

DANIELS' DIARIES

September, 2005

DAILY LIFE

I see that it has been 2 months since I wrote a newsletter to you and hopefully you have not forgotten about us! We have a new feature on the website which copies some of the emails I send "home" to mom. After writing quite a long one to her about the circumcision ceremony last month, I realized it contained information that others might be interested in. Rather than edit it into something which was "just for the general public", I decided to send it as is. Hope you can check these out, be informed, entertained and join us in prayer as needed.

It is Labor Day weekend and like you, we have been watching the coverage of hurricane Katrina and the tragedy along the coast there in the US. To give you an idea of how big this is globally, our yard worker asked me about it the day it happened. Mind you, he does not own a TV and can read just a little. I am guessing he heard it on the radio (which broadcasts only local radio as far as I know) or in town. Many here are praying for victims and their families there.

We are also trying to begin a new school year, focusing on those important final two years of high school for Sam. We are missing a couple of critical books, so won't you ***pray*** those would come in soon? It becomes difficult, at times, to stay on schedule, with the traveling to Nairobi every 5-6 weeks and starting late was not on my agenda. ***Pray*** for me (Sandra) to seek and know God's agenda for my everyday circumstances. This is a big one for me right now; waiting on God and working His plan, not mine or even someone else's.

MINISTRY NEWS

We visited Sononi a couple of weeks ago for the circumcision ceremony and were able to stay a couple of nights in our new house there. We got the door and windows on which made it much warmer than last time. They are working now (I hope) on closing off the skylight, i.e. putting a roof on.

Pray for our man of peace there, whom they call "ndege" (*pronounced nDAYgay*), meaning bird. They call him this because, years ago, missionaries came in a helicopter and they landed at his home. If you are wondering why they came by helicopter, it is because until recently, there has been no road to this place. You may remember that when Charlie first went there, he would park where the road ended and then he would walk approximately an hour to reach the village. Eventually, they cut a road so we are now able to drive. I wish I could explain the feeling of hospitality we have enjoyed in this place. They didn't have to cut the road for Charlie, but they did. They knew we would never be able to visit and stay with our family unless we had a road. The hour long walk would be too much for mama and the baby. When Charlie went alone and stayed overnite, he stayed with Ndege. To make things comfortable for mama and the children to come and stay, they built a house. They also built a primitive (very) outhouse for mama. Basically, it is a hole in the ground, screened in with gunnysacks wrapped around four posts and a flap in the front. Primitive, but functional. When we come, they bring wood and water for me, and one of the women comes to "assist" me. This is the type of community they live in and it is clearly a place which God has opened up

for us. ***Pray*** for the preparations God is making in the hearts of the people here. Ndege says he knows that God has sent Charlie and he believes there is a purpose for his life.

In the children's storying ministry, we have talked with another woman who is praying about teaching the stories at the primary school near her home. If she does, we will have 3 women teaching in 4 schools. Please ***pray*** with us that we will hear and obey God's plan for this ministry. As it unfolds so easily, I know it is His work. I also know I am capable of rushing ahead or making my own decisions and messing up the whole thing. ***Pray*** for discernment for all of us as we seek to do this Gods' way. One thing pressing on my mind right now is how to meet with these women for training and support. I cannot go to each one individually every week as I have been doing with E., who first started this work. Women have big responsibilities in the homes here and they have no transportation other than walking, so it is a challenge to gather them for a meeting. ***Pray*** for us to hear God's design for this particular need.

BUSINESS AS USUAL?

As I write this, most of you are probably sleeping and many of you will soon be heading off to church. You'll greet your friends, as usual. You'll stand, sit and sing, as usual. Open your Bibles and listen to the preacher, as usual. But maybe this time won't be "as usual." I pray that you will listen to the songs and preaching with new ears and a heart like clay. I pray that you will greet your friends as if you would not see them next week. Praise God for your church that relates to you in your language, your culture and your customs. Ask God to provide the same thing for the people of Samburu. Listen to the words of the hymns you are singing and offer them as a gift of praise to the Lord. If I could teleport myself to be with you, I would gladly do it, just for that moment. I miss our worship times together; there is much joy in the company of the saints and I pray you will find it today.

PRAYER NEEDS

- For language studies to continue to be effective. For us to be able to fight discouragement and manmade agendas in this and other endeavors.
- For God to speak to our man of peace ("Ndege") in Sononi. For him to have a strong desire for and understanding of the Word of God as Charlie begins to unfold the message through stories.
- For mama Naomi to hear and obey God concerning teaching bible stories to the school children.
- Praise that E. and mama Marko were able to hold a holiday bible club while school was out and teach dozens of children each day. Pray that the Word of God which was taught will hold fast, take root and make a difference in the hearts of all who heard.
- Pray for us to be able to hear and obey God's perfect plan for the ministry opportunities He is creating. Pray that we will strictly follow His agenda in everything we do.
- Pray for Sam (and mom) as we begin a new, more difficult school year. That we will be diligent in tackling the work and kind, patient and understanding of one another. Pray that mom will have an understanding of the best way to help Sam learn.
- Pray that Sam will be seeking and hearing God's will concerning life after Kenya.

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