

WE ARE BACK!



# TUKEL TIME

November 2010

*"I always pray with joy... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" Philipians 1:6*

## If you would like to pray for us:

- Thank God for how he has blessed our time in Doro, particularly the friendships he has given us
- Thank God for the work of the Water Project and the smooth handover
- Praise God for health and safety these last 18 months in Sudan – no malaria, no snake bites!
- Please pray for all the people who have come to mean something to us – that God would continue to meet their needs
- Please pray for the church in Mabaan, for godly leaders who can serve them well
- Pray for the water project team as they continue the work
- Pray for peace in Sudan
- Please pray for us as we adjust to being back in the UK, and for God's guidance as we plan for the future

## The Past 4 Months

*There isn't space to tell you about all we did during the 4 months since our last letter: Deborah teaching at the local school and learning Mabaan, Justin running another pastors training course and launching a bike hire scheme – you'll have to ask us about it when you see us!*



Deborah with Hadia and her class

We are back on British soil once more! The long anticipated day finally arrived when we climbed aboard our Virgin Atlantic flight to head for 'home'. The doors were closed on a grey, cloudy Nairobi – and after 8 hours of mind-numbing in-flight entertainment, opened again on an equally grey, cloudy Heathrow! What was different? Smarter cars, perfect road surfaces, comprehensive signing – but the strangest thing was to be surrounded by British accents, something we have previously looked out for as a novelty!

## Finishing off

Only 2 weeks previously we were still in a land of expansive blue skies, mud houses and alfresco dining. Still surrounded by the people we had come to know and love, many of whom have never been in a car, let alone seen a road sign. Over our last few weeks in Doro Deborah slowly packed up the house, and Justin worked to hand to get the water project in good order for handing over to the team.

We have some special memories from the weeks before our departure. The **Water Project team held a celebration** in the project compound, a week before we left. They sat us down for a round of speeches from the whole team and then a generous feast. It was very special – and moving – to hear their appreciation for all we have contributed as a family.



Listening to speeches

The **SIM team also held a farewell party** for us in the communal 'dining room', which has seen us say goodbye to many special team members over the years. They too shared some of what our family had meant to them during our time together. The same day, **Deborah visited Hadia's home**. She is a Muslim lady who taught at the Doro primary school with Deborah. Deborah gave her an Arabic bible as a parting gift.

Only 2 days before we left, Justin attended the **wedding of a pastor friend**, which involved swimming across the swollen river! Deborah and the children distributed **bags of gifts** to our Sudanese friends. Over the coming days we saw many other Calebs walking around the village as the children are wearing his clothes! A striking picture of how much our children came to be part of life in the village.

As you can imagine, it was a strange and sad time saying good bye, not knowing for certain whether we might see our friends again. Back in Nairobi we had nearly two weeks to say farewell to the SIM team, visit some of our favourite places (like the Java House cafe in the picture above) and wrap up loose ends.

## Adjusting to the cold

It is amazing how quickly you adjust back to the world of hot showers, microwaves and mains electricity! The concern is not to forget the world we have just left and all the good things it taught us – somehow we have to try and keep hold of both.

We have thoroughly enjoyed looking out on the last days of autumn from a comfortable, centrally heated home. We are staying at Burrswood with Deborah's parents, and have just returned from 5 days with them at a cottage in mid-Wales. We had a few days of glorious sunshine and enjoyed many walks in the beautiful countryside, drinking in the colours and sights.



Next week we are heading to Cambridge to catch up with friends and visit SIM for our de-brief. On the 1st December we are travelling to northern France where Justin's parents are now working as missionaries. We are excited that Justin's brothers and sister will all visit with their families while we are there. After that it will back to Burrswood for Christmas.

## Future Plans

At the moment our working plan is to return to the SIM Sudan team in September next year, though of course, we want to see this decision confirmed in discussion with our churches, friends and family and SIM in the UK. We have seen how we can play a part in encouraging the people of Sudan and having made a positive start in building relationships and learning about the culture, we are willing to return. We firmly believe that God needs his church to be prepared to cross national boundaries to encourage his people around the world.

There are several things that will need to fall into place for us to be able to take this step: there will need to be sustained peace in Sudan, we will need new roles that suit us as a family and we will need extra support for this longer assignment. If it is what God wants then we believe he will keep the door open and prepare the way for us.

Southern Sudan is timetabled to have a referendum for independence on January 9th next year (2011). While it is our longing that Sudan would remain peaceful, in general people are not very optimistic that the process will be completed peacefully. There is a real danger of conflict resuming if either side comes to think fighting is the only way to get the outcome they want. Please keep praying with us for peace.

We want to take the time now to get better equipped for our return and are very excited that we have been offered a place at All Nations College for the remainder of the academic year. We are joining a programme where we can select modules we are interested in to study each term. There is a great selection of courses to choose from: on cross-cultural mission, bible and theology, pastoral care, development and leadership studies. We are really grateful to have this opportunity to explore some of the issues we have been exposed to and to process our experiences as part of this community. During this time we are looking forward to catching up properly with friends and family and renewing contact with our churches and supporters.

## Christmas Wishes

Let us end by offering you our wishes for a very happy and blessed Christmas as this year comes to an end. We pray that within the celebrations you will have your hearts touched once more with the wonder of God's act in sending a saviour for the whole world and a renewed vision for how he wants you to play your part in encouraging his world-wide church in the year ahead.

With much love

Justin, Deborah, CA, Leeb  
bethanie

### Future Newsletters

We hope to continue sending out occasional newsletters during the year ahead, sending them ourselves using the same mailing list as before. Feel free to let us know if you would prefer not to receive further newsletters.

We will also continue to send out email updates with items for prayer. Please contact Rachel Arscott at [rcarscott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rcarscott@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to be added to the list.

### THANK YOU!

**We want to say a BIG thank you to all those who have been giving financially to allow us to serve in Sudan as a family.**

We will continue to need people's support while at All Nations and beyond. However, we realise that this is a good time for people to review their commitment. Please visit [sim.co.uk/Give](http://sim.co.uk/Give) to make changes to your giving (referring to Agnes family).

### Our Contact Details:

*While in the UK we can be contacted via our home address at any time:*

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