

The Strietzel Scope

Jesus says, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."
Revelation 22:12-13

Dear Friends,

July 2007

This week's MAF ladies' Bible study has been about the majesty of Jesus Christ as described in Revelation, with the throne of God being at the center of all action and worship. This Sunday's message at church was about an extraordinary God using ordinary people to spread His Gospel on this earth. For sure, we know we are ordinary people, not capable of anything on our own, but we serve an Almighty God who can do far above what we could ever ask or think. His ways and thoughts are far above our imagination, and He deserves all the praise for the miracles He is working in people's hearts and lives.

We praise the Lord for these most recent happenings:

In April, our teammates, Joey and Suzanne Lincoln (with baby Brooke), participated in a missions conference at the theological seminary (ISTB) in Bunia, DRC. The Lincolns reported, *"This conference brought together pastors from all over the country to address the results of this research (studying the state of the Church in post-war Congo) and begin training these church leaders to mobilize and transform the Church, so that God and His people will be the greatest 'light' and source of healing for this hurting country. It was an honor for us as MAF to be a part of this conference, both by attending and by transporting many of the pastors to and from Bunia for the occasion. We look forward to continuing to serve these pastors as they move about and make a difference in this country."*



May 21-24: About 100 participants (church leaders, pastors, women's leaders) made their way, by air and road, to Bunia, DRC, for an "Understanding Trauma" seminar led by Dr. Jenny Dawson from Australia. One could tell that the discussions on "Trauma" and "Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome" were born out of personal experience.

Also in April, MAF did a number of flights for SIL (Wycliffe) transporting guests to Nebobongo for the 20-year celebration of the Budu Bible Translation Project and dedication of the JESUS film in the Budu language in Ibambi. Over 2,000 people attended the celebration, and the JESUS film in Kibudu was received extremely well – hearing Jesus speak in their own language! Bettina Gottschlich, SIL missionary in Ibambi shared, *"People tell me how kids are remembering many phrases of the film and reciting them at home. Let's fill the town and people's hearts with Jesus' words!"*



Completely on another subject, but very important as well, we hosted my parents, Fred & Delores Plastow, the last two weeks of April. Their goal was to see us in our Africa setting and to spend some quality time together. Their 47-hour trip here was an adventure story in itself! Some of the highlights of their time included: a day trip into Congo; a day trip to Bujagali Falls at the Source of the Nile; eating lunch on our folding camp chairs under the mango tree in our yard; introducing them to our church family and friends; tasting fried grasshoppers for the first time. (They really aren't bad at all!)

April-June: MAF flew the Assemblies of God Church for evangelistic outreaches in Kisangani, Congo (about 3 flight hours west of us). A number of visiting pastors, teams, and retired missionaries

participated in this outreach, taking along 2,800 pounds of Bibles, and reported, “We owe you an incredible debt of gratitude for the way you have assisted us during our activities in DRC Kisangani. In the first 8 weeks of our evangelism efforts, we have seen 3,467 first-time decisions for Christ. These are people whose information is registered and whom the churches are already engaging in discipleship follow-up. Additionally, they report to us 4,587 “rededications.” That number is so high, that I inquired of our leadership as to what it means. With a grateful and humble smile, they responded that these are people who, when uprooted by war, displaced from home and family, abandoned their faith in the process, and are now renewing their commitment. One of the amazing things is the number of young men who stand with tears streaming down their faces: We are told that many of these young men were forced at gun point to deny their faith in order to save their children’s lives. They are finding grace and renewal in the pattern of Peter in the New Testament as Christ ministered to him so gently and faithfully even after his 3-fold denial.

I share all of that as a testimony of God’s goodness, and to say to MAF that this could have never taken place – under the difficult logistics of eastern DRC – without your able assistance. You have all gone the second mile for us so many times... don’t really know how to say THANK YOU adequately. You certainly should share in the praise for what the Lord is doing there.”

June 2-4: Our annual MAF family conference was held in Jinja, Uganda. At the beginning of this year, our MAF leadership felt the Lord’s gentle nudge to be thinking about a re-entry into Congo, and we have been praying for the Lord’s leading and timing. At our family conference we continued to discuss the possibilities. Our teammates mentioned above, Joey & Suzanne Lincoln, are to be the first family to move into Bunia. Joey is the main Cessna 206 pilot, so he will keep the plane with him in Bunia while the Cessna Caravan remains here in Kampala. Then, a second family is to join Lincolns this fall, around September or October, Lord-willing. Stay tuned...we will keep you informed as to whom the second family will be!

June 14-25: Our co-worker, Donna, welcomed her brother, David and 2 nieces, who came as a medical team to work in Nebobongo, Congo, for 8 days. Dr. David is a family doctor who specializes in hypertension and diabetic care. He came with many medical supplies as a teacher and consultant in his area of expertise, and was a great encouragement to the many diabetics from this particular area of Congo.



For the most recent family news: Jason has remained on the Moody campus, working a security job at nights and window-washing during the day. Stephanie has finished her job as a traveling nanny and has returned to Glacier National Park for the summer, working as a hostess at Jammer Joe’s pizzeria at Lake McDonald Lodge. Their contact information is below.

We have now completed 17 years of service with MAF. We praise the Lord for your faithful support and prayers that have seen us through these years. What a privilege to serve the Lord together with you!

Joyfully,

Lary & Sheryl, Jason & Stephanie Strietzel

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