

The Vineyard's South Sudan Mission Trip

Thursday's Update

South Sudan Missions Update

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Rodger Parfitt prescribing some medicine.



Rose Schwartz showing the children pictures.



Doug Patterson helping a patient with back problems.



The medical clinic, where people are patiently waiting to be made healthy.

Thursday, September 27, 2012

Hello Vineyard!

Greetings from South Sudan! Thank you so much for praying for our team. We are all here safe and sound, praise God! We had an adventurous time traveling here from Uganda. We arrived at the Mission Aviation Fellowship Airport, and we were uncertain if all of our luggage would be able to come with us to South Sudan today, or if it would have to be left behind and sent on Saturday. After some stressful moments of trying to figure it all out, we were told all our luggage could come today. It was a great answer to Kathy Smarrella's prayers!

The plane itself was quite an adventure...it was very small. There were only nine passenger seats. Since our team has nine, and there was one other gentleman traveling with us, Denise Pope sat in the co-pilot seat. The pilot was very kind, and prayed for our trip before we left. The first take off was a little rough, but the rest was pretty smooth, and was a very beautiful trip.

Once we arrived in Yei, Pastor Stanley brought us back to the guest house on his property and we got all our luggage settled. We then went into town to get our tourist visas. While waiting outside the office, a man on the street asked us if he could take Sarah and marry her...we said no, she was not available. You never know what people might ask you!

We are now in the process of preparing medicines for the medical outreach at the Dreamland Children's Home tomorrow. We also sorted through the donations that we will be passing out to the kids. It is so exciting for all of us to finally be here, and we all look forward to tomorrow, and the various ways we will be serving the people. Pastor Stanley is a wonderful man of God, and it is a privilege to be here helping further the Kingdom of God through his ministry.

I did want to quickly share one moment from yesterday. It was a long day of seeing a variety of medical needs, some of which were very hard to see because there was nothing we could do. One of the most heartbreaking was a woman named Grace who was HIV positive. She had this horrible rash over her entire body...it was hard to believe just how many sores she had. It was such a powerless moment for us...we could use the laser on her, and Doug could adjust her back, but this rash was not going away anytime soon. Even harder for me to see was the vacant look in her eyes. It seems that the life was already draining from her, and she seemed to be in so much discomfort. Her need was so beyond what we could provide. I'm so grateful to know the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, and to know that He hears us when we pray. He heard A LOT of prayers for Grace yesterday - many of which were tear-filled. In the physical realm, we are limited, but in the Spirit, we are powerful. So, we pray, we hope, we love, and we trust. Who knows what the Lord might do? As she comes to mind, please pray for Grace to have an encounter with our Great Physician!

One prayer request for our team is that several team members struggled to sleep last night, and could really use a good night of rest tonight. Many blessings to you all, as you are blessing us with your prayers! On behalf of our whole team,
Dawn Morehouse