



March 16th, 2016

Dear Friends,

Difficulties continue in South Sudan. The people here seem to go from one devastation to another – civil wars, tribal feuds, droughts, famines, you name it. What really breaks my heart is to see how all these events affect the children. The ones who are innocent are the ones who bear the brunt of the burden. Tiny bodies can't go as long without food and water. They are easy targets for rebel militias, and they are caught up in tribal feuds they had no part in instigating.



As I look at the faces of these kids, I am reminded of Jesus' words in Luke 18:16, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." What an encouragement to know that *Jesus* sees these children and longs for them to come to Him whose "yoke is easy and burden is light" (Matt. 11:30).

Refugees from the Upper Nile region of South Sudan have been arriving in Kapoeta lately. They are fleeing from unrest and are hoping to get into refugee camps across the border in Kenya. Thankfully, Kapoeta has remained reasonably quiet and stable. We are, however, experiencing a food shortage due to drought. With so many more people coming into the area, this makes for a challenging situation. *Pray for us as we seek to source*

and purchase food for our school kids, as well as for the other children being sent to us. Pray also for rain!

Extreme inflation is another by-product of unrest which is being felt in our area. Prices are 4-5 times higher in the market, and the value of the South Sudanese Pound has dropped dramatically. One U.S. Dollar is now exchanged at a rate 800% higher than in previous years!

Construction on the Compound

We broke ground this month on new toilets and a new shower house for the teachers, as well as additional toilet facilities for the school. The big news, though, is that the mission house will be finished this coming week. On Saturday, the community will gather at our compound for a village-style dedication of the house. We'll be slaughtering two goats and serving the meat, along with side dishes, to everyone in attendance at the ceremony.

Update on Latoya

Latoya is doing well in Bible School. She is really enjoying a class in which she's learning how to conduct weddings and funerals, as well as how to do counselling and preach sermons. The hands-on approach of the class is stretching, but she's loving it!

*Special thanks this month to the churches
of the Mississippi Conference.
Your faithful giving is making a difference here!*

Blessings,

Greg, Latoya & Ethan

You can make a difference in South Sudan by partnering with us monthly or by giving a one-time donation online at <http://donations.iphc.org/missionaries/gregory-mclerkin-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: "90358SXMCLERKING.")

Ethan's Corner



Hanging out with friends

Sitting in a classroom may not be Ethan's highlight this month, but at least it's starting to grow on him. He loves learning new things and being around other kids (especially his friend, Abby) but, teachers tell us, the problem is keeping him *inside*. If classes were only held *outside*, he would love it so much more. (It's hard to blame him with the beautiful weather in Eldoret, Kenya!)

It's always fun to hear stories of his day. Of course, the best stories are those that begin or end with a phone performance of one of the new songs he's learned like "Ole MacDonald."