

August 16, 2010

Hello!

This week at the orphanage has definitely been the most eventful yet. With the exception of walking to a field down the road to play soccer and other games once a week, the kids have few opportunities to spend time outside the orphanage. So they were understandably excited when we made a trip on Wednesday to Boti Falls, a popular waterfall about an hour away from the orphanage, which I visited with another volunteer during my first weekend in Ghana. All of the kids were incredibly excited to be going, and they changed into their nicest clothes for the trip. After climbing the rocks around the falls and splashing and playing in the shallow water, the kids had a lunch of jollof rice, and we all piled into the tro for a very sleepy journey home.

While it was difficult for the kids to focus after the trip to Boti Falls, I have continued teaching a

lesson every morning. We did a bit of math this week, as well as an English lesson in which the kids made acrostics using their names. We also had another geography lesson - a topic that the kids still seem particularly interested in. The next day, we had a lesson in which the kids learned and colored the flags of other countries, which worked well in conjunction with geography.

The orphanage's live-in teacher has mostly stopped assisting with lessons, but I am still enjoying teaching the kids on my own and with the help of other volunteers. I am also continuing to adjust to the informal nature of the lessons. The kids are often very loud and stubborn, and they frequently get into physical fights with one another. I am learning to diffuse these situations as best I can, though it is certainly a learning process.

Unfortunately, my phone was stolen at the end of this week while hanging out with other volunteers in Mamfe, but

I did spend a great weekend in Accra. Despite the slight discomfort of fitting 13 volunteers into four hotel rooms meant to house eight, I had a great time exploring the city. Accra is very different from the Akuapem Hills — there is an abundance of restaurant and hotel choices, a variety of bars and night clubs and even a very Western-style shopping mall, complete with a movie theater, an Apple store and a supermarket. We also took time to visit Independence Square, which features a monument built to commemorate Ghana's independence. I am looking forward to spending my fourth week at the orphanage and deciding ~~to~~ where to travel next weekend.

All the Best,

Abby