

DANIELS' DIARIES

January, 2005

"Let's just praise the Lord." My Bible reading for December 31st was Psalm 150:1-6. How good it is to end one year and begin another with great songs of praise to God. We are so thankful to be home in Maralal and back among the Samburu. We praise God for all we have experienced in the last year in preparation for our return. We thank God for continuing to reveal His will for His work among the Samburu and what He would have us to do as a part of that work. We wait for Him as He shows us His vision. It is not slowness on His part; but He knows what we will receive and gives it to us as we will accept it. Pray that we will receive His word, His vision and be obedient and faithful to the same. Pray that we will live holy and sanctified lives so that He can accomplish His will through us.

Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6

The past few weeks we have been visiting friends and churches in town and in the villages. We have heard how they have prayed for us in our absence and we know that God has answered those prayers. Everyone has been very happy to meet Joseph and he has received many gifts.

So many things have happened in our 14 month absence. Let me try to share just a few of them, some good, some sad.

On a sad note, one pastor and his wife lost a baby to disease. To get money for treatment, he sold all his animals. They lost the baby and now are without any livestock, as well. Pray for this young family. They have 1 other child.

Our widow friend told us an encouraging story of God providing money for her to attend a training seminar on child evangelism. She had been praying and praying for the money to attend. The day the seminar was to begin, someone came to purchase the beads she makes and gave her the amount of money she needed. She arrived a day late, but because she is a member of the committee, they had not started without her.

Our yard worker, himself a faithful believer, has begun to lead a small group at one of the places which previously had no leader. This is a direct answer to our (and your) fervent prayers. There is also a new leader at another place nearby. And we hear that at least 2 more young men are capable to lead, they are just afraid. Pray these men will have courage

and step forward, if it is God's will for them.

Last week, we went to visit a village where the family who gave Joseph his Samburu name is living. The young woman there had a child of about 2 years and she is very soon expecting to give birth to another baby. Like most Samburu, she has few clothes and they are usually worn and dirty. You need to remember, they raise animals, live in dirt homes and have very little water. When she gave me a small plastic bag and said it was a gift for Joseph, I was surprised. Others have given beaded items and even spears, which they made as gifts, but this was something different. It was a baby blanket, which means it had to have been purchased with money. I cannot describe my feelings to you as I accepted this gift. Humility, gratitude, compassion. Time passed, we visited for awhile, then went outside to hear the children sing and have a word with the group. As we sat there with Joseph, another child about his age crawled over to where we were. The contrast is huge between the things Joseph has and the things this child will do without. A clean place to play (free from animal waste), clean water to drink and bathe in every day, plentiful and nutritious food to eat, regular doctor visits, immunizations... the list is long. And this is just for today. Down the road, he will have many advantages, which the other baby will never have. God has given us a new compassion for the Samburu people as we see through our old eyes in a new way.

The real challenge for the saint is not the physical things in life which must be surrendered, but rather it is the sacrifice of wrong attitudes and personal rights which causes us so much difficulty.

Thanks so much to those of you who have sent cards and letters. We have received some in Maralal and know there are more in Nairobi.

Please notice the change in box number below for our Maralal address. If you sent things to the old address, don't worry, we are still getting them.

Drop us a line at: cdaniels@pobox.com or mail to:

Charles and Sandra Daniels

Box 306

Maralal, Kenya

We love hearing from you!

You may still give to support overseas missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. On the web at: <http://imb.org/giving> or by calling (800)999-3113.

Thank you for your giving and your prayer support.

PRAYER NEEDS

Praise God for the men who have accepted the call to lead and pastor believers who have been without. Pray for them to be strengthened in their faith and knowledge of Him.

Ask God to watch over and provide for all our pastors and their families and that others would be drawn to Christ by their Godly lives and testimonies.

Pray for us to have discernment about knowing how to join God's work among the Samburu. Pray for us to be open and obedient to His vision for reaching the lost and helping the poor. Pray that He would grant us wisdom as we minister.

Praise God for His blessing of good health and ask Him to guard all of us in this way.

Pray for a good, trustworthy and likable houseworker.

We can never express in words enough thanks for everything so many of you do for us. Your prayers sustain us, your giving supports us, your cards, letters, email and gifts encourage us. And then there are those of you who work to help us share what God is doing among the Samburu. To all of you we say thank you for giving to the Lord and for encouraging our hearts with your generosity. God bless you.