

The McClerkin Messenger

December 15, 2016

Dear Friends,

I'm happy to report that Latoya, Ethan, and I are now settled back in South Sudan for the Christmas season. I went down to Kenya to celebrate Thanksgiving with them and with our missionary family there. Then, on December 4th, the three of us began our travels north, flying part of the way and driving the rest. Latoya and Little Man plan to return to Kenya for Bible college/school on January 8th.

As usual, we'll celebrate Christmas Day this year with a special service at the Hope4Sudan church. Worship and preaching will be followed by a big community dinner, featuring Toposa favorites - rice and beef. (*Thanks to Harbor of Hope Church in Christiansburg, VA, for providing the bull for this village feast!*) After the community events, our family will probably visit other missionaries in the region.

Latoya and I celebrated our 5th Anniversary over the Thanksgiving holiday! ☺ We were married on Nov. 26, 2011, in Krugersdorp, South Africa.



Visitors from Afar

A nineteen-member team from the U.S. and South Africa came here in early November. During their one-week visit they were able to accomplish an *incredible* amount of work. They met the needs of people in Kapoeta and the surrounding area by conducting a mobile medical clinic which reached 300 tribesmen. Various team members also volunteered to distribute children's clothing donated by Bethel Life Worship Center (Greenville, PA) and to help Toposa kids write updates for their U.S. sponsors.

A special project was completed by an artist (and her helpers) on the team. Together, they hung Scripture paintings in the newly-furnished school classrooms and then painted corresponding artwork on the classroom walls.

Lastly, three gifted teachers gave of their time and energy to host a three-day Teacher Training Seminar for the staff at Hope4Sudan Primary School. This investment on their part was a huge blessing to our school teachers. At the end of the training they felt more equipped *and* more encouraged in the role God has given them to play in students' lives.



Left: Teacher-Trainer, Cheryl Turner, poses with the H4SS teaching staff.

Children in the Midst of Spiritual Warfare

We were given free access to a nearby village in late September. Government and tribal officials there granted their blessing to us as we promised to look for ways to minister to the villagers' physical and spiritual needs. At the time, however, we really didn't know what that "ministry" would look like and so requested your prayers for wisdom on our behalf. One month later we returned to show the Jesus Film. Afterwards, we began a Sunday School meeting on that same spot.

We now have several volunteers, including the Hope4Sudan boarding boys, who are helping to lead this Saturday evening Bible class. And, while she's here, Latoya will be instructing the kids.



Right: Latoya teaching the Village Sunday School

It's a tremendous blessing each week to see kids run from their huts and take a seat on the ground to hear the Word of God being spoken. *Please lift these little ones up in prayer.* Many of their tribal traditions and cultural practices are inspired by witchcraft. These children, whose hearts are crying out for the Truth, are caught up in the middle of intense spiritual warfare. Ask God to open their hearts – that they might see Christ as their All-Powerful Savior.

Wishing you a memorable Christmas season as you celebrate the Good News of great joy!

Greg, Latoya & Ethan

Ethan's Corner



Busy Bumbles Nursery School put on a Christmas production earlier this month. Ethan acted the part of an angel, singing happily with “the heavenly host” and doing his best to stand still in the background of the manger scene. He really enjoyed performing with the other kids, but a more active role, like Spiderman, would’ve been more his cup of tea. 😊