

# The McClerkin Messenger

August 22, 2016

Dear Friends,

Latoya's internship at the special needs school officially ended early this month. Although her responsibilities were difficult to juggle at times, she is so thankful to have had this valuable experience. Through it God opened her eyes to many truths about Himself...and about herself! She learned that she really enjoys teaching more than preaching and that she has a God-given gift for working



with mentally-challenged children. Latoya now looks forward to serving in those areas of ministry as the Lord opens doors. *We want to thank you all once again for remembering her in special prayer over the last few months. Please continue to pray for the Lord's leading, enabling, and blessing on her time in Kenya!*

## An Update on South Sudan

As you've probably heard, South Sudan has been undergoing a lot of strife and changes in the political realm recently. Here in Kapoeta we were spared the direct backlash of the nation's unrest. However, the trickle-down effects were clearly seen and felt. In town, people protested against the foreign troops entering the country. A branch of the U.N. pulled out of the region, and other NGO staff left, as well. Food tripled in price and, unfortunately, the cost is still rising. Praise God the harvest season is now beginning, so many villagers are able to eat from their own gardens.

There is a relative calm in the nation at present and, except for food prices, Kapoeta is back to normal. *We hope you'll continue to pray for South Sudan, though, as local leaders and politicians continue to iron out their differences.*

## A Tremendous Gift

A huge truckload of desks arrived at the Hope4Sudan Compound on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Upon arrival, students rushed into the courtyard to help unload the bounty. Their excitement was contagious, and understandably so! For most children, these desks will be the very first at which they've sat. To have a nice wooden desk is almost unheard of where they come from.



Pupils now beam with pride when they enter their classrooms. We send their heartfelt thanks to all those who helped make this tremendous gift possible!

## “Are You A Stumbling Block?”

God laid Romans 14 on my heart to preach to our congregation a couple weeks ago. In an area where the Gospel is beginning to take root and churches are beginning to spring up, it can be easy to develop a “we're the only ones who have it right” attitude. As human beings we easily fall into the trap of judging other people, even our Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Romans 14 teaches us that it's not our job to judge those around us. Some may or may not “eat all things” or “regard one day above another” based on how they believe God is leading them. When we try to shove our personal convictions down their throats, we actually become a stumbling block. Instead of drawing them closer to God, we're liable to push them farther away!

Whose job is it to bring conviction where needed? The Holy Spirit! Our job then is not to compare others with ourselves but *to pray for them, to pour out God's love on them, and to point them to the Word.* Romans 14:11-12 reminds us that every knee will bow, every tongue will confess, and each individual will be called to give an account of himself to God. *Are you judging the people around you? Or are you praying, pouring love, and pointing them to the One to Whom they will one day give account?*

May the Lord bless and keep you!

Greg, Latoya & Ethan

## Ethan's Corner



Ethan is a very imaginative kid. “Entertainer” is written *all over* his DNA code. I’m telling you, the energy and creativity that flows out of this child simply amazes us. Of course, once in a while I like to add a little fuel to the fire, so to speak.

I introduced Ethan to the Chicken Dance Song not too long ago, and boy, did he love it! After that, I was duty-bound to teach him the moves to go along with it. 😊 Since Little Man is into the Lion King songs, too, we also practice them together now and then, even acting some of them out. (Don’t ask for an encore, though!)