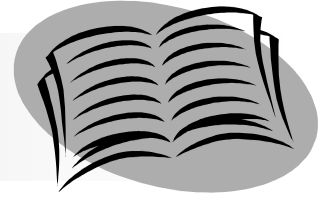


THE SAUNDERS STORY

JANUARY 2006



MINISTRY UPDATE

Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Lamentations 3:22-24

We have been living in our house for 3 months now and it is really starting to feel like home. We do plan to do some painting and have some new curtains made and then it will feel even more like "our home". We have also been working with the motel ministry for three months now. It was decided that Jeff would help Angela with the motel for a couple months so that we (especially Angela) would have more time to unpack, get settled and adjust to a new house and culture. And it has gone very, very well working as a team.

We wrote about the motel about one year ago, but let us refresh your memory on some facts. The motel has eleven rooms and can hold up to thirty people, but more comfortably twenty-five. There are two apartments upstairs each with two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen and dining room. The remaining seven rooms share a large kitchen and bathrooms. Most of the people who stay here are either parents of children who attend Rift Valley Acad-

emy (missionaries) or family members of patients at the hospital (Kenyan or Somali). However, we do occasionally have Kenyan pastors, Kenyan nurses who come to do training at the hospital, doctors attending a conference or missionaries and nationals who are just visiting the area or family/friends in the area.

We are fortunate to have a great group of men who work for the motel doing the laundry, cleaning of the rooms and anything else that needs to be done. Right now we have three full time workers and one casual (that we call on when he is needed). We are very grateful to these men and all their hard work. On December 17th we were able to thank these men and their families by giving them a Christmas party. We had approximately 30 people here and we fed them roasted goat, potatoes, cabbage, chapatti (similar to a tortilla), samosas (small pastry filled with meat, onion and spices), soda and ice cream. We all had a good time eating and talking to one

another. However, we wouldn't have been able to do it alone. Esther, our house help was invaluable to helping us cook all the food.

Our main responsibilities are managing the workers, assigning the guests their rooms (which sometime takes a lot of switching things around to make it everyone fit) and making sure the guests pay their bills (which is also challenging at times). We are also trying to do what we can to improve the motel. We have started using a new company for cleaning products. It is actually a part of Johnson Wax which is based out of Racine. We are also thinking about some redecorating and are busy buying more blankets, towels and kitchen supplies for the three different kitchens. We are striving to make our guests as comfortable as possible.

We also want to befriend our guests, especially considering that some of them are hurting because of family members at the hospital. We have already had a couple guests loose

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH EMILY

Emily Marilyn Saunders was born on June 16, 2003. She is named after Jeff's mom (Marilyn) because in early 2003 Jeff's mom was diagnosed with a brain tumor. They thought the tumor was benign (and the biopsy after surgery showed that they were right), but we soon realized how much Jeff's mom meant to all of us and how much of an impact she had on our lives. Emily looks more like a Saunders than Erica and has daddy's red hair.

Emily is a very adventurous and curious child. She would much rather explore and investigate new things than play with her toys. She also prefers outside to inside and loves digging in the dirt. Sometimes

she seems to have no fear and enjoys climbing really high. Praise the Lord she has had no major falls as of yet.



Her favorite song is Jesus Loves Me and she can sing about 3/4 of the song by herself. It helps that Erica really likes to sing and listen to music, so Emily hears songs often.

It is so interesting to hear the words that come out of Emily's mouth. She will answer us with a big long sentence when we ask her a question. For example, we will ask her if she wants an apple and she will say "yes, I do mommy, I do or no, I don't mommy, I don't." She also announces her arrival back home the proper Kenyan way. As she walks into the house she yells "hodi" which means "here I am or may I come in"

Not only does she make us smile with the things she says, but also with the things she does. She definitely brings a lot of joy and laughter into our house! How we thank God for her.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- MINISTRY UPDATE
- GETTING TO KNOW EMILY
- PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS



MINISTRY UPDATE

their loved ones and have had the opportunity to tell them that we will be praying for them. Jeff even had the privilege of praying with a Muslim man who is really searching. He has already gone back home, but some seeds were planted when he was here and we are praying that they grow. His name is Brashir. Pray that the Lord will continue to soften his heart and answer his questions.

We are fortunate to have a Somali pastor (who converted from Islam) here every other week to talk with the Somalis at the hospital. He also helps at the motel with language barriers and ministry opportunities as they become available. A couple other missionaries and Pastor Mohammed have a ministry once a week where they cook food for the Somalis, talk with them and show them the Jesus film. On the weeks when Pastor Mohammed isn't here just the missionaries minister to the Somalis.

As a result of the increasing number of Somalis that are coming to the hospital and motel a decision has been made to build another motel. Unfortunately, there are times that we don't enough space to put people in because we only have eleven rooms. The other problem is that often people come between 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm because they have realized that they can't travel back home or have been told that they need to be seen again tomorrow. So, sometimes we have to turn people away at night, which is always difficult. With a whole new building, we would have more room for everyone, but especially more room for Somalis. We are also hoping to have a missionary couple come and work specifically with the Somalis. Please pray that the necessary funds are raised so that a new motel can be built. We honestly feel that this is a wonderful opportunity. Missionaries can't go to Somalia, but we can witness and love those who come to us. In the past several

years the hospital has seen an increase of around thirty percent in the number of Somali's that come for treatment.

If you would like to contribute to this project please send your check to AIM-USA PO Box 178 Pearl River, NY 10965. Attach a note that it is for project number 000242-Kijabe Motel.

Jeff has begun working part time at the station getting his feet wet. He has been able to do some reorganizing and cleaning of the station workshop. He has also been able to work on some water problems that we have had and some phone problems. He is learning alot about the different systems and what needs to be done in the future. As of January 1st Jeff will start working full time as station technical manager. He will be responsible for overseeing the security, electricity, water, phones, and roads. He will have a challenge maintaining the 400 acres of property. Thanking you for praying for us as we minister.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of you who give so generously to our ministry here in Kijabe. Without your prayers and financial giving we would not be able to serve the many missionaries, nationals, and others who pass thru the motel and station.

Since our departure in July we have been around 96% of our monthly support of \$3,947. July and September we were in the black and August, October, and November we were in the red. This upcoming year we will also have an increase in our monthly target. There will be around a 10% increase due to ris-

ing medical costs, 401k, and school fees for Erica. Once we are told the exact increase we will let you know. Please pray with us that people will be willing to support us on a monthly basis or give a one time gift. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness thus far. He has been so faithful and we do not doubt that he will be faithful in the future.

It seems like when it rains it pours. We continue to chip away at the cost of repairs for our Mitsubishi Pajero as we still owe around \$1500 for those fixes. We have also had some problems with our laptop computer that are not fix-

able. We had some technicians from the states look at our computer during our recent AIM Kenya conference and they told us the problems we were having with our computer were related to a motherboard that is slowly going bad. That is not good news! We are in the process of setting up another ministry account for anyone who would like to give towards a computer for us. Once we get that information we will forward it on to you. Again thank you for praying for us and thank you to those who give financially. We wouldn't be here without all of you to support us.

PRAYER REQUEST & PRAISES

Prayer Requests

Kenyan government — strength & stability.

Africa Inland Church — strength & stability

Africa Inland Mission — new constitution & guidance

Spiritual growth for us as a family

Cultural Adjustments - language, food, discipline, & transportation

Financial partners — currently at 96% of our monthly support with an expected increase January 1.

Motel Ministry — ministry to Muslims & missionaries; new construction

Station Ministry — transition, learning, & safety.

Praises

Safety & good health in traveling.

Financial Partners — the Lord has provided 96% of our monthly support.

People have been welcoming & friendly.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

Titus 3:4-5a

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