

# DANIELS' DIARIES

April 2006

## Busy Times

This past month was another busy one and had lots going on in Samburu. Charlie finished up the feeding project a couple of weeks ago. People were very happy to receive some help and things went very smoothly overall. We were able to minister in a tangible way to many different groups of people and some that had been ignored by others doing relief assistance. While many churches are giving only to their church family, Baptists gave to all, including some considered to be "outcasts". Thanks for your prayers regarding logistics, etc.

Almost immediately after delivering the last load, fighting broke out between the Samburu and Pokot. In recent weeks, there have been reports of several attacks. Dozens have been killed or injured and hundreds of cows and other livestock have been stolen. In some areas, people have fled their homes in search of safety. Pray for peace and safety. We feel very safe personally, as this is an inter-tribal conflict. We are praying for a quick and peaceful end to the trouble. Because people have fled quickly (and on foot) many had to leave their food rations. Life continues to be difficult for these beautiful, traditional people and they need your prayers

We had planned for Bible Clubs in 3 areas during the April school break, but unfortunately because of the fighting have not held them in all areas. However, the one held in town brought in record numbers of children, who enjoyed it so much, they wanted to continue another week. The last day, there were 94 children in attendance. Praise God! Pray that evangelistic efforts among children will result in many being saved and called to serve God.

Pray we will find faithful men and women to teach and disciple them and also that their parents would be saved and raise these children in the ways of the Lord. Thank God for continuing to open doors in this ministry.

## Family news

The past month had been a bit of a challenge for Charlie and me. Our neighbors, the Simmons, had been in South Africa and with so much going on here, there were some tough times. Many of our friends here were hungry, ill, displaced and just generally having trouble making ends meet. With so many needs present on a daily basis, it was easy to become discouraged. We also saw dishonesty revealed in one of our church leaders during the food distribution, which was very disheartening. We are happy, however, for the lessons God teaches us through times like these and know that such testing produces the Godly character our Father desires in us. We have so much to be thankful for and your prayers for us are high on the list. Continue to pray for us to grow in wisdom, faith and obedience.

In other news, we also learned this month that Charlie's dad (CD) has throat cancer. Because of the location of the cancer (in his palette), surgery is not an option. He is receiving chemotherapy and radiation treatments instead. Pray for God's hand to be upon him and for complete healing to take place. Pray for him to know and experience the grace of God in a powerful way.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Ask that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

- We thank the Lord for our good health and continued blessings of prayer partners and friends. Your cards, emails, packages and prayers are a huge encouragement to us all.
- Thank you for your giving to Lottie Moon and the Cooperative Program that enables us to live and minister among the Samburu people. Without your giving, we would not be able to do the things we do.
- The father of “T” whom you prayed for has passed away. Please remember this family in your prayers. Pray that her husband will step up in his responsibility to care for his family.
- Pray for Charlie’s dad, battling cancer and for the family. Pray for us to be able to have good communication with him as the international lines are not always the best from here.
- Pray that inter-tribal clashes will cease. Fear is keeping many people away from their homes as the Samburu and Pokot engage each other in vengeful acts of violence.
- We are very excited that Travis will be coming for a visit soon. He arrives in Kenya on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please pray for a safe trip. We look forward to a great visit and praise the Lord for this opportunity.

## PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING

Why is it that when trouble is far away, we are not worried? But when it comes near our own doorstep, we stop and look for “significant meaning” in the trouble. “What is God trying to tell us as a people? What is the meaning of this disaster? Is the end really near?”

According to Hollywood screenwriter

M. Night Shaymaylann, “heartache is a part of life.”

There has been scattered fighting in Samburu the past several weeks. It all stems from inter-tribal conflict between the Pokot and the Samburu. We know that several people have been killed and many animals have been stolen. When a Pokot is killed, they retaliate and kill Samburu and vice versa. There has been some military presence, but as Charlie heard from one officer this week, the Pokot have the advantage. They are apparently very familiar with military tactics and in addition, they know the land in a way that the soldiers and police do not. He also stated that when they try to negotiate, Pokot warriors act like they cannot understand Swahili. When people want to fight, it is a tough to convince them otherwise.

As rumors circulate, fears escalate. Some numbers are completely exaggerated. As people search for answers, some are saying that God must be coming soon. I’m sure some Americans thought the same way after 9/11. What strikes me is how isolated we are in our point of view. Only when “fate” is cruel in MY arena do some begin to think of God. Never mind the signs that are happening in the rest of the world. What is not seen are the many ways God is graciously calling each one of us to Himself every day.

*Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Isaiah 55:6 NASB*

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