

# The McClerkin Messenger



May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Friends and Family,

Many of you have heard about the recent attacks resulting from xenophobia (serious dislike of people from other countries) in South Africa. I thought I'd ask Latoya, being a native South African, to share some of her thoughts with you on the subject. Below are the questions I asked her, followed by her response:

*Q. How do you feel about the situation in your home country?*

A. Well, honestly speaking, I felt the same as the Black South Africans for a long time. I'd always felt the foreigners were stealing opportunities and jobs. I was very narrow-minded. That was before I got married and became a missionary. My heart was changed forever, especially when I went on my first trip to South Sudan. It broadened my understanding of the world and how God uses different people to accomplish His tasks. It reminds me of Jesus' words in Matthew 12:50 where He calls other people His brothers and sisters and mothers. It should also make us think of Psalm 133. We need that kind of unity in our nation.

*Q. What is your prayer for South Africa, and how would you want others to pray?*

A. We must pray for peace, unity, and understanding between South Africans and foreigners. Also, the youths of South Africa need our prayers, because they are the future of the country. And the government...it's very corrupt and in need of prayer for integrity and wisdom to move forward in the best interest of its people.

You can help send us to South Sudan by **partnering with us** monthly or by giving a one-time donation online at <http://donations.iphc.org/missionaries/gregory-mcclerkin-support-account>.

Support can also be sent via post to the following address:  
World Missions Ministries, P.O. Box 12609, Oklahoma City, OK 73157  
(Earmark checks & money orders: "90358SXMCCLERKING.")

## Two Historical Landmarks on the Map

In the last few weeks we've had the privilege of visiting two church families which are unique in the history of our personal lives and ministry, as well as to the formation and development of Hope4Sudan.

Friendship World Outreach in Waverly, Tennessee, is my home church. I've been a member there since 2007 and took my first international mission trip with them in that same year. I praise God that they've always been 100% supportive as I've tried to walk in obedience to Him in my life and ministry.



At Compassion Church

Pastor Josh at Friendship World Outreach was given the vision for Hope4Sudan. Christian Heritage Church (now known as Compassion Church) gave birth to it. One of their members, Lauren Pickens, serves as founding director of this organization, and Compassion Church continues to play a significant role in the development of the work in S. Sudan.

*Tennessee Valley Conference, we are deeply grateful for your prayers and support during our visit. You were a special stopping place on our map, and your people were a special encouragement to our family.*

*Thanks also to the Appalachian Conference for welcoming us back to finish out our itineration schedule. (Only three months to go!) And to the Mississippi Conference for your continued support and prayers.*

Sincerely,

**Greg, Latoya & Ethan**

## *Ethan's Corner*

This month we'd like to share some of our little man's favorite things!

Place to be: The playground. (After discovering his die-hard love for swing sets and jungle gyms, we wondered if we'd have to call in the National Guard to get him back home.)

Things to do: Wave goodbye to random people, whether they are walking by, passing the car, eating in a restaurant, etc. Wherever he finds someone and whatever he finds them doing, he simply *must* wave goodbye and see them off!

Entertainment on the road: Singing along with Elmo, watching the Cookie Monster on Sesame Street, and sleeping. (It's a blessing for us that Ethan does really well travelling...better than most adults!)

