

# KEDESH MOZAMBIQUE

*Heathers update-April 2025*

## Comings and going's

Hello to everyone and greetings from a still hot and humid Mozambique! Please forgive my lack of newsletters over the last few years! I'm going to attempt to get back into the habit :)

At the beginning of the year we said goodbye to Francisco and Elton as, all grown up, they moved out of kedesh. Thankfully we will still see a lot of both of them as Elton is continuing to work for us this year, guarding our herd of cows during the day whilst studying 10th grade in the evenings and Francisco is also temporarily working for us to earn some money whilst he prepares for higher education. For those of you who know Francisco, you will be aware that he is an incredibly gifted artist and as we have been unable to find a suitable art course in Mozambique, we are pursuing an opportunity for him to study art at a university in Portugal. The application process has involved a lot of paperwork and running around and it is still not complete! Please pray that Francisco will be accepted to study and that all the other factors making it possible will fall into place, such as getting a visa and the needed finances, and for Elton as he studies 10th grade and works this year.



As is often the case, not long after Francisco and Elton moved out we had 3 younger boys move in! Joaquim (11), Mateus (7) and Max (6) were transferred to Kedesh from the Government infant orphanage in town in early February, in time to start the new school year and have been settling in well to Kedesh since they arrived. All three do not have any known family and Joaquim and Mateus have extra challenges. Joaquim was born with a cleft palate and then suffered a lot of physical and psychological abuse from the person he lived with after his parents died. Because of the birth defect and abuse, Joaquim has had 3 surgeries on his face over the last 3 years, which has left him with facial scarring and disfigurement. Despite all he's been through, he is a polite, friendly boy who has quickly made friends at kedesh and now laughs a lot! Mateus was born with Arthrogryposis that affects both his hands with a thumb-to-palm deformity. He is very determined and has managed well despite his disability. Since coming to Kedesh we have managed to have a consultation with a paediatrician who thinks a surgical option to correct the deformity is possible. Mateus will consult again with a paediatric surgeon later this month. Please pray for Mateus and this process.



## Visitors

This year we have been blessed with many visitors to Kedesh. First Patrica, our friend from Switzerland came to spend a month with us from December to January. After Patrica we had our friend Paula from the states visit us for 3 weeks, and then we had Samantha and Fiona from my home church, South Kent Community Church come and visit (Samatha for a month, Fiona for the last week of Samantha's month). We can sometimes go a long time at Kedesh without having any visitors so it was a huge blessing to have so many visitors this year already, each making their mark and impact on life at kedesh. Just to mention a few things (there are too many ways to mention them all!). **Patricia** is part of an association in Switzerland that supports some of our former kedesh boys, plus a couple of girls from our local community, study at university. Visiting Kedesh gave her the opportunity to check on these students and spend time with them. Patricia's also a keen runner so she invites the boys on her evening runs and both our young and old boys enjoy the challenge!



**Paula** brought a lot of craft materials with her and had a lot of fun, arty projects for the boys to try. She encouraged Francisco with the pursuit of his dream to study in Portugal by having 10 commissions for him to do that she got from friends before she came in support of his studies. We were able to celebrate with Paula on her birthday ( or close to it as we got the date slightly wrong!) with a big cake which went down really well!



**Samantha** was quickly popular with the younger boys as she helped them with the everyday tasks they had to do, like washing their clothes as well as the fun stuff like making cakes. She challenged some of the older boys to games of chess and completed a mural on one of our walls. **Fiona** was only with us for a week and had had plans to teach the boys how to use a sewing machine. In true Mozambican style, the sewing machine we bought didn't work properly and had to be sent back so Fiona was unable to carry out plan A. But Instead she worked super hard on setting up spreadsheets for us to use on our google drive so we can keep better records of the boys and our staff. This will make a big difference to us here and has also inspired me to attempt this newsletter on my iPad today-thank you Fiona! Myself, Fiona and Samantha also had a lovely afternoon one day meeting

up for coffee and cake with 4 of the girls from the community who are being supported to study at university.



## Other news

The big rains this rainy season took a long time to arrive which meant that in January Kedesh was looking very dry and we were having to ration our use of water as our well was running low. Thankfully though, just in time, the big rains finally arrived and there was a lot of celebration here at Kedesh and in our neighbourhood!



We recently had a visit and inspection from the local authorities. These visits happen every 6 months or so and are usually very stressful and discouraging for us with lots of negative and critical comments being made about us and Kedesh. This last time however, we had a very different experience with the two people who came taking the time to talk to us and get to know how Kedesh runs and as a result the whole experience felt a lot more positive than usual! The lady in charge on the visit even commented to John at the end that she sensed the presence of the divine at Kedesh! Amen! Hopefully future visits will continue to be collaborative and will no longer be so anxiety provoking for us. Thank you to everyone who prayed before the meeting.

# Prayer Requests

- Recently we've had to dismiss one of our employees as he was caught stealing. Despite this, he believes he should be given a big pay out that employees have the right to if they are made redundant without any wrong doing and has taken his case to the department of labour. So we are in the process, with the help of a lawyer friend, to put our case forward. Please pray that this process goes well and is completed quickly.
- Francisco needs prayers to successfully complete and submit all the documents that are required to apply for a place to study art at the university in Portugal. Also to be accepted and then everything else that needs to happen before he is able to go, such as applying for the visa to study and ensuring he has all the finances he needs. It's definitely a faith journey for Francisco!
- Please pray for the 3 new boys to continue to settle in well at Kedesh and in particular for Mateus and his next appointment with the paediatric surgeon.
- For continued good health amongst us all and safety. There's been several months of politically motivated protests and riots in various areas of the country, but recently things have been a lot more peaceful with the opposition parties beginning to dialogue with the current Government. May it continue!

## Thanks

Thank you to you all who continue to take interest in us and pray for us so faithfully. We at Kedesh are so grateful for all your support. I personally have experienced the help, protection and grace of God in my life through the challenges and the highlights of the past few months. May you all experience the peace of God this Easter.

***Shalom!***



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