

Sudan Prayer Letter 5 - the final chapter!

Hi

One last epistle to conclude the epic trip. After a month of thunderstorms, appalling roads, cold showers, wonderful smiles and constant greetings, new deep friendships, the poverty and hope of this baby nation, as well as some intense but exhilarating teaching, preaching and conversations, and enough rice, beans and greens to last a lifetime, it is time to leave. Lots of reflections and lessons learnt and much, much more still to ponder, but some wonderful memories of people, places, sights and smells that will linger in the memory (especially the smells).

I wanted to send this to say "thank you" for all your prayers over the past month and the recent days in particular. The sense of the Spirit has been very great and he has worked great things: the sermon on "The Sword of the Spirit" in the cathedral yesterday morning was received with excitement and enthusiasm and my preaching at the mission (restricted to a mere hour and a quarter due to a thunderstorm) was something like no other sermon I have ever preached. Not just because of the rumbles of thunder throughout, or the fact that I was under a tree, nor the musical accompaniment of the Depeche Mode tribute band with their amps on 11, but because God did great things and 3 people committed their life to Jesus. What can top that?

Our Bonfire Night was somewhat different compared to normal, beginning the day with a cup of tea and a chapati, sat in pyjamas on the Guest House veranda. The fireworks were courtesy of another electrical storm in the afternoon! We spent the day "leaving" with visits to the students and at 4pm Jim led and I preached at a farewell service (and an hour of "thank yous") before a spectacular feast in our honour. It sums up the generosity and love we have received throughout this trip. God's grace has been there in everything, in their generosity, in the practical arrangements, in the resources we have had available to us, in the wisdom and guidance we have had in teaching and in the knowledge of your prayers. So thank you for all your support and the messages of encouragement.

So now we start the trek home and the task of assessing what has happened and evaluating each aspect so that others can benefit. But, more important than that, we get to see our families and eat proper food again!

Thank you again and this comes with much love in Jesus.

Tim