

The hyenas are giving birth!

Dear all,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Please give thanks to God with us for a truly exhilarating and (honestly) exhausting week. Both Tim and I have undertaken our teaching responsibilities this week and have even been described as very enthusiastic and energetic teachers.

I feel an enormous sense of privilege in being afforded this opportunity to spend time with and share with these incredible students. We are constantly having to adapt our tasks and our language to suit their needs and they are growing in their honesty about how much they are grasping of what we deliver. I expect that by the time we leave we'll just about have got it right.

The heat here continues to tax both Tim and I, especially on the walk to and from the college. Moments of cool shade are too infrequent on a scorching route. The one time I took a lift on a motorbike we knocked into a child and then later crashed in a very 'stubborn' rut. I hasten to add no-one was hurt in the process! The child moved off laughing having been scolded by every adult witness within scolding range. When it rains it is blissfully cool, but that is only for the most fleeting of moments. Sometimes the rain comes in the midst of blazing sunshine. Obviously, Tim and I went looking for a rainbow but were told that this, in South Sudan, in these meteorological circumstances, is precisely when hyenas are giving birth. Rainbows, what nonsense!

We are being very well looked after in all manner of ways whilst here. The staff at the guest house are great, the kitchen staff at the college are amazing, the principal and the Bishop are very hospitable (we're off to the Bishops for dinner tonight), a local charity have thrown wide their doors to facilitate our 'on tap' Internet access via a wifi connection.

Tim and I are left chuckling by our triumvirate of vultures in our back garden who clumsily bounce around behaving much like the Liverpoolian vultures on Jungle Book. Every now and then we acknowledge, with some considerable disturbance, that we've walked within touching distance of a menacing bird of prey.

Let me finish with a word about these students. They are working so hard attending each day and facing hours of teaching. They are faithfully attending, despite difficulties and are working so hard. The back stories to their lives are fascinating and reflect something of their utter commitment to their training and lives of service to The Lord. They are awesome people. This week please pray for them:

Mary, James, Santele, Jacob, Nathan, Charles, Miriama, William, Moses, Repent, Emmanuelle & John Benneth.

Pray especially for Miriama as she has missed two days this week through sickness and having to travel to the next town to visit a doctor.

Pray too for replenished energy for Tim and myself.

Continue to pray for our safety and security.

Pray for the plumber to return from Juba (we're sharing a toilet at the moment! - thankfully it's in Tim's room!!) Pray too for our families back home. We are missing them and I hope they're missing us too.

With love in Christ,

Jim.