



News Updates from South Sudan

**“As for you,
you meant evil against me,
but God meant it for good...”**

Genesis 50:20

Dear Praying Family & Friends,

March 2017

Since Dec 25 & 26 disturbances in Doro, there has been no further fighting. We are praising the Lord that all our SIM Doro Team were able to be evacuated on Dec 27 to Nairobi, Kenya where they have remained since then. Thank you all so very much for your faithful prayers for safety and healing for our Doro Sudanese neighbors, especially those who had lost loved ones. SIM has been marvelous in giving member care to our missionaries, so that they can process this traumatic event. God has been so good.

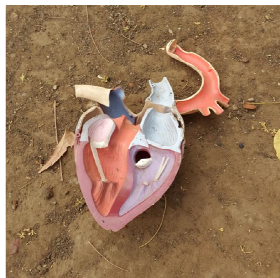


Tension continued until mid-February, when our SIM Assessment Team were allowed to fly to Doro to evaluate the situation and our properties. This was a difficult time for these 5 men, as they heard many sad stories. There is a cease-fire, but no reconciliation agreement between the fighting parties. Our Doro community had fled and are living under trees across the river. Some of our refugee community have fled as well, fearing retaliation. The Assessment team visited our Doro community and church

leaders across the river. They have visibly lost weight as all of their food & household goods were looted. Our own SIM compound houses have been stripped bare of everything. This is a photo of my house in Doro (right) and what was left after the looters left. They took my solar system. All of this has been very discouraging for our SIM missionary team and me. Please continue to pray for all of us, that the Lord will encourage us to go on.



I have often wondered, “Why, Lord?” I have been reminded that nothing has escaped His notice and through all of this tragedy, He is with us. Immanuel! 1 Peter 5:7. I was told that before the fighting started, the Christians in the refugee camp sent messages of warning to the local Mabaan community. Possibly this is why there were few casualties. Also, after the fighting had stopped, church pastors & leaders from various tribes met together, asking each other forgiveness. There were many tears at that time. This is a start towards the healing of deep heart wounds. Some of these church pastors have formed a Peace Committee, with the goal towards peace and reconciliation. God is at work in people’s hearts, and He is using His church to lead the way. The Doro community who are living across the river under trees are still afraid to go home. However, they are meeting together as a church, to sing praises to the Lord and to hear His Word. This young mother (above) dedicated her baby to the Lord a few weeks ago. It is precious to hear they recognize that God is with them. Please pray that the Lord will comfort, bless and meet their many needs.



This heart model (left) that I used to teach the health staff, was found amongst the ruins after the looters left my house. This is a visual picture of the broken hearts and lives of our South Sudan community & country. The standard Sudanese response to various tragedies is “God is still with us”, however I have heard that some women are too sad to even say this anymore. They are truly broken-hearted and afraid. I am reminded and encouraged by an old hymn that I used to sing as a child:

Does Jesus Care?

By Frank E. Graeff (1901)

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
 Too deeply for mirth or song,
 As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
 And the way grows weary and long?
 Does Jesus care when my way is dark
 With a nameless dread and fear?
 As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
 Does He care enough to be near?
Refrain:
 Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,
 His heart is touched with my grief;
 When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
 I know my Savior cares.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for me. They are really appreciated. SIM is sending in a building team to repair our houses (my doors were stolen too) so that we can return. I will be returning to Doro on March 30. Please pray for safe travels, wisdom in ministry and spiritual protection.

In the Joy of Serving Jesus, Sandy Ewan

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