

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY.....

FOGLEMANS IN EAST AFRICA (AND IOWA) VOL. 2, AUGUST 2017



"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."-----

Isaiah 55:8, 9 ESV

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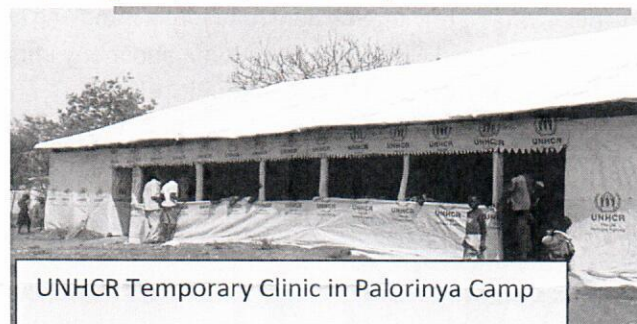
The Old Testament verses above are reminders to us that there is Another who is thinking thoughts and doing things on a different plane and scale of thought and action than WE are. We may think that we are going to do something and do it in a certain way or timing. But the One who really knows what will happen continues to allow us to think that we are going through with thoughts and activities on our schedules and methods.

Sharon and I thought when we went to South Sudan in 2012 that we would be serving there for 10 continuous years. We ended up leaving South Sudan in July of 2016 due to the violence and instability there. When we returned to northern Uganda in January of this year, we thought that we would probably be providing health education in Rhino Camp—one of the several refugee camps here. By April, we found ourselves instead working in the Moyo District Hospital, providing clinical care for South Sudanese refugees in a different refugee camp. And before the end of April, we thought that we would be living and working together in the Moyo Hospital for a year. Now, in late August, we find that we have been living and working on different sides of the world, doing completely different types of work- but all for the Lord.

Such are examples of God's different thoughts, ways, and plans for our lives that we have experienced just within the last 12 months. We still know that He is in control, but the changes in our lives sometimes leave our heads spinning, and our hearts aching. That is one reason that this newsletter has been delayed in reaching you to let you know what is going on in our lives.

After setting up household in Moyo in April, we did receive our Ugandan medical licenses fairly promptly, and began our volunteer work at the hospital. The Medical Superintendent of the hospital assigned me (Lynn) to work in maternity, and Sharon to work in the pediatric ward. These had been the areas in which we had mostly been working during our times of service in Kenya. After only a few weeks of work, it was time for Sharon to make a "quick trip" to the US for the regularly scheduled TMS Global Board Meeting in early May. Just as she was leaving Uganda, we received some

disheartening news from home. Our 26 year-old daughter, Joella, who has had previous problems with life choices, began again to make poor choices. And these had affected her employment, her place of residence, and eventually her



UNHCR Temporary Clinic in Palorinya Camp

Moyo General Hospital, Uganda



ability to take care of her 6 year-old daughter. Due to her actions and inactions, the custody of our granddaughter, Zari, had been given to one of Sharon's sisters and her husband who live in that area of Iowa. As Sharon was going to the US, she headed up to Iowa after the meeting to care for Zari. The custody situation is dependent on the court/judge seeing healthy choices on Joella's side. We were warned that this process may take as long as one year. That year matches the year that we had committed to Moyo Hospital through our new partner Medical Teams International (MTI).

After much prayer, discussion, and listening, we concluded that it is best if Sharon stays in Iowa caring for Zari, and I (Lynn) remain in Moyo—serving as physician on the maternity and pediatric wards. Neither Sharon nor I felt comfortable just abandoning all the commitments that we had just begun to fulfill in April for this year. Therefore, we asked permission from TMS Global, MTI, and Moyo Hospital to work in this manner, and it was granted. And I have been



Joella, Sharon, Lynn, Zari

given permission to go back to the US for more frequent, short visits for family support. I made the first of those trips in early July, in time for Zari's 6th birthday party. I arrived today to celebrate our 32nd Anniversary on September 1st together. We are happy to share another week! This arrangement of living and working separately is certainly not one that Sharon or I would have ever thought of or chosen, but it seems to be the way we are being led by God at this time.

My work at the hospital varies between many busy days, doing C-sections and other obstetrical procedures and pediatric ward rounds, to some days that are not so busy—giving time for reading and relationship-building with staff and patients. I am wanting to incorporate my witness with my service here in this government hospital. The staff and patients seem to appreciate my availability to assist, as they have been without enough doctors for many years. And I request your prayers for me as I take on this role in a rather challenging situation.

Sharon has experienced much joy (and some challenges) over these past Summer Days in Iowa – Zari is full of interesting questions and the short commute to her school has provided good times of singing, conversation, and learning! Seeing the world through the eyes of a 6 year-old – what a privilege! Thankfully Joella is making good progress over the last 4 months. There is a Free Medical Clinic in Iowa City, and many immigrants to the area – Sharon is grateful to be involved in these community efforts.



Zari, First Grader!



Due to the delay in sending out this letter, WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF OUR 4TH GRANDCHILD ON AUGUST 27TH – Nicholas Alexandar to Kurt and Annie Fogleman in Denver, CO. Praise God, everyone is doing well!

We apologize for the delay in sending this newsletter. You are so important in our lives and want you to know that your financial support and prayers have been a blessing to us through this long summer. The Lord is faithful. May you experience life with hope, peace and joy as Fall is upon us! Our brothers and sisters in South Sudan, Uganda, and Kenya send God's love and appreciation to each one of you!

Much love and peace,
Lynn and Sharon Fogleman
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