

The Vineyard's South Sudan Mission Trip

Sunday's Update

South Sudan Missions Update

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Kathy Smarella showing pictures.



Dawn Morehouse with two girls that she had prayed for.



Doug Patterson helping a child.



The team worshipping and being led by the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, September 30, 2012

It's been a great day for all of us. We started off by being able to sleep in, which was a wonderful thing. We were able to take our time getting ready for church. The casualness of the morning was really nice.

This was a day of being recharged physically and spiritually. After days of giving and giving to others it was refreshing to be fed by the Holy Spirit through others. Church started off with worship that was intensely led by the Holy Spirit. Team members were in tears while freely able to worship with the family of New Generation Church.

Clint started off the teaching time with introductions of the team members and a short teaching on not losing focus of what God is doing. Hugh then spent 45 minutes teaching on Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. It was a teaching like I've never heard before. I've heard this story many times, but never like this. It was a message that was very appropriate for the Sudanese people and even for me. After Hugh's teaching Dawn led the ministry time. Wow! God was in the building! 10+ people accepted Christ into their hearts for the first time. Many people received prayer for chains to be broken off of them so that the God's "wave of love" can propel them forward. All team members were able to lay hands of people during this prayer time. This was a powerful time of the Holy Spirit moving among his people.

Some things that I got from the church service this morning... There was a young mother who went onto the stage to join the worship team in worship. This young momma had a baby wrapped onto her back with a little girl joining her. I was struck with how this momma was worshiping God with ALL her being and her little girl followed her example without hesitation. The worship was incredible as it was, but then to see this displayed in front of me was amazing and brought me to tears. I was convicted with "What am I doing as a mother to teach my children to worship and pray with their wholebeing?" Am I the example they need in knowing how to do this? Do they see me love Jesus with my whole heart? I couldn't take my eyes off of her and her little girl. I wanted to meet this young momma after church but God instead gave me the opportunity to pray for her during the ministry time. My heart is full.

Hugh's teaching was spot on! The main point of the message was, "A faith that is tested by the fire is a faith that can be trusted". As soon as I heard that sentence the tears came again. It was a Holy Spirit kind of morning for me. ☺ Clint and I have been through the fire apart and together. It was because of our faith that we were able to survive through the fire and come out of it with healing and much more whole. The people of South Sudan have been through the fire in so many ways. Their faith appears to be so much stronger than ours when we worship and pray with them. They challenge us spiritually. Is our faith strong enough to live through the fire of life? Life isn't always easy and life can be full of challenges that we don't know that we can handle. Will we cling to the source of where our faith comes from when we are going through the challenges of life? How strong is our faith? What a great Spirit-filled message through Hugh!

After church we all piled into a hot SUV while some of the church people piled onto the back of a truck and headed down to the Yei River for baptism. We were so excited to be able to witness a South Sudanese baptism ceremony. Most of those getting baptized were teenagers and 20-somethings. To see this was encouraging to see

the next generation rise up and celebrate new life in Christ. It truly was a celebration for them. They sang songs of praise *while* being baptized. What a joy to be a part of their celebration!

The rest of the afternoon was spent relaxing by most of the team although Hugh and Dawn chose to go to a local outreach nearby. They experienced a new kind of offering of people literally giving their goods that they normally would be selling. There was corn, greens and even a chicken in the offering basket. Imagine giving those kinds of things in an offering. It challenged us in ways we never thought possible.

Clint, Doug and Rodger were able to meet with a young man, Amula, to discuss the possibility of hiring him as the Medical Officer of the Children's Medical Clinic. He seems to be a perfect fit for the position and is clearly interested in the position but is wanting to do what God wants him to do. Please pray for Amula as he seeks God for direction.

As the guys were meeting with Amula; Denise, Kathy, Sarah and I went for a walk towards the market. We came to the town square and saw that there were a lot of people standing around the football (soccer) field in the square. As we came closer we saw football players on the sidelines getting ready to start a game. I got very excited! I had just told Clint a few daysearlier that I'd love to see a football game played in the square. God granted me that wish! While the four of us ladies were standing there I noticed 2 young men approaching us. I greeted them and we chatted a little. They offered for us to sit on seats to watch the game. I insisted that the ladies join me in following them to the seats that I was sure they arranged for us to sit on. As we walked over to the seats the young men had the guys on the blue team's bench move for us! We were shocked and felt a little weird about it but the guys didn't seem to mind at all. To be sitting on the team bench was a little strange but I enjoyed the game immensely. We left at halftime to get back to the compound to join everyone else. This is a memory that will be with me for a long time! I don't take my camera into public out of respect and because it can be dangerous (we heard a story of someone getting arrested for taking pictures in town). I was so wishing I could take pictures but to be able to say that we saw a competitive football game in the town square excites me.

So the day ended with an event that may never go away in my mind. As we were having our team meeting and a time of debriefing the rain came. It poured and poured. We knew that we would not be able to have hot water for our bucket showers since there was no fire because of the rain. So whatdoes one do when they are in desperate need of a shower and there is no water? We shower in the rain! Yes, we do! It was quite refreshing to say the least. We all jokingly talked about doing this and then I found Clint out there in his shorts, showering. So us ladies decided to do it too. You should

know that we did wear some clothing even though it was in the dark. I'm not sure that I will ever forget this "event"!

This was a very memorable day in Yei, South Sudan for myself and the entire team. It was God-filled, Holy Spirit-filled, relaxing, fun and refreshing. God is good to us!

In Him,
Rose Schwartz (for all the team)

