



Dear Friends and Family,

We are growing accustomed to the hot weather, but are not accustomed to being without you. Please know that we love and pray for you often. Sometimes, a friend's face pops into our minds and we remember you fondly.



As we write it is over 100° inside our hut; surprisingly it does not seem so hot. A few days ago the inside temp soared to 110° which seemed quite unbelievable.

Baby Crowder On the Way!

Some of you may have heard our biggest news already – that **Beverly is pregnant with our first child**. She's due on November 11th.

How God spoke to us about this is interesting. We had planned on waiting until the end of our 1st term with SIM but God seemed to change Chris's heart first, then Beverly's. His timing is always perfect so we trust that we are in his will. He has orchestrated things so perfectly with our travel schedule and protecting Beverly from illness throughout her first

trimester. Living in the intense heat was rough but Bev somehow found endurance.

God provided perks like extra hamburger meat flown in on the SP plane and yogurt brought in on the UN helicopter from Khartoum!

Our expecting a child really opens up relationships with our Sudanese friends. It makes us seem more "normal" to them.

We've already been to our first doctor's appointment in Nairobi and have made arrangements to have the baby in Nairobi Hospital. We have a great UK-trained doctor who delivers a lot of missionary babies!

Khadija and Issak



Meet Khadija and Issak. These two precious children were brought by to the hospital by their grandmother. They are from the nomadic Fulata tribe. Their journey to the hospital was five days on foot.

Because of their malnutrition (kwashikor), the lack of protein caused swelling in their bodies. Along with malnutrition, Issak contracted malaria, a fatal combination after he had been in the hospital for 1 month and was gaining weight.

Before Issak died, Beverly and Gabriel Bith, an elder in the church, brought money for the grandmother to buy food for herself and the children. They serve madida (porridge) in the hospital but the children did not like it. By that time the father had come and they were able to pray for Issak. We had given the strongest medication possible and we told the father that God is the ultimate healer and prayed for healing for the child. That night Issak developed another high fever and the father demanded that the IV quinine be stopped. The child died that night.

Since they were a 5-day walk from home with no family nearby they needed assistance burying the child. The Falata believe in burying the dead as soon as possible so elders and members of the church worked together to bury the child in Kurmuk.

We told Issak's father that we as Christians wanted to be his family there in Kurmuk since he had left his family in the Ngessna area. He was very thankful and very sad. Yet he did not show his sadness because it is very often that parents lose their children to death. He said "Nshallah" which means "as God wills". So he had just accepted that this is Allah's will for his child. Sadly, the grandmother came with two children but left with only Khadija. They had a five day journey back home by foot. The mother had stayed home in the Ngessna area to take care of a small child, so when the grandmother and father arrive it will be a very sad realization for this poor mama.

We are praying for this tribe as they have a very fatalistic view of life and of their Allah.

Working Herself Out of a Job

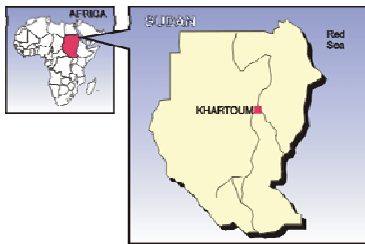


Bev is teaching 20 to 30 nurses three to four times a week! In this picture she is teaching muscle groups. The whole class is laughing here because one student did pushups to show the job of the pectoral muscles .

In addition to nursing, she teaches English. She finds incredibly creative ways to engage the guys in learning – like making up a story called “The Dancing Donkey”.

One of her major tasks is to teach drug calculations. Please pray that when we leave Kurmuk in June that all the students would be able to calculate dosages correctly. Even more, ask God that we would leave behind the fragrance of the love of Christ.

Future Plans



In the next six months we finish our assignment with Samaritan’s Purse in late June. We’ll say our “ma salaamas” and fly back to Nairobi only to pack up immediately, and fly to

Khartoum, the capital of Sudan.

In the modern city of Khartoum, we’ll be administering SIM’s guest house ministry and studying Arabic. We are really looking forward to this opportunity to live in a house with electricity and really focus on communicating in the language of the people.

But our Khartoum visa will be valid for only two months so after that it’s back to Nairobi. Bev will be close to her final trimester by then so we’ll stay in the SIM flats and prepare for baby to arrive. Chris will be flying in and out of Sudan preparing for our next big endeavor which is, **Southern Blue Nile Academy**.

SBNA will be the only secondary school in an area serving over 1 million people. It will be a Christian boarding school located in Yabus, next to a beautiful year-round river. Chris will be the project manager, so please pray for him as he administrates the project.

When baby Crowder is old enough we plan to move into a nice brick house in Yabus to work with the school project.

New Bicycles



Three new bikes

Three new bicycles arrived on a lorry from Damazine. They are big black “Phoenix” models made in China! Our

colleague in the church, Peter Mangyel went to Damazine and bought three for a good price. The elders of the SIC church decided to send them out immediately to outlying churches.

A huge thank you to West End Community Church for making it possible to buy more! In consultation with our director and the local church, we’ve decided to provide bikes for all our new missionaries as well as many pastors.

The need for bike transportation is so obvious for evangelism. We recently met two SIC evangelists after they had walked for 13 hours the previous day. With bicycles their travel time can be cut in half, not to mention save their feet a lot of pain.

Meet Our Friend: Hessein Adam



This guy is always greeting everyone with a huge smile. However he hasn’t had a lot to smile about since 1997 when a huge battle took place in Kurmuk which destroyed almost everything. No schools have been here to educate our friend. He has a 2nd grade education and also now attends the nursing training classes. He is so hungry for education but

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for adults education is non-existent in Kurmuk. Please pray for our friend as he just got a new Bible and loves the story of Adam since his father's name is Adam. He is also learning more English as he reads God's word. Hessein works at the hospital as our pharmacist/drug dispenser. He has been working at the hospital since 1997 and he worked 5 years without any pay.

Returning Refugees

We mentioned the Uduk tribe in earlier newsletters and SIM's close ties. The Uduk people accepted the love of Jesus in a sweeping people movement in the 1930's and 1940's. The intense fighting in the early 1980's caused many deaths and a mass wandering looking for a peaceful place to live. Their sickness, suffering, and death is an awful story. The last ten years were spent in comparative peace and boredom in an Ethiopian refugee camp called Bonga.



April 3, 2006 is an historic day for the Uduk: the day they began to return back to Chali, their tribal homeplace. Assisted by the UNHCR, the trucks from Bonga slowly crawled across the border into Sudan. They were met by an Uduk choir and huge banners proclaiming:

"The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life; the LORD will

watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalms 121:7-8 (NIV)

It was an electrifying moment, one that none of us will forget.

Learn Arabic in 5 Easy Minutes

Since we're learning Arabic, we thought you might like to learn with us. We'll learn one word from John 3:16.

Here are 6 letters and their closest English equivalent:

ا = a	ج = ا
و = wa	ح = h
ي = y	د = d

Now, put them together and read from right to left (opposite of English). The letters have different forms depending on whether they are first, middle, or last. Notice the "a" and "wa" are disjoined letters which do not touch the letter that follows.

الْوَحِيد

ANYWAY! It reads "a+l+wa+h+y+d" or "al waheed". The "y" supplies the 'long e' vowel sound in English.

What does it mean? Well, "wahed" means "one", so "al waheed" means "The One" or "The Only One".

In English, we like to say "His only son" but the Arabic

Bible translators thought it was best as "His Son, the Only One"!

Praise & Prayer

- The Sudan team is exploding! We now consist of 30 people. 11 new missionaries from Ethiopia and Nigeria. They are all from SIM-related churches. Wow, Africans are going to serve other Africans. Their obedience is amazing.
- Please ask God to bring the right man to serve as Chaplain at Kurmuk hospital. There is so much potential for love, support, and counseling in Jesus' name.
- By the time you get this, Kurmuk Marriage Conference will be taking place. Please pray for 5 couples from 2 churches coming together to learn God's plan for marriage. Our friend Harold Bryer is coming to help with teaching.
- Please pray for little baby Crowder as we are entering into the malaria season and Beverly cannot take any of the prophylaxis medications.
- Please pray for the local Unity church as Chris is working with the leaders on leadership training and empowering the church in integrity, accountability, and evangelism.
- Please pray for the most recent batch of nursing trainees that they would be serious about their drug calculations and would continue to learn even though their formal training is finished.
- Please pray for our team working in Kurmuk that we would be brothers and

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sisters to one another and
for their health (against
malaria and giardia and
amoebas).

Love,

Chris and Beverly

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