



Travel Journal #5, Sunday, 10/10/10
by Lisa Mars

First off, thank you for your prayers-they have lifted us up! I feel so fortunate to be a representative of The Vineyard Church. We have partnered with incredible ministries here in Africa. They have great vision and know how to make those dreams become reality for the kids here. They are making great strides by becoming self-sufficient. They have a wealth of talent, hard work and most importantly the love of Jesus Christ our Savior.

We all woke up this morning to worship music coming from the church in the compound. What a blessing. I love music and their special way of celebrating God's love for each of us. \Our team then gathered in prayer. We had a breakfast of bread with peanut butter and pure natural honey, baby bananas and tea or coffee. It was a wonderful beginning to a spectacular day to come.

We were welcomed into the church with a worship celebration that was fitting for our God. Tara was quickly whisked away to the children's worship service where she shared her love of Jesus with over a hundred children tightly packed into a classroom. She reported that the children know the joy and hope of Jesus. Each of us left in the service shared our testimony. Clint was on fire sharing the word of God to the parishioners. Announcements for the day were even longer than at The Vineyard! There are so many opportunities to celebrate The Good News here, including a class on baptism and all night fasting and prayer. They have a dynamic group of leaders here.

After service we had some down time before our trip to the orphanage. I took a nap! Everyone else used his or her time wisely. Maria, Tara and Rose organized art supplies and photographs. Chris and Clint went to the market. Chris found a new Dinka (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinka_people) friend that shopped with him. They purchased new PA speakers with stands. The church speakers broke more than a year ago! They have been borrowing speakers all that

If you don't have a Facebook account you can view the wonderful pictures of Sudan just by clicking on the following link...
<http://www.facebook.com/album.phpaid=25752&id=110136282355916>

time. Pastor Stanley was quite pleased with the new addition to the church.

The wind began to howl as a storm brewed. The tin roofing shook and rattled like a scene from the Wizard of Oz. Soon it was time to load our gear and ourselves into the back of the dump truck for the trip to the orphanage. About five minutes into the trip the rain started. Slowly at first, but by the time we arrived it was an all out downpour! The children ran out in the rain to greet us. They giggled and laughed at their dripping wet American friends.

The children graced us with song, dance and a drama. They were spectacular! They know Jesus. Tara and Maria led a glow in the dark necklace-making project with the kids. Clint, Rose & I helped the kids knot their necklaces. Chris was shooting video and taking pictures. Rose was torn between taking pictures and helping the kids...both are important roles! We passed out drawstring cinch bags to each child. Each had a ball, candy and a toy. They squealed and laughed with joy and appreciation. Then it was movie time! We all enjoyed an animated version of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. It was well into darkness at the end of the movie. And to their amazement another surprise was in store for the kids...Glowsticks! More giggles and joy!

We loaded ourselves back into the back of the dump truck. My legs were weary by this time and needed a push to hoist myself in! Our still damp selves and supplies were off to our home away from home. The children were eating their dinner as we drove off. Over a hundred glowing bracelets glistened in the night like colorful fireflies. The African night sky had partially cleared so the crescent moon and stars glowed in the darkness. The big and little dipper was bright and clear. Just another opportunity to wonder at Gods works.

We made it back to the compound and had a time of reflection and prayer before dinner. I am so blessed to be part of such a dynamic, talented team. Clint found a guitar and he played and sang a great worship set. It was a wonderful end to a perfect day.

Thanks again for letting us represent our church. It has been an honor and privilege. Your prayers for Sudan are being heard. God bless you.

