

Joy's August '08 Memo

Empty Nest Syndrome

I can kind of relate to some of you this time of year. Maybe you're sending your firstborn off to kindergarten, or your last-born is going off to college, or if you're a missionary you might be sending your son or daughter to boarding school. And in all of these situations there will be an empty space in your life - at least for a little while.

The reason I say I can relate is that this week I'm saying goodbye too. I'm saying goodbye to the Bible Distribution Team. They head back into Sudan and I won't be going with them - figuratively anyway. For the past year I've either talked to or texted at least one of the team each day or emailed to keep up with the progress of the trainings and distribution. They've been like family as we've worked together.

As they return to Sudan this week they're starting on phase 2 - an evaluation of our training with some reinforcement teaching on how to study the Bible. A seasoned South Sudan Samaritan's Purse staff member has taken over from me and will be moving the Bible Distribution Team into a Ministry Team. Their goal is to develop new ministry activities to help empower and build the church. Please continue praying for them as they travel many kilometers and teach how to study God's Word.

Because of my empty nest I'm feeling a little sad and disconnected this week. But then I remind myself of God's faithfulness and His incredible plans even when things look uncertain.

Want Ads

Urgent need for a treasurer for WGM's Kenya office. Short term and long term options available. Check out: <http://www.wgm.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Document.Doc?id=621>

Teacher needed for 3 boys, ages 12, 14 and 17 in Sudan between November '08 thru May '09. Strong math skills a plus.

If interested in either of these opportunities contact World Connection at WGM - 765-671-7228



Teacher needed for
Cameron, Ian & Forrest Mueller

Can you hear me now?

On Wednesday, September 17th, join me at noon (EST) via phone as I pray for the country of Sudan. Just dial 800-868-1838, code 247679#

Homeland Ministry Assignment

I'll be headed to the U.S. this November through January. If you'd like me to share with your church or if you'd like to set up a visit, just let me know. I look forward to sharing about what God has been doing over the past 2 years and the opportunities that lie ahead. I'll have a tentative schedule in my next Monthly Memo.

Bible Distribution Accomplishments

- **214,488 Bibles** distributed in 6 languages
- That is **113 tons** moved throughout South Sudan - similar in size to **Alaska**, by means of 6 seater planes, 7 ton buffalo planes, donkey carts, trucks, boats, and, of course boxes balanced on the heads of Sudanese women!
- **10,605 Reading Group Leaders** trained
- Over 11,000 Bibles given to the Sudanese Army



Fresh Start

A new school year was always a time of fear and trembling with many unknowns as well as high excitement with what the new school year would bring. I feel that way now as I begin a new phase of ministry.

I'll be working with World Gospel Mission in several capacities. I'll be available to missionaries working in Africa to assist with any needs relative to health and development. I'm excited to share my experiences and resources and look for ways to build capacity for what missionaries are already doing or dreaming of doing.

I will also be developing a wholistic community-based health & development outreach in South Sudan. Pray with me that God's team will be brought together & that we identify the right location. You know what they say: "location, location, location." This is true in starting a new ministry!

WGM also wants to partner with other ministries in Sudan to utilize our strengths. We have the opportunity to assist a new and developing hospital.

All of these activities require God's direction. Pray with me that I will not get ahead of God, but that we will keep up with where He's leading. If you'd like to get involved in any of these opportunities, let me know.

Thank you for enabling me to help get 250,000 Bibles into Sudan. We will never know the extent that God is using His Word in this battered country. Not in this life anyway!

Shalom,

Joy

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