

“I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God for
the salvation of everyone who
believes” Romans 1:16

Lori Ogle in Africa

November 2008

Praise...Prayer Points and Opportunities

† I praise God for all that He has done for me and for the great family and friends in my life!

† Please pray with me for continued financial support during my furlough.

† Pray that I quickly adapt into the student' role and the Lord provides me with the daily strength and perseverance to complete these studies.

† Pray for clear direction to the next ministry field (Summer '09) would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to partner with Lori,
please send your tax-deductible
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Finishing Well

I am happy to say that I've completed my time in East Africa and have finished well – all praise and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ! *“Therefore as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” I Cor. 1:31.*

It has been the most amazing, painful, insightful 4 ½ years of my life. I remember the first six months to a year as being the most difficult times, as the Lord stripped away the identity that I'd made for myself. I had to learn to allow Jesus to rebuild me into His image; which I thought I'd already done by way of obedience to my call to Africa. While I don't think I will ever have to repeat that stage again, I do believe that He will continue to mold me as long as I am willing – and that applies to anyone.

Besides the work and spiritual growth done in me, the Lord also allowed me to be a part of His work in Kenya and South Sudan. Over the years I've had the privilege to work alongside both the Kenyan and Sudanese churches. I assisted them in developing and implementing Christ-centered HIV/AIDS programs that reached out to those who live in the crowded Kenyan slums as well as those living in the middle of a vast war-torn land in South Sudan. In addition, I was blessed to start a women's prison ministry at a maximum security prison located just outside of Nairobi. The latter began out of the local church I attended in Kenya. We were able to



Bible Game I made for Prison Inmates

bring worship, Bible teaching (using Navigator's material) and prayer to these women on a weekly basis. As a parting gift, I created a Bible verse memory game that highlighted all the Scriptures learned in the lessons. The cards were laminated so I hope that the inmates are able to enjoy them for a long time. The prison ministry and most of the HIV/AIDS programs are



Giving a speech at my farewell party with SIM Kenya and Sudan staff.



Most of the members from my home group in Kenya

continuing on under Kenyan leadership which brings me great joy!

Although there's joy, there's also the bittersweet sadness of saying goodbye. However, I must admit there was some fun in saying goodbyes... my Kenyan church home group threw me a party as did the SIM Kenya and Sudan offices (SIM being my former mission organization of 3 years). It was such a blessing to be able to have time for proper farewells and closure to this season in my life.

Looking to the Future

As I've made a place for myself back into my old yet 'new' world, I have to say thank you for all your prayers! Within the first month I found a perfect little furnished studio



My furnished studio apartment

to rent, a used car that I could afford and have reunited with my family, friends, church and home groups here in Florida. Currently I am on a furlough, which is part of the missionary's 'work' time where the missionary has time to reconnect with family, friends, supporters and to be refreshed spiri-

tually through their own church family. It is also a time that can be used to serve others either through their church or community as a way of saying thank you and as a way to stay in touch with the home culture. Therefore, obtaining a full-time job for this short period of time is not recommended and continuing financial support from people like you is most appreciated!

Pastor Art Dykstra heads up the missions department at Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg and he has given me the gift of working on a couple of projects for him. The main one is to assist him in the development Missions 102 which is the follow-up to the Missions 101 class. The other project involves looking through thousands of photos depicting CCSP's 'ministry in action' over the past years. I'm selecting shots for Art to review with the hopes that the hallway walls in Phase 2 will display these images. I may even get to "go out on assignment" to get some new shots! (For those who know me well...this is a dream as I love photography!)

While I work on these projects and whatever else I'm able to do, I will also be taking graduate level theological courses. Some of you may have heard that I received a full doctoral scholarship at Bakke Graduate University (www.BGU.edu) which is a school of theology located in Seattle, Washington that specializes in urban ministry. While this is a huge blessing, there are some requirements since my past graduate education was in social work. Therefore, I have to take 5 Masters level courses which will earn me a Masters in Theological Studies (MTS). The catch is that the MTS classes need to be completed in the US, while the doctorate level courses need to be done while ministering in another culture. I can't explain the rationalization for this, but I can say that it fits into my schedule perfectly!

I've registered for my first

MTS class and have received a 50% scholarship for those five courses. However, just like the doctorate program, the cost for books and travel is not included. I'm living very basic to keep costs low and am praying that my supporters will continue to be faithful during this time of furlough.

For the courses, I am required to read a lot of material then go to the BGU campus in Seattle for the intensive classroom instruction that lasts between a couple of days to a week. Following that there's more reading assignments, a paper and a community project all with set deadlines. I should be able to complete all five courses by June 2009, after which I plan to return to the mission field.

In my future ministry work I hope to be involved with Muslims in a French speaking country. I had 5 semesters of French in undergraduate college and would like to become fluent so that I may minister more effectively. This is also the basis for my application to Bible school – to further my knowledge so that I can be more successful when teaching others about Jesus – in particular when talking with Muslims. I have been in contact with some Calvary Chapel pastors over the past months and am praying that the Lord will place me alongside one of them during my next season of ministry.

I realize what a wonderful work Jesus has done in my life and the work He continues to do, but I also know that I'm very blessed that He's given me financial supporters and prayer warriors all along the way! I do hope you prayerfully consider supporting me financially during this time of furlough and praying with me for the Lord's continued guidance and wisdom as I learn more about Him through His Word and the MTS course work.

*Seeking His Truth,
Lori*