

# Kenya

From here to  
the nations.



Bay Area 2023  
Student Team

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# Team Profiles

# Karley (me)

Hi, my name is Karley and I am so excited to be sharing about my trip with you! I have always had a heart for missions and since I was about 5 I have wanted to go on a mission trip to Africa. This was my first international mission trip and my first time out of the country ever. Through this journal I hope to share with you what I saw, learned, and did while in Kenya but first, I would like you to meet the team!



# Shawn

Pastor Shawn is the missions pastor at Bay Area Community Church. He has a wife and three kids and he has a gift for finding God in all situations. He lived in South Sudan for a year as a long term missionary. I loved seeing a different side of him other than the pastor we only see on stage, we nicknamed him cool pastor.



# Michelle

Michelle is the events coordinator for Bay Area Student Ministries. She is recently engaged and will be married soon. She has been on mission trips to Uganda, Belize, and last summer she was on the trip to West Virginia with me. She was in charge of planning the VBS we did with the kids and she taught us some fun songs we sang with them.



# Reed & Ginger

Reed and Ginger were two of the adults on our trip and they have both been to Kenya 5 times now. They have a son named Grady, who was also on the trip, and 2 dogs. They have both experienced a lot in their lives and they brought a new level of experience to the team. Fun fact, we called Ginger Tangawizi, which means ginger in Swahili but it also means bandit.



# Morgan

Morgan is going into her third year of college and she is currently on the path to become an English teacher. She spent about a month in Lebanon and she is currently an intern for Bay Area Student Ministries. After the first few days Michelle passed off the task of leading the VBS to her and she did a great job! She was also the only one to get peed on during the trip!



# Grady

Grady is 18 and he just graduated high school. His parents are Reed and Ginger and this was his 4th time to Kenya. He was the photographer on our team and if you ever needed something to be fixed, he usually could find a solution with something on his belt. He was also our designated late night DJ.



# Isabella

Isabella is also 18 and just graduated high school. She is planning on going to medical school and this was her first time in Kenya. She loves to ask hard questions and have deep conversations which made our long bus rides interesting. She worked with the youth in the village a couple times and she seemed to really connect with them.



# Ethan

Ethan is also 18 and he just graduated high school. He plans on taking a gap year and doing an internship and he was one of the three photographers we had on the safari. He enjoyed playing some version of soccer in the villages and he loved to vibe to Grady's DJ-ing. He added a humorous personality to the team and he made everyone laugh.



# Riley

Riley had a birthday while we were on the trip and she turned 17, so she will be a senior next year. She is currently an intern for Kids Ministry at Bay Area and she wants to become a preschool or primary education teacher. She loved working with the kids and she brought a lighthearted personality to our team.



# Abby

Abby is 16 and going into her junior year of high school. She got baptized on Sent Student Sunday in BASM when we got back from the trip! She also loved to work with the kids a lot and she especially loved the bubbles. She brought a wonder to the trip and would point out small things no one else notices.



# Logan

Logan is also 16 and going into his junior year of high school. Like Grady, Logan is a techy person and was the third photographer for us on the safari. There were more than enough jokes made by the Americans and the Kenyans about his height to last him a lifetime.



# Renewal Project Africa Team

Gidion & Joy, Riccardo  
(photographer), Shira, Neema  
(nurse), Queen, Gilbert, Jackson,  
Charles, Ziggy, Mary, Tabs, Reuben  
& Cynthia, and Desmond. The team  
there was so fun and it was so cool  
to talk to them on the log bus rides  
and get to know them. I feel that we  
all filled each others cups up.



# Day One

On day one of my trip I woke up at 5:00am and prepared to meet the rest of my team at the church at 6:00am. When we arrived we came across our first setback, Morgan had locked her keys and luggage in her car at the church but the crisis was averted when her neighbor brought her the spare key. After that we packed up and headed to the airport in the church van.



As we were getting out of the van at the airport my sandals broke and I walked around the airport with only one operating strap on one foot till we had time to sit down and I fixed it with some yarn I had. We got all of our bags checked and through security and then we grabbed some Chick-fil-A and got on our first 13hr flight. I sat with Isabella and Morgan with Michelle, Ethan, and Shawn behind us. There were screaming children next to us and I got no sleep. The food was okay but I mostly just ate whatever bread product they put on the plate (rolls, muffins, crackers).



# Day Two

We arrived in Ethiopia at 7:30am and sat on the floor playing cards for an hour during our layover, then we got on a bus that took us to our plane on the tarmac. We boarded our last 2hr flight and I had the window seat! I ended up sleeping the majority of this flight because I was exhausted from the first one and the layover. We arrived in Mombasa, Kenya around 11 and it took us almost an hour to get through customs. We were then greeted by Joy and Gideon who helped us load our luggage onto the top of the bus and we headed to the Mission House.



Once we settled into the mission house we all sat down in the living room for a debrief. We all had a hard time keeping our eyes open but we didn't want to go to sleep so we could begin changing our sleep schedules to the seven hour difference. Because of this they took us to the Kenyan version of Target or Walmart and this was when I had my first unexpected experience. As we went to walk in, we were greeted by a male and female security guard that used a metal detector on us prior to entry. In the store there were familiar things like name brand soda but they had off brand chips and things like that, kind of like shopping in an Aldi.



Then we went to the beach where some people rode a camel and we put our feet in the Indian ocean. After that we headed back to the mission house and had our first dinner in Kenya. I think it was some type of pasta dish and some potato wedges. Then I think we went to bed around 9:30.

(this is a Polaroid picture so its a little blurry)



# Day Three

On our first village day I woke up at 6:00 am, had bible study with the team at 6:30, ate breakfast at 7:00 and we were on our way to Badesa by 7:30. This was our first lesson on Kenya time, which basically means you should multiply whatever time you are told times two. For example, this particular day we were told an hour drive to the village. We didn't get there until 10:30. It was still the most enjoyable 3 hour ride I have ever been on but it was most definitely not an hour. This was also our first official day with the team and they were so fun. We spent most of the drive singing.



When we arrived in the village we were greeted by a group of singing women. They were all smiles and energy. We also learned that it's rude to not shake every person's hand when you drive so we spent almost 5 min just shaking hands while they sang. Then we headed into their church and we just danced. All of their songs were in Swahili so we had no clue what they were saying but you could just feel the holy spirit and joy in the room. It was clear that our dancing was our worship. At some point on the way home from the first village we realized that none of us would ever worship the same again.



After we were done worshiping we introduced the RPA team and our team to the village and then Morgan and Reed gave their testimonies to the church. After that we split off into three groups, the kids, the women, and the men. The way we structured VBS was we were each paired up with another student on our team, which made four teams, and we were each given a topic; creation, the fall, Jesus, and your response. We did it this way so two people knew each lesson and while one person thought, the other partner could be somewhere else. Today we had Logan, Morgan, Isabella, and me teaching.



Grady and Abby helped with medical which meant that one of them wrote notes for Neema and the other prayed over the sick patients. Riley and Ethan were crowd control with the kids during the VBS. After we were done with the VBS we went outside and some of us played soccer, others played volleyball, but I played this game with some little girls that no one else understood. They didn't speak english to me so they explained it kind of through pointing and then we just started and I could pick up on what was happening which was so cool.



Then we had our first lunch in a village which was so cool. All of the food was carried to us into these big buckets and then we would eat with our hands out of bowls. I was brave enough on the first day to ask what everything was so we had jipati and oogali with chicken stew and goat stew. It was SO GOOD which I was not expecting. I liked all of the food I tried during the trip which was so cool.



Then we took our group picture and started the "hour" ride home. As we were leaving the village, the bus got stuck in the mud so we had to all get out and use rocks to get it unstuck but it was still fun. When we got back we had some dinner, did our daily debrief, and then we played some games before we went to bed.



# Day Four

On day four we woke up, did devotional, had some breakfast and headed to Shariani. This morning it was especially rainy so we had to walk from the main road to the village because we didn't want our bus to get stuck in the mud. The walk was still fun though and as far as I know, no one slipped and fell so I would call that an unqualified success.



When we got to the village we were greeted by the pastors wife and we headed into the church where all the kids and some adults were gathered. We worshiped, and sang, and danced for a while then we introduced the teams to the village. After that we had Riley and Ethan give their testimonies and the entire church ended up praying over Ethan which was very cool.



We then split up into our groups and I helped with medical that day. It was a very interesting experience because the care was optional and there were some people who were visibly wounded or sick and they didn't come. It was the feeling of wanting to do something and help them but being helpless in that the only thing you can do is pray. But it was very cool to work with the nurse, Neema because she was very good with the people and her faith is so strong, so it was interesting to pray for the patients with her.



After we were done in groups, we ate lunch with the village and headed back to the mission house. We had dinner when we got back and then we stayed up late and played card games together. Grady even got out his mini DJ equipment and played some music for us and it was so fun.



# Day Five

Day five, we woke up, did our devo, and had some breakfast while we were debriefed on what to expect for the day as we were going to an unreached people group. This particular village were muslim and they had burned down a church that another group had built for them. So we didn't necessarily expect them to be physically violent but it was very likely that they would be emotionally closed off. Going into it we didn't really know if we were even supposed to talk about God so it was not until the last second that we decided to just go for it and do VBS as usual.



During the VBS all of the students and the teachers participated and listened very well and they even sang us a thank you song that became our new favorite thing to do. After we finished the VBS we were all just hanging out outside with the kids and three little christian girls came up to us and asked if they could sing us a song. They danced and they sang in swahili so we couldn't tell what they were saying but then one of the interpreters came over and started interpreting for us. They were singing about how Jesus coming back and you need to prepare your heart for Him. Since we hadn't known what to expect going into it, this really touched my heart and I ended up having to walk away because I was crying.



After that some of the women from the surrounding village gathered at the school we were at and set up a makeshift shop of things we could buy. I ended up getting a bracelet that says Kenya and I got this tapestry type thing that can be used as like a skirt or a shaw. One of the Pastors on the RPA team also owns a restaurant so we went and had lunch there after we left the school. Then we headed home and hung out like we had the nights before.



# Day Six

On day six we went to Dungu Dungu and the view on the drive there was so pretty. Then when we got there we had to walk down this hill to get to the church and we were talking and singing. Then we got to the church and did some worship, introduced ourselves, and split into groups. This day I was with the youth and we had some really cool conversations.



Toward the end of the conversation we asked them how many of them were born again believers and all of their hands went up. But then we asked who knew what that meant and all the hands went down. By the end of our conversation about 8 people had decided to recommit their lives to christ. So we went into the church and we all sang together then we prayed over them.



After that we were all planning on painting the church but we had to sand the walls first. So I grabbed a piece of sandpaper and got to work but one of the Kenyan boys came over and took it from me and insisted he do it instead. I later told Rico about that and he said it would have been an unspoken type of "dishonor" to let a woman do the work instead.



After I the sandpaper was taken from me I didn't really know what to do next but as I was looking around I saw Michelle, Ginger, Morgan, and Abby all standing together so I went over to see what was happening. When I got there they said they were going to wash the woman's feet and asked if I would be willing to help. Some people may find this act gross, but even in any context, I have always loved the act of washing someones feet.



During the last supper Jesus humbled himself and washed the feet of his disciples then told them that this was a sign that all of us are servants to our brothers and sisters. So In my mind this was our way of showing these women that we were there to serve them and a way for us to humble ourselves and do an act of service. The woman loved it, they were all smiles when we were done and it was so rewarding.



After that we ate lunch and then I got out my polaroid camera. The kids loved to have their picture taken and since the pictures printed on the spot, they were able to keep them which was also nice. I also ended up taking a family photo for someone which I think was especially cool. Then we headed back up the hill and we were met with some public transportation drivers. Someone from the RPA team shared his testimony with them and then Shawn prayed over them. We don't know what the effects of that was but you could tell from the moment It could turn out to be something.



# Day Seven

On Day seven we went to Ondoni and this day was a little different because when we got there all of the kids were at school so we walked from the church to the school. When we got there all of the kids were very hesitant to talk to us or interact with us so it was hard at the beginning. But we did the VBS and at the end we sang them the thank you song and they loved that and they finally began to open up. So we broke out the bubbles and some soccer balls and we played with them for a while.

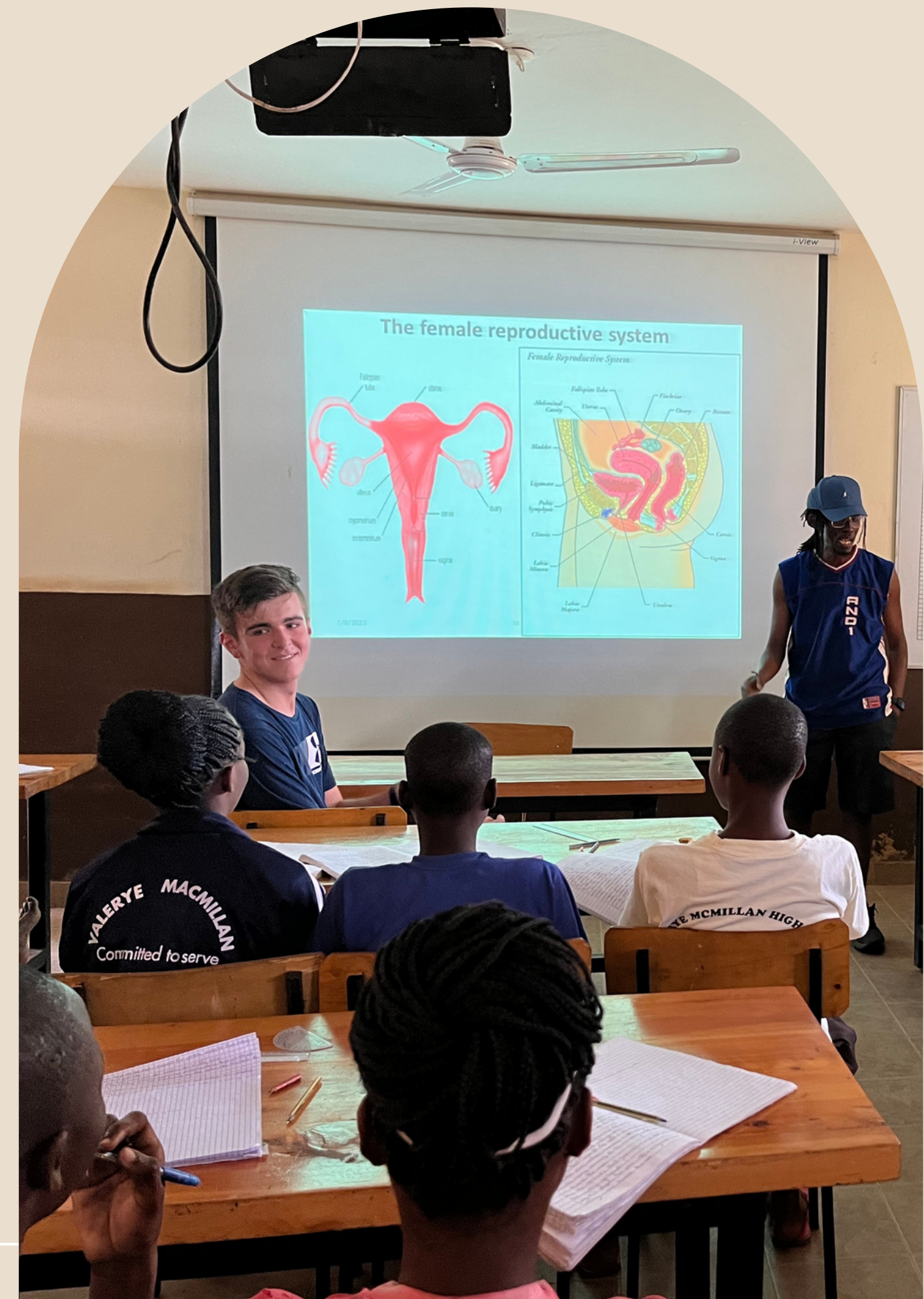


There was one little girl that had been really scared when we got there but eventually let me hold her which was so sweet. I ended up carrying her down to the church when we went back and I joined in the youth discussion when I got there. The little girl stayed on my lap when I sat in the circle and she eventually snuggled up to me and fell asleep which was so sweet. But Morgan also had a kid fall asleep in her lap and she got peed on so I got lucky. then we ate lunch and headed home.



# Day Eight

Day Eight was Saturday and we ended up going to the boarding school where the kid that Grady sponsors goes and it was really cool to hear from them. Before we walked into the first class we were told that it was a biology class which in America is a science class but in Kenya it is a sex ed class so we walked in in the conversation of the female reproductive organs. They finished up the lesson and then all of the seniors from our team went up to the front to answer questions and the first question was "why do some girls have their period twice a month?" But Isabella was a champ and answered the question perfectly.



Then we visited a math class and headed to lunch at a place called Java which was so yummy. We then rode a public transportation van home because the buss we had been using all week hd shattered the back window. Logan sat in the front because it had the most room but after we got back he had this shocked look on his face and he was like "his turn signal was connected to his horn" which was so funny.



# Day Nine

Day Nine was Sunday so we went to a service in Watamu. While we were there Isabella, Grady, and I all told our testimonies and Pastor Shawn did the preaching. He decided to preach about Zachias so the night before he asked us if we knew the song about him and a few of us said yes so during church we all went up to the front to sing it. We got through the first line and I was the only one singing! No one else know the whole thing! But it was very funny. But during his sermon we found out that the Kenyans nicknamed their president Zachias because he overtaxes them.



After the service was over we all participated in swallowship (swallow + fellowship) where we ate and hung out with each other. After that we headed to the beach where we baptized about 20 people in the Indian ocean which was a really cool experience.



# Day Ten

Day ten was the first day of safari so we all loaded up into two safari vans. My van had Michelle, Shawn, Riley, Morgan, Logan, and Gideon. The ride there was really cool because it was the first time I really got to talk to Gideon and he told me that my testimony really made him think and we got to talk about it. The place we stayed was like hotel type rooms and I got to room with Riley. On the first day we saw 3 lions, 1 cheetah, 1 hyena, and lots of elephants, graphs, zebras, gazelle, and antelope.



That night we made a fire and did our Bible study under the stars. After that we went to lay on a rock and look at the stars and we could see the Milky Way. Reed snuck below the rock and started making growling noises and scared us half to death. Then when Grady went down to make sure it was reed and not a baboon, reed jumped out and scared him again. Then after most of the adults had fallen asleep we decided to finally go to bed but when we stood up from the rock we saw an elephant near the watering hole so we ran down to the observatory and we were almost four feet from it.



# Day Eleven

On day eleven we got up early to see the sunrise, eat breakfast, then headed out. Most of the predators will still be out in the morning so we wanted to get out early to see things. We saw more elephants, gazelle, giraffes, zebras, antelope, and we saw a cheetah.



After we finished the safari we went to a Masi village. This was the most uncomfortable I felt the whole trip in a weird way. I just felt like we shouldn't be there. There were many other tourists and that felt weird, like they were just performing for us. The part I liked the least was during the tour when we went into a school, interrupted a lesson, and the kids sang a song for us. I could just see the looks on their face and I feel that interrupting their education so they can perform for a bunch of white people who don't really care about them is cruel.



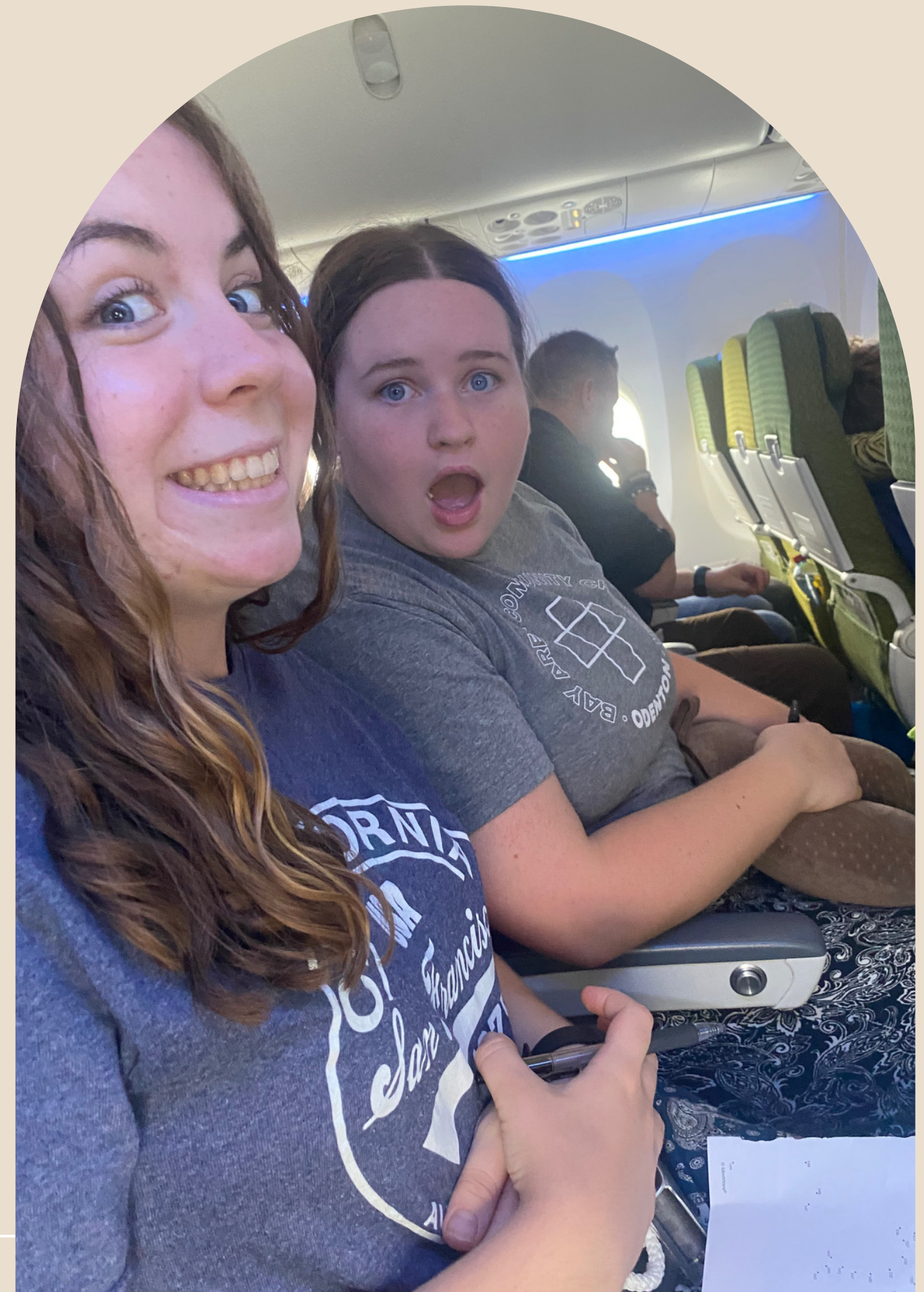
# Day Twelve

Day twelve was the day we began the journey home but we found out that there were some protests planned for that morning. So we left the mission house at 6:30 am and got to the airport with no trouble at all but then we sat in the airport from about 8:00am to 5:00pm when we started getting ready for the flight. The first 2 hour flight I only slept a little bit. Then we had our 2hr layover in Ethiopia and I was going through my email and I found out I got into liberty university! Then we started the 14hr ride home.



# Day Thirteen

We arrived in Dublin for a re-fule around midnight (I don't know which time zone) and then we were on our way to America. We arrived around 10 in the morning and we began the long line in customs. We headed home in the church van and then we had our big reunion with our families.



What I  
Learned

I learned a lot on this trip and I made so many lifelong memories but I will only talk about two things in this section. Before this trip I knew that angles and demons were real but I never talked about them and I never heard stories (other than from the Bible) about them. This topic sparked my interest when Shawn told a story of a woman in Kenya who had a demon inside her and Pastor Greg, Shawn, and Gideon all worked together to cast it out. Then I heard the story of a woman we met in the village who had been a co wife with another woman before their husband died. Both of the women had been witch doctors and one of them decided to burn her witch doctor things and follow Jesus but she then went crazy. The other wife was the one we met and she had begun coming to the local church. One night she was debating accepting Christ and that night three witch doctors visited her in her dreams and they tried to convince her to not do it. But the next day she went to church and accepted Christ. She then also wanted to burn her things but was scared to so while we were there she told the RPA team and they are going to send people back for support when she does burn her things.

Both of these stories made me think and really have the revelation that these things are real. Like Ouija boards where you can supposedly communicate with the spiritual realm, that is real. Satan worshipers, that is real. Witchcraft and witch doctors in a way are also very real. And no one here talks about it or realizes it. So I talked to Shawn about like what is the "American form of witch doctors" and we talked about things like Ouija boards, zodiac signs, and the truth in the darkness. To elaborate on that more, we talked about how the opposite of christianity, like satan worshipping, is a very real thing and that is true, its something that can make things happen on earth, but the truth in that ends in darkness and it is more binding and transactional, while christianity ends in a gift of eternal life and is a freedom and a sacrifice. In a similar way zodiac signs have some truth to them, there are characteristics of your sign that you "should relate to" and some of them could be accurate, but you could also be convincing yourself that you are that way because you want the zodiac signs to be real.

The other thing I learned about was speaking in tongs. I again had never really heard a lot about this topic but it had come up in some of my conversations there. I again talked to Shawn about this and we talked about what tongs sounds like and how interpreting tongs is a spiritual gift. I almost had the opportunity to hear someone speak tongs because Gilbert from the RPA team prayed over a woman in tongs but the rest of us had already gone back to the bus.

# Scripture

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Matthew 8:10

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts—no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.

Matthew 10:5-10

Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

Matthew 6:27

# 0.5 Hall Of Fame

Before you view the 0.5 hall of fame I wanted to explain what it is in case you don't know. On the iPhone when you go into the camera app, if you zoom out as much as possible, you are in 0.5 mode where it looks like a fish eye camera. Then if you get very close to someones face and snap a picture, the camera will distort the features resulting in enlarged foreheads and long noses. Through out the trip we all took these kinds of pictures of each other and it was an ongoing joke. What you will see on the next two slides are only a fraction of the ones taken.





# Last Pictures





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WORLD



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NEIGHBORS.  
NATIONS.

VOKI ICE

SOUL

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SOULS









Nalia Na Mwe  
Kumbe  
Ni Mwe





SOULS



MORE FUN  
MORE LOVE













# Last Remarks

I want to thank you all for taking the time to read my stories and thank you for all your support through prayers and financially. I will never forget the experiences I had on this trip and I cant wait to go back next year!!

