

Praise... Prayer Points and Opportunities

*†*High Praises to God our King for the doors He has opened at the Women's Prison! Pray that many will come to personally know Jesus!

[†]Praise God for the 2 ladies from CCSP who came to work with me and encouraged me! (They were part of a building team that came in February to assist another missionary.) *Prayer for logistical coordination & safe travels for the upcoming Sudan trips.

[†]Pray for continual guidance from the Lord as I manage the HOPE for Sudan HIV/AIDS project.

[†]I praise God that I have finally moved to a place where it feels like home and that I have a roommate that I can also call my friend!

[†]And praising God always for all the love and support I receive from each of you!

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Note: Please note on any donation if it is for Lori's Monthly Support or Ministry Funds (ministry funds go to support the Prison Ministry).

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New Beginnings

I want to begin by saying thanks for your prayers – especially for the new prison ministry! As many of you know, the Lord placed a desire on my heart to do some sort of prison ministry with my church here in Kenya. Unbeknownst to me the church had tried to gain access to this prison for the past 3 years. This time we were granted success! The doors for ministry have been opened to us at Langata Women's Prison – PTL! The Lord's timing is everything! The prison ministry leadership team consists of the pastor's wife, who is a South African, three Kenyan women and myself. The favor we have received has been amazing! The prison is located just outside of Nairobi and houses approximately 700 female inmates, almost equally divided into 2 parts: The Remand Center and The Main Prison. The Remand Center holds those who aren't able to post bond and/or are being held in custody until their case has been adjudicated. Since they haven't been found guilty these women aren't 'true prisoners', meaning that programs/activities are not available. Basically they are just being contained, some for years.

We saw the conditions of the Remand Center as a great place to offer hope and minister to these ladies by sharing about Jesus and having time to listen and pray for and with them. Since late February, we have been visiting the Remand Center on a weekly basis. Our time slot is on

Thursdays from 1:30–3:30pm. While there are five of us on the leadership team who hold 1 year prison permits, the prison has graciously allowed us to bring up to 2 additional church members into the prison per permit. This is great as there are many from the church who want to participate in this ministry. We are still so new and are making progress as we learn along the way, deciding on certain 'best practices' that will



Kulie Ladu One of the many children who roam Juba

help this ministry succeed. One of those practices is meeting each Tuesday morning at the church office so we can pray and decide who is doing what. There are many roles to fill, such as: coordinating, leading worship, main teaching or talk, and translation. We limit the teaching to ten

Lori Ogle in Africa



minutes as translating doubles that time and we want to be mindful of losing their interest. However, we also incorporate other activities to reinforce the teaching like mime, skits, scripture hand-outs, songs and anything else that seems like it is Spirit inspired! We really have some talented volunteers who perform the mime and lead worship with musical instruments. At the Remand Center there isn't a strong Christian foundation among these women and many don't know Jesus. Therefore each time we visit, we try to point to who Christ is in a practical and applicable way along with the Word of God. Two weeks ago I gave my testimony. For those who don't know, I used to be a severe drug addict and close to death, but Jesus saved me in the here and now, and He saved me for eternity. I am free! The prisoners respond to



ADRA Health Center Though they are wearing MD/lab coats, none are doctors or nurses, most are minimally trained

teachings that are personal and once they understand and truly commit their lives to the truth of Jesus Christ – they too can be free.

We are still developing the Main Prison ministry where we will visit one Saturday each month. Since these women have been found guilty and are serving time, we hope to have a continuing Bible study with those who are interested. Our focus here is to disciple and nurture the inmate Believers so that they in turn can be a blessing to their fellow inmates. We have spoken to the 350+ women and 67 have signed up and agreed to commit to this Bible study. This is a higher response than we expected! Please pray that we can organize this time in a meaningful way for each participant.

As for the Sudan side of life, I continue to be heavily inundated with the project management tasks, particularly the finances. The HOPE for Sudan (HFS) Consortium's first year ended on March 31st, therefore I have been busy accounting for funds and activities for each of the 4 partners as we close down the books for Year 1. It has been quite a bit more accounting and budget management than I had predicted; though someone has to do it in order for the work to

progress.

Although I did not participate in the site training at Thiangriel, I sent a team from SIM Sudan in February and they trained seven local Sudanese to be local Task Leaders. Our Christ-centered HIV/AIDS message was used to train them. I am excited to learn how many people have been reached with this message across the vast expanse of South Sudan! Those numbers will also come in as the final data from the year-end is re-

ported to me.

I was able to make a quick trip to Sudan in late March. I flew to Juba, the new capitol for SS, where ADRA, one of our partners, is working. The purpose of my visit was to assess the viability of adding a Voluntary Counseling & Testing center (VCT) to their existing health center. A VCT is where people can learn their HIV status and receive counseling as to what that means. As Christians, we feel that we can offer the best counseling reflecting Christ's love. However, it is quite a process with a lot of training to become a VCT worker and a lot of regulations to become a VCT site. The HFS program plans to fund some VCT sites among our partners for the work in Year 2. I went to Juba to meet the health center staff and examine the facility. I was pleased with what I found and am very hopeful about future HIV/AIDS work being done there!

Not so inspiring though was the general condition of Juba. I spent \$100 a night to sleep in a tent! This is normal, if not lower than most rates. We bought 2 gallons of gasoline for a bit more than \$10USD. There is no electricity within the entire town – only generators. The garbage is just everywhere. There are dirty children loitering throughout the city as if alone without any family. It is a town that is in flux amidst an entire country that is trying to rebuild. Money blurs the vision and opportunity exists in most corners of the nation though the initiatives don't seem to reach that far. It is like a world I have never been involved in before; therefore, I have to be mindful not to be too critical as it is not my world and the Sudanese are facing new challenges every day. I pray in time that they will set foundations for this country that are built in Christ.

As the plans go, I should be going to Thiangriel the 2^{nd} week of April, to Yambio during the 2^{nd} week of May and possibly back to Juba somewhere in between there. However plans often change all I can do is "Commit *my* work to the Lord, and then *my* plans will succeed" as then they will be His plans. *Proverbs* 16:3.

"Praise the Lord during this Easter and Always for what He has done for us!"

> For His Glory, Lori