

DARE TO DREAM



This will be an update that is a little bit different than my other ones. I will share a few more personal items, then on to the business. I hope you will be able to enjoy it and be encouraged by it.

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Home:

The last time that I was in Kenya was November 24th, and now 3 months later I'm back. During the last 3 months I got to have a great time with family, friends, and with my supporters. It was a time that I didn't expect, and a time that was better than planned; mainly because my plans just were kind of put on hold.

In coming back to the States and Holland, my primary intent was to raise support for Dare To Dream and for myself personally. Last year was not an easy year in multiple areas, one of them being finances. But when I arrived in LA, I spent some time taking apart a house on the YWAM LA base and really felt that I was not supposed to focus on fundraising, but more on resting and being with friends and family. It was through focusing on old and new relationships that new sponsors came up and existing support continued for this coming year. I was overwhelmed by how this all worked, and that letting something go can be the best option. Thank you all for the amazing time at 'home'.

The Comeback:

Since the time at home was so great, it also made it harder for me to come back to Kenya. Last year, I felt lonely in various moments throughout the year. These feelings weren't real, but sure felt like it at those times. What I missed most was time with friends and family; nothing special, just getting to hang out with them. One can understand that being able to do so for 3 months and then coming back to Kenya was a hard transition. All of a sudden I began to look ahead and saw last year happening once again before me; the loneliness, the isolation and all the other hard stuff. (Now I'm not saying that I haven't made friends here in Kenya, but our relationship is still different from my friends back home).

Forgive me if this isn't very clear to you, but this is also a little bit of a processing time for me.



Home

All that said, arriving back in Kenya was hard for me, but I still love being back here. Sometimes my emotions can cover the reality of what is actually here. I'm looking forward to the things that are ahead for Dare To Dream and for me. I'm excited for the people we will get to train, help, support with micro loans, disciple and mentor, and of course, coach young football players. I am truly humbled by the fact that I can be a part of those things.

Waiting:

Right now, I'm waiting and preparing to continue with the Dare To Dream project. We have received multiple donations from some amazing people back in the States and from Holland. My colleague is in Tanzania right now in order to broaden his knowledge of community development. Currently, I'm preparing all the paper work so that when my colleague comes back we can jump right into where we left off. At times it is hard, because I would love to move forward now that I'm back, but I know that I can't do this without my colleague.



My new housemate: Buddy

If you are willing to support Dare To Dream, you can make your one time or monthly donation to:

Conejo Church, P.O. Box 792, Newbury Park, CA 91320, Note: Support Dare To Dream, (and the name of the project or personal support)

Bob de Groot, 30.56.31.020 (Rabobank) t.a.v. Dare To Dream, (and the name of the project or personal support)

Paypal: bobthegroot@gmail.com Note: Support Dare To Dream, (and the name of the project or personal support)



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Suba Lakers:

When I was in Holland I received a lot of football shoes, running shoes, shirts and some jackets to bring back with me for the football club where I help out. Team Suba Lakers were super excited and thankful for the things that you guys donated. Like I say once in a while, 'it's the little things in life'.

We gave them the gear when we had a day of practice with the girls from Primary Schools. Next week, the 'ball games' will start, which is a nation-wide tournament involving various sports, including football. It is like a knockout system, and if they win they move from regionals, to provincials, to nationals. So far, every year our girls have done really well and we are confident that they will be great again this year. I will let you guys know how they are doing when the games start.

Dreamer: Hellen

Instead of talking about all of our 'Dreamers' at once, I have decided to highlight one 'Dreamer' in every update that I write. The main reason for this is because the number of 'Dreamers' is growing and will start to take a lot of space in these updates. I will post short updates about them on Facebook so that you will be able to follow them more regularly.



Hellen

Today I want to share with you about Hellen. Do you remember Hellen? She was the 2nd person to receive a loan through Dare to Dream. She is an amazing young woman who lost her husband and is now taking care of her 3 sons on her own. She has really impressed me with how smart and hardworking she is. From the beginning she has always been faithful to make her payments, until last month. I received an email from my colleague that something had happened on Hellen's farm. One night, a few hippos came onto the farm and completely destroyed the vegetables that she was supposed to harvest very soon. I was so sad when I heard this. Not because she wouldn't be able to pay, but because I know what a disappointment this is for her; that all her hard work was gone in one night. However, in Holland,

someone was able to donate some seeds for vegetables and I recently gave them to Hellen. This will help her a lot to get back on her feet. Thank you for those seeds!!



YWAM Team

YWAM LA:

On April 1st, the 2nd team from YWAM LA will be arriving in Nairobi, Kenya. They will be staying in Kenya for a little over 2 months. I will be hosting and co-leading this team for the full 2 months. We will start off in Nairobi to work with Pastor Luke and his organization in one of the slums of Nairobi. This is where we will build an aquaponics system for the organization. After Nairobi we be going to Mbita, where we will work with SEEK and with some of our Dreamers there. We will be building 2 water tanks for farmers, so that they can better irrigate their land. After we have stayed in Mbita for 4 weeks, we will continue on to Kisumu where we will stay for 2 weeks. In Kisumu we will partner with a school and a hospital. In the hospital we will be painting and playing with the children who are in the cancer ward.

I'm looking forward to receiving this team and seeing how we will get to bless the people and organizations here in Kenya, but also to see how this experience will allow the character of the team members to grow and introduce them to missions.

Next:

Right now I'm just preparing for a few things. My friend and former boss is coming to visit and see the work that I have been doing. His supermarket, the Spar, is going to support a Dreamer this year. After that I will be planning for the YWAM team to arrive and preparing paper work for some of the loans that we will be giving out. (Thanks to all the amazing donations!) We will keep you posted as soon as we start signing. Keep an eye out on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Bob de Groot /// Dare To Dream

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