

Dear Friends and Family,

Happy New Year! We pray you all had blessed Christmas and New Year celebrations! We thought we would just write a little update on our lives...

Kenya Crisis

As most of you probably know, Kenya is currently in turmoil over its elections. There is even worry of it turning into genocide like that in Rwanda in 1994. Some of the worst fighting and killing is happening just four hours from our home here in Soroti, in Eldoret, where recently 30 people were burned to death in a church because they were unwilling to fight. In Nakuru, 50 people have been killed. It's hard to imagine that these are two places we plan to stop over on our way to Nairobi for a conference in less than two months. Kenyan refugees are flooding into Uganda as we speak. It brings us back to the reality of how volatile even the most peaceful and economically prosperous African countries are. Please pray for the situation and the people in Kenya.

Since all of Uganda's fuel comes through Kenya and since they have closed the borders to all trade, fuel prices here are sky-rocketing. Currently, the cost of fuel is up to \$6.25 per liter, or \$23.75 per US gallon. While we were blessed to fuel up and return to Soroti from Kampala (after our spending a month in the USA) just before the prices really started to rise, we're definitely not planning on any major car or generator usage. Due to the cost of transport, the price of everything else is expected to rise within the next few days, so we are trying to stock up on food and supplies.

North America Excursion

Our month in the USA and Canada was extremely busy, yet very enjoyable. It was just too short to see and spend time with everyone. Our time in Canada was especially short as we weren't able to get Moses a Canadian visa and thus had to leave him in the states with Angie's parents. It was wonderful to see his reaction when we returned. He got all excited and kept wanting to switch between who would hold him, Angie or me. We do look forward to returning to North America, with a stop-over in the Netherlands, for a 3-month home-service beginning in August, making sure Moses has visas to all three countries. In the meantime, be sure to check out our latest video on our webpage or at <http://www.youtube.com/v/8CXMdN-vW0E&rel=1>

Back in Soroti

Coming back to our home in Soroti was a little stressful in that we came back to a house full of dust. It's dry season now with high heat and constant winds blowing dust and dirt over the land. Even though we had all of our windows shut, everything was covered with a thick layer of dust and dirt. Since we didn't get in until 5:00pm, we decided to spend the first night back at a friend's house. We spent the entire next day cleaning... and still have more to do.

Monkey Business

You'd be happy to know that while our patas monkey has been unleashed for a week (because of some sores that he got from his leash), he has not strayed more than 30 feet from Miss Chief (the vervet monkey). He just putters and plays around freely, following close behind us as we work in the yard. We will have to leash him up again before the Shaardas return home, but I bought some good dog leashes that will work nicely.

Speaking of the monkey, the "Name that Zoo" and "Name that Monkey" contest is still on! Please submit your names by the end of the month, after which you will need to vote on the five we choose for each. Spread the word, make it a family affair, get others from work/school/church involved!

Remember, there are prizes involved (3 ebony monkey carvings for the monkey name, an African carved chair for the zoo name)! So far, the following names have been submitted for the zoo:

(Mt.) Ararat Zoo
AMAT (Avalien, Moses, Angie & Tim) Zoo
Christ's Children's Zoo
Christ's Creatures Zoo
Christ's Critters
Coneys' Refuge (Ps. 104:18)
Creatures of the King
Eden
God's Great Zoo
God's Little Animals
God's World Zoo
God's Zoo
Graceland
Kingdom Critters
Mission Zoo
Noah's Ark
Sanctuary
Selah
Slidrechts' Zany Zoo
Slidrechts' Zoo
The Ark
The Christian Zoo
The Miracle Place
The Zoo
Ugan Zoo
Zany Zoo

And the following have been submitted for the monkey name:

Angelus
Baby Girl
Bingo
Bobo
Bubba
Butterscotch
Chip
Christian
Cota (friend)
Dannie
Diamond
Ebony
Goliath
Grace
John the Baptist
Jonah
Kasey
Kernel/Cornel

Kiki
Laura
Little Banana
Lola
Lucky
Missy
Munky
Noah
Pablo
Peanut
Q-T (cutie)
Rapid
Salima (safe, unharmed)
Sarah
Seno
Severus
Snickers
Sorti
Timmy
Tiny Tim
Wanda
Yolanda
Zubu
Zumba

In Christ,

Tim, Angie, Avalien & Moses
<http://sliedrechts.spaces.live.com>

P.S. Be sure to check out our latest video on our webpage or at <http://www.youtube.com/v/8CXMdN-vW0E&rel=1>