

Joy's July '09 Monthly Memo

Joy Phillips serves with World Gospel Mission in Sudan

A note from Joy ~

Our winter is upon us here in Nairobi - cool, gray days, lots of visitors, and an excitement about officially launching Mango Ministries in August.

Our small team of 5 will be together for a week, then we'll have our first Board meeting, and then we'll fly to Sudan. First we'll visit Dr. Martin in Werkok then we'll head to Akot where we'll meet leaders and continue to strategize about the way forward.

Nothing is easy in Sudan, so although we're very excited, we know that there will be rough spots ahead. Thank you for continuing to pray for the people of Sudan and that our words, steps, and actions will be led by the Lord.

Prayer Requests

- Mango Ministries team meeting and visit to development program in early August
- WGM Sudan Board meeting on August 7th and 8th
- Recruitment of missionary team members
- Acceptance of the Hague's decision in the Abyei border dispute
- Receptiveness of target communities
- Wisdom as strategy is defined

Dr.
Martin
and
Reuben
at
Werkok
Hospital



One day I was listening to Joyce Meyers on the local Christian radio station at lunchtime. Her guest caught my ear. He said, "It's easy to look at a photo of a child in Africa and feel a burden. Don't act on that burden though. Burdens come and burdens go." From my experiences in Sudan it could be the heat, the incessant bugs and insect bites, the attitudes, or gunshot that sounds way too close. Any of that and more could cause a burden to dampen!

This guest speaker said, "What you need is a call." A call will withstand the disappointments and struggles that are bound to assault you when the going gets tough, which undoubtedly it will.

So, instead of describing children who have bloated stomachs because they lack clean water and instead of telling you most people in the church do not know how to read their Bibles, I'd like to ask you, "Do you have a call to help bring transformation to South Sudan?" If you do, or think you do, check out: <http://www.wgm.org/Page.aspx?pid=5168> I'd love to chat about your call.

Counting the Days. . . .

We have a habit of counting days, don't we? There are 43 days till Labor Day. There are 152 days till Christmas. There are 15 days till I fly to Sudan!

Want help in counting the days next year? Mango Ministries is producing a calendar for 2010! Beautiful color pictures of Sudan will remind you of our activities and encourage you to pray for us.

For \$12 (that's only \$1 a month!) you can have a lovely calendar to help you count the days. All profits will go towards Mango Ministries.

Orders will be accepted from individuals and organizations, like churches, who can help us by selling in quantity. Email me at joy.phillips@wgm.org and let me know how many calendars you'd like to order. Payment is due by October 15th. Orders will be ready by December 1st. Payment details are coming next month.

I recently reconnected with one of my favorite books called, Walking with the Poor; Principles and Practices of Transformational Development, by Bryant Myers. I'm hungrily leafing through it as I prepare for the Mango Ministries Team orientation. Here are a few challenging quotes.

"**Transformational development** is a lifelong journey. . . Everyone is on this journey: the poor, the non-poor, and the staff of the development agency. . . the goals for this journey are to recover our true identity as human beings created in the image of God and to discover our true vocation as productive stewards, faithfully caring for the world and all people in it." (p. 3)

"The poor are poor largely because they live in networks of relationships that do not work for their wellbeing. Their relationships with others are often oppressive and disempowering as a result of the non-poor playing god in the lives of the poor." (p. 13)

"Few development workers understand prayer and fasting as tools for human transformation or for working for justice." (p. 11)

Please continue praying that God will use the Mango Ministries Team to begin the process of true transformation among the people of South Sudan.

Joy's contact info

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Prayer Praises

- Dr. Martin continues to have a productive time at Werkok Hospital and has been safe despite fighting nearby
- Good visit by Reuben and Tenwek nurse to Akot
- Joseah Sang joins the team ~ Joseah worked with me in the Bible Distribution last year



Joseah Sang and Reubek Kirui
outside a traditional tukel (hut)

Support address

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