

Dec 4, 2008

Dear Friends,

Thanks for your many prayers for Jos throughout this week. It's been mostly calm, with a heavy military presence throughout the town. We've been able to move about freely, except during the 6pm to 8am curfew (!) With the support of CRWRC crisis relief, an immediate supply of food has been delivered to 3 refugee camps, and money for medical supplies has been given to one of the hospitals. We're so pleased with how quickly the CRC has been able to mobilize relief help with minimal red tape. Pray that this immediate response will become part of a long-term testimony to the love of Christ through his people.

Bitterness, revenge, fear, and anger are in the minds of so many people as a result of this past week. And so much of it justified and understandable. But in just a few short weeks more than half of us in Jos will be celebrating the coming of the "Prince of Peace". What difference does He make? Truly, the question for us this December.

Carolyn and the girls will be leaving this weekend (Friday-Monday) to stay at a retreat center about 45 minutes outside Jos. Partly so that they're a bit more removed from where the conflict has been, and partly because of skirmishes that may flare up during a Muslim holiday this weekend. But the main reason is because they're getting bored staying at home, and the girls are eager to be with their school friends who are already at the retreat center. School will not resume until Dec 10, so this has been an unanticipated (and unplanned for!) vacation.

Thanks for the confidence you've placed in us. We couldn't be here without you!

In His Grip,

Albert, Carolyn, Jessica, Kristin and Andrea Strydhorst (in Jos, Nigeria)

Strydhorst Family