

"Son Shine in South Sudan"

"In Him was the life, and that life was the light
of all men" John 1:4

Lori Ogle in Africa

January 2007

Kenya • Sudan

*Praise...Prayer Points
and Opportunities*

†Prayer for logistical coordination & safety as we travel in the little Cessna 206 plane to Kurmuk at the end of January.

†I ask for the Holy Spirit's presence as I manage the HIV/AIDS project, especially for perseverance and peace as I am continually asked to re-write & adjust the plans.

†For wisdom and an attitude of thanksgiving as we wait for the Prison Commissioner's response to a 1 year permit and for ministry funds to help support this work.

†I am thankful for all the love and support I receive from each of you! I apologize that I haven't been as up on my emails these last few months, but know that I read all emails and appreciate your kind & encouraging words!

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*Note: If donation is for Lori's
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Ministry Changes

Happy New Year! Much has happened since I returned to Africa last September. While I had sent out periodic updates and prayer requests by email, to my chagrin this is my first newsletter. I hope to provide you with an overview of the different ministries that I am involved.

I am officially with the SIM Sudan team, though I live in Nairobi as does the majority of the team at this point. My main role is managing an HIV/AIDS project for a Christian consortium called "HOPE for Sudan" which includes: Across, ADRA, World Relief and SIM (the lead organization). The project receives some funding from the US Government (USG) to cover excessive operational costs (i.e. chartered flights to Sudan). This is the first time SIM has received money from the USG, therefore this is a pilot project, setting precedents for the entire worldwide SIM organization. Due to my administrative skills and experience, I have been asked to lead this project.

The HOPE for Sudan project covers the majority of Southern Sudan. I lead the team in initiating projects and then assisting each partner with the implementation process. Ideally, I would then spend time with each partner organization, focusing on ways to monitor and evaluate these projects, facilitate methods for best practice, reconcile budgets and report to the various donors, i.e. USG. However in reality, we haven't gotten too far past the initiation and implementation. This is due to several factors with the main one being

that this work is groundbreaking, a new frontier. Best practices that have worked in Uganda or Kenya don't seem applicable in Sudan. In fact we had to back track in many areas as we discovered the underlying feelings towards one who is HIV+. Sadly in several different communities a



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belief is held that an HIV+ person needs to be burned alive or shot so that no one else will get the disease. This obviously hinders our efforts to encourage people to get tested and know their HIV status. Areas of political insecurity and tribal fighting have changed the course of some of our plans. Within SIM's area we had to permanently close one site and postpone any work at another site all due to tribal fighting. Then of course when any governmental bureaucracy is involved, numerous changes en-

sue often causing major programmatic revisions.

In the past few months there have been many challenges that have facilitated project revisions and the development of new plans. This is my major responsibility and as many of you know, the past months have been very stressful. Any project that is attached to a donor(s) will need to demonstrate that their money is connected to results. So I must devise a new plan in order to accommodate the changes, which also includes restructuring the budget, working with each partner organization to tailor the plan to their area and then presenting it to the donor for approval. It does seem like a lot of "red tape" work but this is the only way to make strides in a war-torn land that has been closed off for the past several decades. This is what my main workload consists of at this time. In the coming year I hope to work with the partners at their locations lending technical and spiritual support and gleaning best practices so that others can benefit from this work.

With that said, I am pleased to report that despite the obstacles, the 28 Task Leaders (who we previously trained) have been successful in training 150 Sudanese volunteers who have then reached 1,208 Sudanese with our Christ-centered HIV/AIDS prevention message. In addition, where before the fear of HIV prevented this work some of the trained volunteers now are providing home based care to 68 individuals. We still have much work ahead, and I am sure that more changes will occur, but slowly the people of Sudan are taking up this initiative as they realize that they can be the hands and feet of Christ.

In other endeavors, I am working with two women from my church to initiate and develop a prison ministry at one of Kenya's women's prisons in Nairobi.

This is my personal outreach whereby my ministry funds will support this work. The three of us were granted permission for a one day permit to visit the facility and talk with the staff. On December 13th we made that visit and were greatly impacted by the favor that our Lord bestowed to us. Each of us left the prison with the same vision and impression from the Holy Spirit: to minister to the women in the Remand Center. This was not our plan upon arrival but was definitely our consensus when we left. The Remand Center is the prison sections where people are held who are awaiting trial or a court date. Their time spent there fluctuates greatly depending on the crime. Those who have committed a capital crime average 1 to 3 years at this site. Currently there are 60 women capital offenders being held there; most of them are there on murder charges.

During our visit we discovered that those in the main prison area are obligated to participate in daily programs (work or classes) and they have other organizations who visit regularly. While in the Remand Center the women can't attend programs because they aren't legally convicted as "prisoners" and there aren't any agencies doing visitations. In addition to that, we feel that those in the Remand area may be more open to the Gospel because their current situation is so uncertain and their anxieties high. Approximately 300 women are being held in the Remand area along with many of their children. In Kenya, unless there is an alternative (which is not likely), the children will go to prison with their mother up until the age of 4. Therefore we also plan to incorporate a children's ministry. Our goal is to begin a weekly Bible study for those interested while assessing other needs at the same time. An example would be the need for a class on English as a Second Language (ESL), whereby we would use the Bible as our reading

tool thus opening up an opportunity to reach those who wouldn't attend the Bible studies. Another possibility is to teach our 12 week Christ-centered HIV/AIDS prevention message where the emphasis is placed on living a Godly life.

I hope this provides you with a better understanding of how I spend my time here in Africa. I have planned to make a trip to Kurmuk in the Southern Blue Nile Region of South Sudan during the last week of this month. SIM's Task Leaders are located in Kurmuk and I need to visit them to encourage them and to explain some of the many changes that will be occurring. Right now we are planning a workshop in Thianguel to train Sudanese church members and soldiers on our Christ-centered HIV/AIDS message. This is scheduled for February 13th to 20th. I will not be teaching at that one, but assisting in the preparation work. Instead, I will be attending a workshop in Juba and then proceeding onto an Across location to provide technical support, monitor progress and lend encouragement to the team members.

Many times in my morning Bible studies I am given a verse or chapters that seem relevant to my current life situations. For the last several months one verse has been continual: "*to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night*" Psalm 92:2. On several occasions this verse has greeted me in the morning and tucked me in at night. Its simple words breathing encouragement into me when I thought I couldn't handle yet another request for programmatic changes. It's so good to be able to go the Book of Life! Blessings and thank you for being a partner in these ministries, - I couldn't be here without you and the grace and love of Jesus Christ!

*For His Glory,
Lori*