with beans, chapati, mandazi



Picture inside a latrine.

Work Groups

We have been blessed with several work groups while I have been here. We had a group from Busti, New York, doing eye glasses clinics and a group of nursing students from Anderson University.

The eye glasses group was an *AMAZING* ministry outreach. People who were never able to see or who hadn't seen for years had sight. I couldn't help but thinking that this must be what it felt like for the disciples when Jesus healed the blind.

It was wonderful to spend time with the Anderson nursing students. It was that trip my senior year of nursing school when I came to Uganda for the first time and felt the call into missions.





Pictures from the eye glasses group

Funny Moments

Watch a Baboon Jump On My Car



How to Get In Touch With Me



Many people have asked, "How do I get in touch with you now that you are overseas?" The best way to get in touch with me is through WhatsApp. I am still using my US number on WhatsApp, so I will be very easy to find. Through WhatsApp you can call, text, and video chat all for free when you are connected to internet.

Praise & Prayer

-Praise. For the wonderful relationships I have begun building with clinic staff.

-Praise. For God finding the perfect driver and guards to be with me.

-Praise. I am thankful for my team that meets with me monthly to make sure I'm on task and on target with my vision and mission in the clinics.

-Prayer. That God would continue to give me wisdom and guidance as I lead this ministry.

-Prayer. That church and individuals would want to partner with upcoming clinic projects like building a lab.

-Prayer. That God would continue preparing a team of Ugandan leadership within the clinics.

To partner financially with Kaitlin, visit www.chogglobal.org/ksmith or call Global Strategy at 1-800-848-2464. Kaitlin's project number is 42.10080.



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