Travel Journal #7, Wednesday, 10/13/10 by Clint Schwartz

I am sitting in a café in the Belgium airport waiting for our connecting flight to take us home to the good ole' USA, we are all very excited about coming home later today. Rose is checking Facebook, Maria is journaling and Tara is writing her message for this weekend's service. Chris and Lisa should be soon boarding their plane from Uganda to London; their flight was a day behind ours so they leave this morning. This trip has simply been amazing to me...

We woke up early on Monday morning to the sound of the town coming alive. We got dressed for our departure from Sudan, had another breakfast of hard boiled eggs and bread rolls, and then began the process of deciding what stays and what we take home with us. We left several items of our clothing, shoes, candy, snacks, suitcases, batteries, electrical equipment and tools. These are all very difficult items to come by in Sudan, so it was a huge blessing for Pastor Stanley to receive these departing gifts. I then walked through the finances with Pastor Stanley and left him money to accomplish the following goals:

- Build 60 benches for the classrooms at the Dreamland school. Currently most of the children are sitting on the dirt floor during class.
- Build 10 benches and 5 tables for the Dining Hall as there is no furniture in there and they sit on the floor to eat.
- Finish the windows and doors for the dining hall so that it is protected against the rain, dust and wind.
- Repair the dump truck by buying new tires and

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

replacing the rings in the engine. The dump truck is their primary means of transportation and will be used almost daily when the harvest begins which is very soon at the Operation Joseph Farm.

• We left money to give the teachers at the Dreamland a bonus and also to give them raises. It's been very difficult to keep good teachers lately as their pay has been very low. Their pay has been right around \$3/day, what do you think the local Teacher's Union would think about that?

After this short business meeting, we loaded the taxi with our remaining luggage and gathered together to pray. Esther once again volunteered to pray for us in her "natural tongue", and she stormed the gates of hell on our behalf. She was in tears, and so were several of the team members as we said our good-bye's. The trip to the airport takes much less time now that the road has been repaired and we soon arrived to check-in to the small stone building they call their terminal. Pastor Stanley stayed with us and we continued to have deep conversations about the future of his ministry until the plane arrived to take us to Uganda.

We boarded and arrived in Entebbe, Uganda just a few short hours later. Life was immediately different. The streets were paved; there were sidewalks, electricity and fans. We felt like we were definitely in a much improved world! Pastor Solomon was there to greet us, even though he had been battling malaria the last couple of days he drove out to pick us up. We drove over to Sophie's Motel to check Chris and Lisa in as they were spending the night and dropped off our luggage. We then drove into downtown Kampala for our much anticipated 'American Style" lunch! We went to the "Silver City Spur" Restaurant and ordered milkshakes, chicken fajitas and fish, a wonderful transition from the traditional Sudanese food. This was all part of our decompression transition to get us back into the Western mentality. After eating, we drove over to an outdoor market and picked up a few souvenirs. The girls were amazing and able to complete their shopping in 45

minutes flat as we needed to make it short so we would have time for showers before going to the airport.

We boarded our vehicle and headed through the heart of Kampala to begin making our way back to the hotel, but we were stopped by traffic. It must have been rush hour as we simply just stopped and would sit there for 5 minutes at a time. We finally inched our way through the worst of it and arrived back at the hotel a couple hours later. We took turns quickly taking showers, saying our good-byes to Lisa and Chris and jumped into a taxi to take us to the airport. Turns out our flight was delayed by an hour, so we had plenty of time but we didn't want to risk missing our flight.

Overall, this has probably been my best trip to Sudan yet. The team was perfectly suited for the mission that God had for each one of us to accomplish, much of which we found out about once we were on the ground. I'm excited about the progress that Pastor Stanley has made in several different areas and look forward to seeing the ongoing improvements over the next couple of months and years. Our hope is to raise at least \$10,000 at the Art for the Heart of Africa Benefit Auction so that he can build another dormitory for the children. I really believe it is possible as the children's photos and bracelets that they made are simply beautiful and we have close to 100 pieces of art donated by local artists.

Please continue to keep the people of Sudan in your prayers as there is a very real possibility of war brewing on the horizon as South Sudan will be voting for independence from North Sudan in January. Pastor Stanley is fasting and praying with local church leaders every Thursday as a group. So, please join me as I pray for peace in Sudan and protection for the children of New Generation Dreamland.

Finally, I wanted to thank the people of The Vineyard Church for making this trip possible. 10% of all giving into the City on a Hill Building Fund goes towards helping the people of Sudan, and the ongoing tithes of our church family has made it possible to increase our missions budget each year over the last several years. Every one of you who has given to our church has had a part in changing the lives of these precious children in the middle of one of the most desperate places I've ever seen, so again, from the bottom of my heart I wanted to say Thank-you. Your prayers and financial sacrifices have made a huge difference!



Pastor Stanly, Vicky & Esther



Dinner with Pastor Solomom