

Mueller Email Prayer Letter – June 2006 Volume 2, No. 3

We have entered summer – finally!! Soon, we will be moving to Nairobi to set up our home and begin our work from there. We are excited to get there and settle in. As noted in the last letter, all is waiting for our arrival. Only a few things to do – finish packing our house in Minnesota, turn over the responsibility of it to the kids (Michael and Rachel will be living there while going to school and working), taking a few days to be with our extended family, getting in our last grandbaby-fix, and then boarding the plane for the 18 hour flight to Nairobi, arriving July 20th.

A few items since the last letter:

I just returned from a wonderful trip to South Africa and Sudan – two countries not only far away from one another geographically, but great distances from each other culturally and spiritually – S. Africa primarily influenced by Christianity; Sudan mostly Muslim. The trip to S. Africa gave me a chance to visit with two partner churches: a church which was begun by German settlers and members almost all of German heritage, and the Lutheran Church which sprang out of the mission work the Germans were doing in S. Africa among the black population. That church is now a church on its own – actually larger than the German Lutheran church. Apartheid still hangs over the country despite the movement away from segregation. But I experienced a joint worship service between the two church bodies on Pentecost. I shared with all of them the Lord's Supper during the service. Though this may sound like a small item, it represents the ability of the churches to look past the years and years of apartheid and see themselves as one in the body of Christ. S. Africa is a beautiful country. We were there during S. Africa's winter – we scraped ice off the windshield in the morning! Two days later I was standing in Sudan, at 6:00pm at night, in 102° temperatures!!! Of course, it is a dry heat.



Joint worship service in S. Africa



Worship in the Internally Displaced Persons refugee camp

We were in the desert of Sudan, in the capital city Khartoum, a Muslim dominated area of Sudan. Southern Sudan has many more Christians, but both are now emerging out of a 20 year civil war. Tension is still high, but movement is being made through the signed Peace Agreement. We visited a refugee camp where up to 1 million people are still displaced and living in mud homes. It is there where we worshiped in a Christian church – in the heart of a Muslim capital city. God is moving and is showing His strength even over oppressive laws. In both countries and with all three churches, it is obvious that the chosen leadership has God's mission in mind. They are moving their respective churches forward and have asked LCMS WM to partner with them in a number of ways. It is exciting to be in Africa and see these visions coming to pass. When it comes to **Ablaze!**, the African churches have much to teach us.



St. Paul Lutheran Charity Hospital in Sudan – serving Muslims and Christians – a powerful witness

A few prayer requests as we begin to pack our bags and get ready for the move:

1. Please pray for the church leadership in S. Africa and Sudan as it leads the church forward in God's mission – hearts *Ablaze!* and burning for sharing Christ.
2. Continue to pray for Joy as she contemplates the request from LCMS WM/WR to serve God in this capacity.

3. Once again, pray for us – the family, our transition, the new grandbaby Jacob, the move, packing, etc. It will be difficult, fun, exciting, sad, and will include much trepidation and anticipation.

If you wish to support our work in Africa, simply let us know. We could use your prayers! If you wish to support us with your gifts, you can send a gift to LCMS World Mission, 1333 South Kirkwood, St. Louis, MO, 63122-7295 and be certain to add that it is **for the work of Paul and Joy Mueller!**

Please keep in touch with us. Our emails are the same: Paul.Mueller@LCMS.org or JoyMueller@comcast.net. Our new snail mail address will be P.O. Box 22, Karen, 00502, Kenya, E. AFRICA.