



Happenings with the Klepps

December 2018

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Isaiah 43:18-19 says, ***“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.” See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland”.***

This is the verse for us in 2019. We were not expecting changes, but here they are. In fact, we planned for a full year in Yei, and are leaving just ½ way through. Let us share the general story.

Things have been good for us here in Yei, South Sudan since our return in August. Gideon’s schooling is going well – he can really read! Things had been much more peaceful, and we were more comfortable with the children. Within the last month, there have been some cultural issues that have come up and miscommunications. The peace we have been celebrating has deteriorated around the area. There have been many discussions about what is best for the campus and how we can best serve Harvesters, and due to some things out of our control, a decision was made that we should leave Harvesters Yei.

Through much prayer and dialogue, Harvesters is looking to see the ministry handed over to African leadership. South Sudan is an unstable place, and unfortunately, Yei has become more unstable than before. These things, as well as some other issues play into the decision for us to leave.

All that to say, we are leaving Yei and decided not to take a position with Harvesters in Uganda to care for University students there. On the night we received the news that we had to leave Yei, we received an offer from YWAM Tyler (ywamtyler.org) for Lance to be the construction coordinator for the new buildings they are putting up on campus there.



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These buildings will help house the future missionaries that are being trained to go out. That is the ministry we did the discipleship school at when we were on our "sabbatical" of sorts in 2016. We have taken time to consider the option and feel like it would be a good move for now. We are not making a long-term commitment there but taking this as a season for growth and hopefully change in the areas that are needed. We will stay involved with Harvesters and hope to continue being part of where God is leading the ministry.

To summarize:

- We will leave Harvesters Yei in mid-January, after a visit to Terekeka.
- We will be in Arua for a time to help get Hannah fund (University) students settled.
- We will return to the states early February and visit family.
- We will travel to east Texas in March and jump in there.

This was not what we intended to write in our "Merry Christmas" newsletter, but it is our reality now. We are still sorting through what this means for our family. We love and believe in the vision and values of Harvesters and believe God has good things in store. We are not yet sure how this transition will go with our monthly support. YWAM is also a missionary position and we will continue to need financial support.

Please join us in praying for the following:

- God's grace in packing our lives back up again and saying goodbye to the children.
- Transition to the US after time in South Sudan, a nation/people we care deeply about
- Wisdom to know which positions for Kim to serve in and the best schooling for Gideon, as well as a Lance in a new position.

Please know that we are willing to share more details if you would want to ask. We will continue to keep you posted, especially as the transition takes place.

Here are some highlights of the last few months in Yei:



Gideon and his best friends....



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Christmas celebration



A wedding celebration of two of our Harvesters children- now grown up and working for Harvesters. It was a joy to celebrate with them.

A preschool graduation that brings hope to the Yei area that people are still moving on despite difficulties. We are so proud of how the children continue to grow in the love and grace of God.





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Ok, just two more photos..... Kim has loved the opportunities to take photos and here are two favorites.....



The beautiful "Abubas", who care for the children daily. These women have become so dear to my heart.



The smiles of the sweet children capture your heart every time!