

## FAMILY NEWS

It has been a long time since I have published something here. Partly due to server problems (which have been resolved) and partly due to personal limitations. Mainly, my inability to think clearly under the physical strain of pregnancy! It has been much more difficult at this age and I have had to depend VERY heavily on Charlie. Since mid-October, he has literally done all the cooking, cleaning, housework, etc. Sam has done well at keeping his schoolwork up and it has been enough for me just to try and keep on track with that.

I am ecstatic to say that baby Joseph Charles Daniels was born on November 28th in Sandton, South Africa and he is wonderful! He weighed 3.69 kg and was 53 centimeters long. (You can convert this to English measurements yourself as part of your own multi-cultural experience this week.) He is a very happy baby and we couldn't be more thrilled. Yesterday, to celebrate his one week old birthday, we took him to get his US passport. He was severely under-impressed, but maintained his usual calm during the entire day. Dad is still working hard at keeping hearth and home together while mom recovers. Sam says it is "weird" to have him here (but not in a bad way...) Because we are studying Biology this year, we are currently doing a unit study on babies. Okay... because it's there, also. Sam is surprised how much babies sleep and thinks it will be a long time before Joseph is able to do anything 'fun'. We are currently keeping a science log on when he eats, sleeps and what he is able to do.

Our plans are to leave S. Africa on the 19th, spend a couple days in Nairobi gathering our luggage and arrive in the States on the 23rd. We are looking forward to seeing our families for Christmas and hope to see many of you during our several months in the States. We will continue writing here and as well, you can continue to email us at the pobox.com address, listed below.

## MINISTRY UPDATE

We ask you to pray specifically during December/January for the continuation of work in Samburu during the absence of any of our missionaries. With no missionary presence, we are depending on God to really use this time to strengthen and mature the believers there. There are a handful of Godly men and women and we pray that they will not become discouraged and will continue to use their time and talents to reach and teach others.

During this Christmas season, there should be many opportunities for them to tell about the birth of Christ and why He came to earth. The many legends in Samburu tell us that they traditionally do not believe there is a way to get to God. One states that there was

previously a rope from heaven to earth that could be used to reach God. However, the rope was cut many years ago and now there is no way. Although they have traditional songs about God and going to heaven to be with Him (even referring to Him as Father), they do not know that it was for this purpose of reconciliation that Jesus was born. They do not know that the "Emmanuel" they sing about is Jesus and that they do not have to beg for His presence, but simply accept the gift of salvation and He WILL be present with them always.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAISE REPORTS**

- ❁ Pray for the Samburu believers to remain encouraged and continue in their work during the absence of missionaries.
- ❁ Pray for them to be strong and united in faith. For them to use the gifts God has given them for building one another up and for reaching others with the Gospel.
- ❁ Pray for their physical needs to be met by God; for Him to keep them in good health and provide for their families.
- ❁ Pray for our family as we travel back to Kenya and the States. Pray we will have smooth travel, good health and good weather during our flights.
- ❁ Thank God with us for the opportunity to receive the highest quality medical care here in S. Africa. Praise Him for a healthy baby and for the watchful care of all the physicians who attended Sandra and Joseph.
- ❁ Ask God to continue speedy recovery for Sandra; specifically for comfort during the long flight to the States.
- ❁ Joseph does have a slight heart murmur (like his mom and grandmother), which the cardiologist says is due to a small flap that should close in a few months. Pray God will accomplish this and continue to give him good health.