

# The McClerkin Messenger

October 19, 2017

Dear Friends,

**B**elieve it or not, over the last 7 weeks, we've managed to visit friends, family, and supporters in 8 different states. The Lord has kept us on the roads and has blessed us with sweet reunions (and first-time meetings!) in each place we've landed. We're currently speaking in churches in Virginia and West Virginia and will remain here until late November. Then it's off to Tennessee, Mississippi, and Missouri. We'd sure appreciate your prayers during this busy time – *that God would help us keep our eyes on Him, that He would continue granting us safety on the roads, and that He would give Latoya special grace and endurance as she enters her final month of pregnancy.*



*Visiting with  
Rylan Brown,  
one of our  
recent H4S  
interns*

## A Country-Style Welcome

**I**t was a gorgeous late summer evening when we found ourselves driving up to Floyd, VA with Larry & Gloria Meadors (World Missions & Evangelism Director for the Appalachian Conference). The ride was spectacular. The countryside was full of beautiful homesteads on winding mountain roads. After driving for some time, we arrived at a turn-of-the-century (20<sup>th</sup>, not 21<sup>st</sup>) restaurant and had a good, home-cooked meal. From there, we made our way to downtown Floyd to get in on some street craft shopping and to hear some mountain music. I'm telling you, after all the craziness of packing and putting things in order before leaving South Sudan, and all the rush and

hustle of international flights, that slow-paced, country-style evening was *exactly* what we needed to refresh. And just as the evening was coming to a close, one of the street bands struck up a chorus of "Rocky Top" - the perfect finale to our welcome home. ☺

## The Lord and His Strength

*"Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered." Psalm 105:4,5*

**T**his passage has come to our minds a lot lately. As we travel around sharing about the ministry, it's easy to get worn down. We battle at times with discouragement, fatigue, and the feeling of failure. Meditating on this psalm reminds us to seek the Lord's face, His presence, always and above everything. Even in ministry it's easy to get sidetracked, but we must maintain an intimate relationship with God first and foremost. Secondly, it reminds us that it's in His strength that our needs will be met. It's our nature as humans to try to do everything by our own strength and willpower, but our strength is never sufficient to accomplish the work God has set before us. His work can only be done with His strength, and He is happy to supply it when our hearts are set on Him.

## Back in South Sudan

**E**ven though we're 7,000 miles away, we've been able to communicate with the boys and staff members in South Sudan almost daily. (Thanks to cell phones and Facebook!) The compound boys report that the church is going on well and that the school is also running smoothly. Some recent exciting news was that our boys and girls soccer team won the Kapoeta County Soccer Championship. We're very proud of their diligence and teamwork. What an accomplishment!

*Soccer  
trophies  
awarded to  
Hope4Sudan  
Primary  
School*



## Special Thanks

**W**e'd like to say "thank you" once again to all those who have hosted us and shown their support of

our ministry during the past few weeks. Your kindness and hospitality are such a blessing to us! Special thanks to these churches in the Appalachian Conference: Walton PHC, Galax PHC, Woodlawn PHC, Draper Valley PHC, Staunton PHC, Penial PHC, Calvary Full Gospel, Voice of Praise, and also to Christian Heritage Worship Center in Tallahassee, FL!

Sincerely, *Greg, Latoya & Ethan*

P.S. If you'd like to contact us while we're in the U.S., feel free to send an e-mail to [gregorymclerkin@yahoo.com](mailto:gregorymclerkin@yahoo.com) or give us a call at 731-213-8566.

## Ethan's Corner



Most of Ethan's school days are focused on learning the ABCs and 123s, but once in a while something really special breaks the routine. Last week, some firefighters came to the school with a real fire engine for all the kids to see. Ethan was on cloud nine during the visit, especially when the firefighter helped him blast water with the huge hose. So glad we got some photos of his unforgettable day!