

The white man from the church is in the school!

Dear all,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ from Mundri and all who live here. Greetings from the Bishop, the Principal, the local pastor, the students, the local government administrator, all the schoolchildren, the taxi drivers, the boda boda pilots, the ladies in the kitchen and the three goats we walk past every day. Sorry for those I've missed out.

Another great week in Mundri is about to come to an end. Our teaching has continued to challenge and stretch both Tim and I. One of the greatest challenges was being asked to preach at the mid week college fellowship in front of the students who had been sitting in my lessons on preaching! I had to put all that I'd been teaching into practice. The students informed me that I did very well and could have even spent more time speaking, the 20 minutes I delivered was too short (are you listening St Mark's Church?). It continues to be a privilege to teach these students and learn about their lives. Some of them have walked with the Lord through such difficult circumstances. Many of those circumstances continue even today.

Today, after an amazing visit to Baya Primary School, next door to the cathedral we took the students for a 'soda'. Each soda costs 5 south Sudanese pounds. This turns out to be one quarter of what the church gives them for their work as pastors in a year!!! Even the archdeacons get the same. It is somehow different for the Bishops.

We arrived at the school to the children singing a lovely song as we approached the gates. When I asked what they were singing we were told the words mean "the white man from the church is in the school!" - which was a good and welcoming thing we were told. We'd decided to take the students from the college to the school on a 'practical application of our teaching' visit. There were 918 students in the school who gathered around us as we delivered the story of the Prodigal Son through drama, song and short message. The students of the college were thrilled as were those in the school. The whole trip was a real encouragement to us all.

This week Tim and I have had to adjust to colder weather as more rain and storms have swept through Mundri. This makes us all the more grateful for MAF being able to fly us back to Juba when we come to make our return as the roads will be unimaginably bad after this rain. We've both even been heard to say that 'it's feeling a bit chilly' over the last 24 hours or so. We must have acclimatised.

We would covet your prayers again this week:

Please pray that the unrelenting diet of rice, beans and greens would miraculously turn into steak and chips or a bowl of crunchy nut cornflakes and cold milk!

Keep praying for our relationships with the students and for our final week of teaching next week, that we can cover all that was asked of us.

Pray for the exam papers we are setting, that they will be a positive contribution to their ongoing learning and formation.

Pray for our families back home as they cope without us around.

Pray again that Tim and I continue to stay fit and well.

With grateful thanks for all your love and support,

Jim