

Dear Praying Family & Friends,

April 6, 2020



Hello from Campbell River, B.C! Thank you so much for your prayers for me during this Covid-19 pandemic. As so many people have told me, we are living in a different world now. It has taken the world by surprise. However, I firmly believe that nothing takes our Lord God by surprise.

On Sunday evening of March 22, the Government of Kenya announced that they were closing their borders & airspace by March 25. SIM had just brought out all of their missionaries from Doro, South Sudan as it had been announced that the borders were closing. To hear that the airspace was soon to close told all of us with SIM that decisions had to be made. Due to the fact that Kenya has a limited number of ventilators & well-equipped hospitals, SIM South Sudan leadership spoke with each missionary, encouraging them to consider returning to their home countries.

As the Covid-19 pandemic has been spreading worldwide, it was not a matter of "if" it spreads throughout East Africa, but about "when." In mid-March, I was considering returning home to Canada in late April, but when the Kenyan government made this announcement of closing its airspace, I knew that it was time to leave. My heart was breaking, as I didn't even have chance to say goodbye to my dear Sudanese families in Doro. And with this fast exit, my prayer was "Lord, when will I be able to return, & will I be able to get a plane ticket out of Africa?" I spent 2 nights with our SIM travel agents. My flight through NYC was cancelled in a matter of 5 minutes of booking it. The Lord answered my prayers with a flight with Qatar Airlines, through Doha, Montreal & then on to Vancouver (and eventually on to Campbell River). And so, I left Nairobi on March 24th (Tuesday) night, 24 hours before the airspace was to close! God was so good! My flight home was long, but uneventful. However, all flights to Campbell River were cancelled, and so I had to stay overnight in Vancouver, rent a car & take the ferry to CR. I was so thankful to finally be home, as I was so tired! It took me 2 days.

I am so thankful to Camp Homewood, on Quadra Island, to allow me to "self-isolate" in a lovely rustic house for 2 weeks. I was blessed by Mark & Heather (my sister & brother-in-law) who filled up the fridge with yummy foods & gave me warm cozy blankets. I have the fireplace on every evening to warm my cold "African" bones. So far, it has been a quiet restful week for me. Time to think & pray for those I have left behind.

SIM International have formed a Crisis Response Team (CRT) to give assistance to our SIM missionaries & ministries worldwide. As of April 5, there is now 1 case of Coronavirus in South Sudan. With all SIM missionaries & Kenyan medical staff out of South Sudan (& Doro), we have left the health clinic operating under our South Sudanese staff. Our clinic staff are doing a marvelous job. Our Community Health Workers, who you have been praying for all these years, are still faithfully seeing patients and caring for their health needs. Please pray for Benjamin, Peter & Masir, as they daily come into close contact with people. Pray for their health, that the Lord will guard them with His mighty hand. A local pastor, John Kaya has graciously taken responsibility for our guards & the security of our housing compounds. Please pray for Pastor John. Not an easy job to ensure that everyone shows up for work! Also, pray that the Lord will use this Coronavirus for His glory. Pray that people will begin to seek His face. That those who have strayed away from Him will return, and pray for those who are seeking Him, will find Him! Jerimiah 29:11-13.

Thank you again for all your prayers for me. I will keep you posted on how things are going in Doro, as well as passing on updates & prayer requests. Right now, we are trying to get more masks, gowns & gloves into Doro for our clinic staff.

Bye for now. Love & blessings to you all.
In the Joy of Serving Jesus, Sandy ☺