



The  
McClerkin  
Messenger

October 29, 2016

Dear Friends,

**M**oonshine is busy brewing in the villages of Kapoeta County. Whether you go for a walk along the backstreets of town or through the main village areas, you're guaranteed a close-up view of the 55-gallon drums being used to manufacture this best-selling beverage of Toposaland.

"Sickle R Number One" is what they call it here, but it's made just like moonshine, using sugar and yeast. Another type of alcohol is made from sorghum. Known as the "White Stuff" (or *ngagie*), it's a bit cheaper and not quite as strong. This slightly weaker version is often introduced to children as soon as they learn to walk and to sit on a Toposa chair (one-legged stool). By the time a child is 5 or 6 years old, chances are pretty high they've had a swig of it.

Alcohol is such a big seller in the area that mothers can support a whole family by producing it. Just five gallons of the liquid yields a profit equal to three days of hard labor! With the profit so great and the demand so high, more and more liquor is produced, followed by reports of increasing local violence. We hear of horrible attacks and senseless killings among neighbors and even within families. Once all the sorghum has been brewed and the money has been used, hunger sets in, making things even worse.

With the stronghold of alcohol addiction in this tribe, is there any hope for the young people? What are the chances of someone being freed from this mind-altering substance? Statistically-speaking, their chances may be slim, but one thing is for sure, God defies the status quo! By His grace, we've seen many of our compound boys delivered from past addiction. As their hunger for the Lord increased and their ties within the Christian community grew stronger, their desire for alcohol melted away. Our desire is to see more people experience this freedom – the kind of freedom found only in Christ. *Would you join us in praying John 8:32 and 2 Cor. 4:6 over the Toposa people during the next two months?*

## Keys to a Village

Last month I was invited to speak on behalf of Hope4Sudan in a village meeting. Government officials had organized this special event in order to discuss how the government, church, and villagers can better network to serve the South Sudanese people. *What an unforgettable day!* I witnessed animal sacrifice, burnt offering, tribal dances, and tribal prayers to ancestors. (I was even spit on as a blessing...which I later learned was a curse.) At the same time, I was pretty much given the keys to the village! The door is now wide open for us to go there and minister to these villagers. Pray for my helpers and me as we start down this road. It took 7 years for me to earn the people's trust in this area. Now I'm in need of God's wisdom to know how best to minister to them.



Left: Seated with government officials at the village meeting.

## An Invitation for Latoya

Latoya was recently invited to speak to the women of Bondeni Worship Center (Eldoret, Kenya). In Africa, it's not common for a young woman to be asked to share advice and wisdom with older women, so this opportunity was both an honor and a privilege for Latoya. Although it felt a bit counter-cultural for her, she came away feeling really blessed by the time she had with these ladies.



Right: Latoya with a couple of ladies from Bondeni Worship Center.

The Lord opened another door for Latoya by allowing her to be voted in as deputy president of the student council at East Africa Bible College. She asks that you *pray for her as she seeks to serve her fellow students in this role*. She also requested *prayer for the children at the special needs school where she did her internship*. Latoya's heart is still very burdened for them. Please join her in asking the Lord to meet these kids emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

## Special Thanks

Just want to say “Thank you!” to Bethel Life Worship Center in Greenville, PA, for sending funds to help us purchase a motorcycle for the ministry here! This is such a useful tool – providing a means to access previously inaccessible areas. It will also bless me by allowing me to relax and unwind now and then by going for a ride. 😊

With sincere thanks for the many supporters of this work,

***Greg, Latoya & Ethan***

*P.S. A 19-member team will be ministering here from Oct. 31 - Nov. 4. Please pray for God's safe-keeping and blessing on their time!*

## Ethan's Corner



After Latoya spoke at Bondeni Worship Center, Ethan got busy doing two of the things he does best – telling stories and making new friends. He caught the ear of all the Bondeni strangers who would listen – recounting for them the grand adventures he's had with his friend, Abby Sneed.

Apparently, he later informed some church members that his name is actually T.D. Jakes....