

My good friend just wrote that she keeps up with our website, but could we please write what a typical day looks like? I do tend to be a bit spacey (lofty is a nice way to put it), so here's some more down to earth details about Jeske life in South Africa.

We wake up. Usually Adam first, as early as 5:30, then Zeke, then me, then Phoebe. Phoebe reads the clock well enough to know when it starts with "7", so we have at least until 7:00 that she must sleep. Usually if Zeke's awake before seven, somebody takes him for a walk in a backpack. Today I did that, around 6 am, and it seems like a horrible thing to have to do at such an hour, but it was great. Our views are astounding. It snowed on the mountains recently, so it's like living in the Alps, except that there's a lot of burned ground in the foreground. Still, I could walk around singing "How Great Thou Art" all the time, especially the verse about "when I look down from lofty mountain splendor, then sings my soul, my God how great thou art."

So we eat breakfast, usually oats. Then we have morning. No two mornings are the same. About every other day we have a fire in our water heater, so we get a warm shower. Sometimes we go shopping in town (a twenty minute drive away), sometimes we go out to special places like the touristy cafes with playgrounds, or sometimes we have a housekeeper watch the kids while we have business meetings with Betsy. Mostly we just walk around while the kids play with dogs and lemons and pecans, and study Zulu. I literally spend hours of my day walking around reading a Zulu book aloud to myself while I watch our kids.

Then we have lunch, usually sandwiches or leftovers. Avocados are cheap, so we feast on avocado-tomato sandwiches a lot.

Then on most days one of us heads off to a meeting. Betsy, whose job we plan to take over in January, leads the meetings and we shadow her. Right now there are two groups of about 20 kids each who meet at high schools in "Microfinance for Youth" clubs. For the first half of the year they had meetings every week to learn business skills, and now they have loans. They get about \$30 each, which they pay back over 26 weeks, with interest. Presumably they start businesses with the money. Usually they sell sweets, which isn't a bad plan since their classmates like to buy sweets, but one of our concerns about the project is just how much good we're doing in the bigger picture if we're getting kids to eat more candy. We spend a lot of time pondering this and other questions about how to make this project work better.

While one of us is at a meeting (it's Adam about 75% of the time), the other of us is at home with the kids. The kids nap. I've been working on systemizing our organization's accounting, or I use that quiet afternoon time for email and typing stuff like this. If the kids wake up well before dinner, we might hang out with some of the Zulu women working on the farm here, or see our neighbor Sophie and her kids.

By about 5:30 we're back together again and eating supper. Of the best parts about living here is cooking slow foods. Did we mention we live on an herb farm? We have bunches of oregano, thyme, lemon grass, and lavender on our walls. It's awesome.

In the evenings we play with our kids, hang out with friends, and do the sorts of things people do when they don't have televisions. Zeke likes to play "Rolly Polly," a game Adam invented that involves tossing him on a bed and a lot of tickling. Phoebe likes to put toys in backpacks and read books. We are happy to have a library within easy driving distance.

Then the kids go to bed, we slow down, we sleep, and the day begins again.