

Joy's November '08 Memo

My Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Father, I'm thankful for the aroma of a cooking turkey, for the scent of sage, cinnamon and nutmeg. I'm remembering the potato chips and popcorn I had last year while flying over Sudan. And the year before that was a celebration with a goat roast and attempt at pumpkin pie. But I have never gone hungry - how many people can say that in today's world? I'm thankful for having my daily needs met.

This Thanksgiving I'm thankful for a homeland where people don't riot when they don't get their way, where democracy works. I pray that people around the world will have access to peace, security and freedom.

I'm thankful now 'not then!' for being thrown into an unhealthy environment with stresses and challenges coming at me from government, staff, and colleagues. It's helpful to know how far I can bend through the adversities of life.

Despite how hard this was, I praise You that I lost my circle of influence when I left Tenwek. I now know that even when I feel very alone You are there. And when friends are far away I know You are close because You have whispered to me through my tears.

And I thank You for the mistakes I made while dealing with staff. It's my prayer that I will not be so quick to accuse those I work with recognizing again my own human shortcomings. May I lead wisely and with humility.

Meet me at Dino's!

You are invited to join Joy at Dino's Seaville Restaurant, Ocean View, NJ this Tuesday on December 2, at 2 pm. After enjoying a meal together she will share about her ministry in South Sudan. Selected menu options range from \$9.75 to \$11.25. Bring cash or check for meal.

Call 609-889-7576 to confirm by Monday

Global Economic Gloom hits Africa too

Sudan is an expensive place to live and work. Almost everything is imported, from fuel (\$7/gal) to milk powder to cement (\$25/bag). Flying to and from project sites is the safe option of getting around. If you're already a partner, will you prayerfully consider increasing your support in 2009? If you're not involved, why not consider becoming one of my support team? Contact me if interested.

"If our Master returned today to find millions of people unevangelized, and looked, as of course He would look, to us for an explanation, I cannot imagine what explanation we should have to give. Of one thing I am certain - that most of the excuses we are accustomed to make with such good conscience now, we shall be wholly ashamed of them."

From Mountain Rain, by Eileen Fraser Crossman

I relish the brisk chill of winter and distinct change of seasons ~ the red berries, drifting leaves, and autumn sunsets ~ how creative, Lord. I welcome these changes to heat and sun, mud and rain.

I'm thankful I've endured days of falling ash and dust that hangs in the air, grits in your teeth, and cakes to your feet. How else could I marvel at and enjoy the pure white floating snowflakes as I do?

I'm thankful that I sleep well most nights, for the opportunity to eat healthy food and supplement with vitamins when I can't. I'm grateful for mosquito nets, bug spray, water filters, sunscreen, and the ability to get around. I'm thankful for good health, for access to medicines and doctors when needed.

I'm not thankful enough for your Word. I have at least six Bibles, yet read them so little. Thank you for the ability to read! Ninety percent of Southern Sudanese can't read the language they speak ~ and thus can't open your Word for themselves. May the 260,000 people who received a Bible this year cherish it like life itself. May they study their new Bibles or find someone who can read to them. May my appreciation for literacy and owning a Bible be evident in more time spent savoring its comfort, challenges, and rebukes.

I could not be more blessed by how you provide for my ministry than with the faithful group of folks who stand with me. Thank you for their selfless gifts of prayer and finances. They bless me.

And I'm truly glad for the emotional turmoil I've been through ~ the nights spent asking God if I'm in the right place, why things weren't easier, and was this really what He had in mind when He sent me to Sudan. I'm happy to know that Jesus is always enough. He is enough today and for the tomorrows that I have left. Thank you Jesus. You are enough!

Finding thankfulness,

Joy

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