

# The McClerkin Messenger

June 18, 2016

Dear Friends,

Rainy season got off to a good start in April, but the rains stopped just a couple weeks afterwards. Villagers who planted gardens are now eagerly anticipating the heavy rains which normally arrive in mid-June.

Our compound garden is doing very well since we're careful to water it regularly. This year we're growing maize, okra, cow peas (purple hull peas), tomatoes, cabbage, eggplants, sorghum, and wild greens. All of these crops are common to Toposaland. Sorghum and maize are the most popular, though. These two crops have a short harvest period, which means a family can potentially get 2-3 harvests during one growing season.

Compound boys work in the garden on a sunny morning.

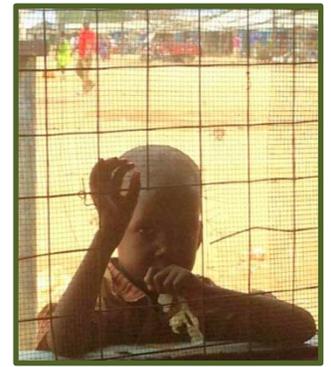


The Toposa have their own methods of preparing and eating their crops. You'll find sorghum and maize boiled or roasted and eaten whole. You may also find someone grinding it into flour or cracking it open and making it into breakfast porridge. Cow peas, strangely, never reach the stage of actually producing peas. As soon as the vine starts to run, villagers snap off the tender leaves and cook them like spinach.

## A New Beginning

The Street Children's Ministry officially began on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. We rejoice at the open door God has placed before us to meet the needs of children living on the streets of Kapoeta. Many of these kids are orphaned, so

they spend their days wandering the town, looking for table scraps and spoiled food to satisfy their stomachs. Besides physical nourishment, these little ones are also in great need of love, affirmation and hope – not just in this life, but also (and especially) in the next. *Please pray that, through this ministry, we will be enabled to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of Kapoeta's street children.*



## A Good Shepherd

Although I received my minister's license in June 2015, I really didn't expect to be appointed as a pastor any time soon. Last month, however, I was given that role here at Hope4Sudan. For several days after accepting this position, I meditated on Joshua 1:5. This verse came alive to me as God spoke to me through it, "I may not do with you what I did with Moses, but I will be with you as I was with Moses." I was further encouraged by the story of Joshua 3 – AFTER Joshua crossed the Jordan, the Lord spoke to him and said, "From this day forward I will start to make you a great leader." Since I've never been in a church leadership position, accepting a pastorate sure feels like crossing the Jordan. *Please ask the Lord to make me a good shepherd for His people.*

## Interning at a Special Needs School

We originally thought Latoya would be doing her internship in a church, but instead she felt God leading her to request placement at a special needs school. Until August 8<sup>th</sup>, she'll be going there twice a week to help instruct students who range in age from 7 to 20+ years, and who face a variety of challenges, including deafness, dumbness, and mental handicaps. We praise God for allowing her to minister in such a place through prayer and the Word. Access to these types of institutions in Kenya is not easy to get, so God's hand was definitely in the arrangement! *Pray for the Spirit to work through Latoya to reach the hearts of these kids who are special in God's sight!*

Sincerely,

Greg, Latoya & Ethan

Our official newsletter, "The McClerkin Messenger," will now be sent out bi-monthly. A brief e-mail update, "The McClerkin Shout-Out," which shares points of praise and prayer will be sent via e-mail every other month. If you'd like to sign up to receive the Shout-Out, let us know at [gregorvmcclerkin@yahoo.com!](mailto:gregorvmcclerkin@yahoo.com)

## Ethan's Corner



*Ethan smiles nervously as his friend, Philip, tries to eat Gordon.*

Every Wednesday is Show-and-Tell Day at Busy Bumbles Nursery School. It's no surprise then that Wednesday is Ethan's favorite school day.

This month we asked Little Man to show-and-tell a special toy for you. He immediately ran to his room on a mission to fetch not one, but three!

"This is Charlie!" he exclaimed a moment later, holding up a tiny purple train. "She's #14, see? And she goes very slow." Then, picking up another train, he continued, "This is Percy. He's a boy, and he has the number six. I like Percy because he carries coal and has a fire in his back." (He pointed to the back of the train where a fire was apparently burning.) Finally, Ethan brought out a blue train for display. "This one is Gordon. He carries more coal than Percy. Gordon and Percy are fast. *Really* fast!" The two trains suddenly went flying through the air with a *Zooooom!*, emphasizing the point. "All of them are friends of Thomas," he concluded, "and Thomas is *my* friend."