

Notes from the Journey... Foglemans in South Sudan



Vol. 2, 2014

'...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Hebrews 13: 5b

PRAY FOR PEACE AS SOUTH SUDAN LEADERS SEEK TO FORM A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT:

Many of our supporting churches and individuals have communicated their concerns to us about the unrest here in South Sudan. Despite a peace agreement between the rival factions, the situation remains unsettled in the northern states hundreds of miles away from here. But our town of Yei remains calm and peaceful. We are grateful to be able to continue our work here, but continue to pray for the peace and reconciliation for the nation as a whole. Please join us in this prayer.

CALM AND PEACE.....

We send our greetings from our quiet home on the UMCOR compound in Yei to you all over the world! We hope that your home is not only quiet, but filled with a calm and a "peace that passes all understanding."

One reason the compound is so quiet is that fewer people live here now. Diantha Hodges, our neighbor since we moved here in 2012, moved to Uganda the end of May to be with her husband Steve, and to start new mission work there. Diantha did a tremendous job starting the Safe Birth Committees in the United Methodist Churches over the last 4 years. She also trained many Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) during her time (from all the churches, not just UMC) --making a big difference in the survival of mothers and newborn infants. We really miss her!

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Fred Dearing, and his wife, Libby, live nearby the

UMCOR compound, at the UMC's Captain's House. Currently they are back in the US on leave and will return to Yei on July 26th. Despite the absence of these co-workers and friends, we are, as the above scripture says, not left alone. We have spent much time with our South Sudanese colleagues and have been so busy with various trainings these last few weeks that we have had no time to feel lonely. And the Lord is our faithful, caring, companion on this journey, so we count on Him daily for the Spirit and strength to continue in His service here in South Sudan. On July 9th, the country will commemorate its 3rd Independence Day. We pray especially for calm and peace on that day!

HEALTH TRAININGS CONTINUE.....

We have been conducting trainings in the following areas:

- 1) Husbands' Responsibility to the Family/Child Spacing/ Family Planning/Domestic Violence trainings in many church communities
- 2) Supervisory visits to our Community Health Evangelism (CHE) trainers as they train their committee in the community of Kenyi
- 3) In early June, we had a great training of trainers (TOT) for the second Community HIV/AIDS Awareness Training (CHAAT-2). We and the County AIDS Commission staff did more in-depth training on this very important topic. Our trainers got to

visit the Yei Civil Hospital Ant-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Center and VCT Clinic (voluntary counseling and testing)—which was very interesting and helpful in their preparation to raise even greater awareness and discussion among pastors, church chairladies, and school teachers and their students this year.

- 4) We have recently started visiting 2 to 3 different government health facilities each month. We are spending a half day at each of the facilities that are close to our UMC churches. The time is spent doing a brief training for the staff, doing some screening obstetrical ultrasounds, and, basically, just developing relationships with the people of these facilities. We hope we can help them improve health services to the people of their communities. (see next page)



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- 2) Gifts to support Medical
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HEALTH TRAININGS, cont'd...

5) Both of us have been involved in the Imagine No Malaria (INM) mosquito net distributions in Lasu Payam (a region of Yei River County). It has involved many long days and rough roads. But seeing mosquito net distribution done correctly - to each household with individual education and follow-up—is well worth it. We believe this joint INM venture with UMCOR will save many lives. (Sharon is already working on the next INM grant proposal to expand these efforts within Yei River County and start in Lainya County.)



6) Radio talk shows at two of Yei's main radio stations each month have become a part of our usual activities. Recent shows have been on the topics of malaria prevention, HIV/AIDS stigma reduction, disability, and epilepsy.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST: A long-standing struggle within the UMC church in Yei town is a serious concern. A small number of people who have been pushing to "take control" of the church, its school, and the finances caused problems again this month, resulting in many meetings. This is a sad story anywhere in the body of Christ. But it has been particularly painful for our staff, as the church's pastor, who is a friend of ours, was pushed out of the church. Please pray for the healing and reconciliation that is needed amongst our own fellowship. Please pray for wisdom for the South Sudan District UMC leadership.

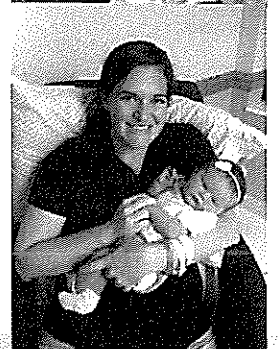
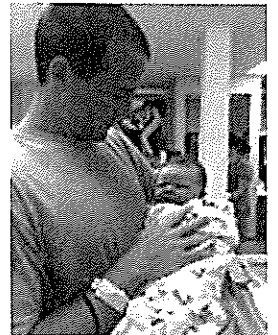
FAMILY NEWS!



We have good news on family. Kurt, our oldest, is enjoying his new job as "Athletic Specialist" at a Boys and Girls Club in Denver. Our daughter, Joella, is doing well at her job in Iowa City, and is preparing now for the celebration of her daughter Zari's third birthday on July 4th!

But the BIGGEST family news is — on June 17th, Mark, our second son, and his wife, Kenzi, became the proud parents of Emma Hadassah. At 10 lbs. 2oz. and 21-3/4 in. long,

our second grand-daughter entered this world via C-section. She is beautiful, with lots of hair! Kenzi is recovering well after surgery, and Mark is enjoying his new role as "Papa!" We thank God for this indescribably wonderful gift! (and for Skype to make us feel closer!!) Zari is already looking forward to playing with Cousin Emma and Uncle Kurt plans a visit very soon!!



THANK YOU

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We can all take comfort in knowing that

God never leaves us alone—no matter what we may feel or what we are going through. In Matthew 28:20b, Jesus said, "....surely I am with you, always, to the very end of the age."

So, be encouraged. He wants you to know not only that you are not alone, but that you are very much loved!

We love you and are grateful for your faithful partnership in this ministry. We are humbled and truly appreciate your prayers, encouraging e-mails, and financial support!

God bless you all! In Christ's love,

Lynn and Sharon