

The McClerkin Messenger

June 25, 2017

Dear Friends,

We mentioned in last month's Shout-Out that there's been a food shortage due to drought in Kapoeta. Most, if not all, the crops in this area have now failed. The World Food Program is stepping in to help locals, though, so we're very thankful for that. *Please continue to pray that this desperate situation will turn more eyes upward and that we would be given open doors for Gospel ministry because of it.*

Hands to Help, Hearts to Share

Rejoicing over the completion of the new church was followed by still more rejoicing. This time, it was over the three interns from the U.S. who arrived to offer help and bring encouragement to the locals. It's always a joy when an intern comes to the Hope4Sudan compound. Having three at once is...well...a *triple* blessing!



Entrance to the new church



Helping with a construction project

Rylan, Veronika, and Ruth got here on June 5th and set right to work. The girls are teaching at Hope4S. Sudan Primary School on weekday mornings and helping out in the clinic during the afternoon. Veronika is also working with Sunday School kids – learning their traditional dances and teaching them new songs. Ruth enjoys spending time with the street kids in her spare time – telling them stories and showing them God's love in practical ways. Rylan has been hanging out with me most of the time – learning the daily operation of the compound and assisting with small construction projects. He also serves in church by running the sound board on Sundays.

We're so thankful these young people chose to spend their summer breaks from college to minister in such a difficult place. *Please lift them up in prayer as they continue adjusting to the food and heat. Pray also for their health and for a general covering over us all.* We'll be travelling together to the border town this week to pick up a fourth blessing: one more intern, Shanna, will be flying in to join the rest!



Latoya and the interns praying with people after church

A Special Need for Love and Kindness

During Latoya's time at East Africa Bible College, God called her to a new area of ministry – working with special needs kids. Latoya has always enjoyed speaking the Word in public, teaching Sunday School, leading Bible studies, and volunteering in outreaches, but serving special needs children through her internship was a joy unlike any other.

Shortly after her return to S. Sudan, Latoya jumped at the chance to begin teaching Isaac, a mentally-challenged Toposa boy, how to read and write. She now spends many evenings tutoring him. I'm so happy to see how the Spirit is empowering her for this task and how He's displaying His love through her. As in most parts of the world, mentally-challenged children are not treated well here and rarely receive kindness. Even within their own families, they're often beaten and treated like outcasts. *Pray with us that God will use this opportunity to manifest His abundant grace not only to Isaac, but also to those looking on.*

Birthdays in Toposaland

Well, I celebrated another birthday this month – 55 years, believe it or not. Although we didn't throw a party (who does at this age?), still, having a birthday in a place like South Sudan is special for a number of reasons. To be this age and still in good health to live here gives special cause for thanks. Birthdays seem a little more special, too, when practically no one around you has one...not on record, anyway. Toposa people aren't too concerned about remembering the *day* a child is born. Even the year isn't usually documented in an "official" way. Instead, parents remember the year of their child's birth by recalling some

major event which occurred the same year. If you ask someone when they were born, they might respond, “The year the birds were so many, and they ate up all the crops.” If that event occurred more than once over the decades, it’d sure be a convenient way of sidestepping the age question!

Greetings from our home to yours,
Greg, Latoya & Ethan

If you would like to partner with us monthly or to give a one-time donation, you can do so by visiting our online support page at:
<https://give.iphc.org/missionaries/218363>.

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

Ethan’s Corner

With so many kids around, fun is never far away for Ethan. Since his return, the street boys have become his special friends, and they can often be found playing soccer or having water gun fights on the compound. Because Ethan is the only one who has a water gun, this game usually begins with him chasing the others until they eventually catch up with him and return fire (that is, water). Recently, the boys discovered a new favorite game – waiting for the opportune moment (when I’m not looking) to jump in my building sand and wrestle (captured above).

