

The McClerkin Messenger

June 23, 2018

Dear Friends,

So much has happened - *so many prayers have been answered* - since our last newsletter went out. For starters, we've been asking for a few months that you pray regarding Latoya's desire to do ministry among those with special needs. When we returned to East Africa, she was able to start working as a volunteer teacher at Eldoret Special Needs School. Soon afterwards, the Lord put on her heart to organize an outdoor event which would draw special needs families together and would offer them fun activities, helpful information, and meaningful support.



On May 5th, that vision came to pass with the "Bloom Event." Families gathered on the campus of East Africa Bible College to enjoy activities such as painting, a jumping castle, music and dance. They were given refreshment not only for the body, but also for the soul. We're so grateful to the Lord for giving this vision and for

seeing it through to completion. We're also thankful to Summer Sneed (a fellow missionary in Eldoret) for all of her help and hard work in organizing the event!

"Compass" Launches in Eldoret

A new ministry focused on international students in Kenya has officially been launched. Thirty youths and young adults from South Sudan, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Kenya participated in our first event and are now part of the program. These young people are currently attending two classes a week on church leadership, as well as a Saturday service, and will be mentored by experienced ministers and businessmen.

Our heart's desire is to encourage and equip young people to be successful businessmen *and* effective church leaders. While Compass is now up and running in Kenya, I'm back in South Sudan working on the possibility of starting other branches in Juba and Kapoeta. *Pray for us as we seek to impact more lives by better equipping the locals!*

(If you missed our announcement about this ministry in the last Shout-Out and would like more details, please write me at gregorymcclerkin@yahoo.com or send a note to the return address on the back of this newsletter. I'd be happy to send you a link to view the details online or to get a hard copy sent to you via mail.)

Missionary Gathering in South Africa

Earlier this month, we traveled to South Africa for a missionary retreat. These retreats, which happen every couple of years, are always refreshing to us. Not only do we get to see co-workers from across the continent, but we also get to spend time with retired missionaries who gave their lives to pioneering ministries in Africa. These retired missionaries are given the opportunity to lead devotions and to speak about their experiences. What an encouragement to us! This time with leaders is also a great time for strategizing and thinking towards future ministry plans.



With Lauren Pickens, Director of Hope4Sudan

We had a couple days before the retreat to visit Latoya's family and some long-time friends. It was good timing, since my birthday happened to fall around the time we were visiting my mother-in-law. 😊

Transport Report!

After settling back in Kenya this past March, Latoya realized that getting around with public transportation was going to be a major issue with both Ethan and Colton now in tow. Many of you prayed for us concerning this dilemma, and many also gave. We're so grateful to report that, through your prayers and generosity, Latoya now has a small car which is perfect for getting around the area. *Special thanks to the Compassion Church Network which helped bring this blessing home!*

Meet Our Boys

Beginning in August, we'll be including a new section in our *Messenger*. This section, "Meet Our Boys," will introduce you to the boys we've come to love and serve here in South Sudan. Stay tuned to learn more about these young men who are being called out of darkness and into God's marvelous light!

Ethan & Colton's Corner

It's hard to believe Colton is already six months old. He's now sitting, rolling over, and working hard to grow an afro like his old man used to have.

Ethan is as funny as ever. When we asked him what he enjoyed most about our big trip to South Africa, he said, "McDonalds." 😊 He also told us he liked seeing his cousins. He has a lot of them in South Africa, but there are three in particular that we're usually able to visit during our short visits. They love to wrestle, play, and goof off.



Colton and his grandma



Cousin fun