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the
PLANE *facts*

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**"BUT IF YOU DO NOT WORSHIP IT, YOU WILL BE THROWN INTO A BLAZING FURNACE. THEN WHAT GOD WILL BE ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM MY HAND?"
DANIEL 3:15B**

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

For many of us those words stir up memories of sitting in Sunday school and hearing stories of Daniel and his three friends and the difficult life they faced under extreme persecution. But that's about where it ends. Living in America we enjoy such wonderful freedoms that we have a hard time relating to a story like this. We don't worry about what will happen to us if we gather together on Sundays to pray and worship. In fact it probably never crosses our mind to be thankful for the privilege to live in a country that defends those freedoms.

The more I fly around Africa the more aware I become of the hardships and persecution that so many of our fellow believers have to endure. A few weeks ago I spent about 8 days flying around Sudan, two of those days were spent in the village of Agok where I heard a very sobering testimony from two local pastors. They told me that about a month ago they were taken to court because they had killed a snake that their village regarded as a sacred spirit. The court had ordered them to offer a

sacrifice to appease the spirit. They refused, saying that they only worship the one true God. Later that night they were abducted from their hut, and thrown into prison. They were then beaten mercilessly for two days with sticks. They had the power to stop the beatings if they would just agree to make a sacrifice to the spirits. They refused because of their love, commitment and devotion to a savior who had laid down His life for them. Their comment was simply "how could we do anything less."

As I sat there I wondered what would I have done if put in their position. How much has following Christ really cost us? Christ warned us that there would be a cost to following Him. For some of us it will mean paying the ultimate price.

So as you sit in church on Sunday, remember and say a prayer for your brothers and sisters for whom taking a stand for Christ has cost them so much.

SATELLITE PHONE

Well I guess there was a reason they told me to get a satellite phone. Half way through my eight day trip in Sudan the airplanes HF radio died. The HF radio is the only way to communicate over long distances with home base. So I was able to use the Sat Phone to call base just before taking off, and just after landing.

It also came in handy when the "unexpected" happened. Originally I was only supposed to spend one night in Agok. The nationals told me that it hadn't rained there in months. Well that evening a large rain cloud came right over the airstrip, and with 10 minutes of raining it made the airstrip unusable. One of the challenges with flying in Sudan is that a lot of the airstrips are made out of black



cotton. Which when wet becomes very sticky and slippery. It didn't help that it rained for another 5 hours the next morning, needless to say we couldn't leave that day. So once again the Sat Phone came in extremely handy as I was able to call base and let them know of our delay so that they knew where we were, and they could re-arrange the days schedule.

So for all of you who helped with the purchase of the Sat Phone, thank you so much for all your help. In the short time that I have been flying in the Sudan it has proven to be indispensable. Thank you again!!

ALINE'S TRIP TO KALACHA



Everytime dad would go away on a flight I always wondered where he goes. This time he was able to take me along. The Rift Valley Academy (AIM's boarding school) was having their mid-term break, so dad flew Tina and Jeremy Hoffman back home to their parents in Kalacha.

Kalacha is in Northern Kenya near the Ethiopian border, and it was very hot, dusty and windy. The place where me and my daddy slept was in the guest house. It was very hot so we spent a lot of time in the pool. The pool was an old water tank, and it was all greasy and slimy on the bottom. After we had a swim we would lie on our towels to dry off and dad would read me the Hobbit.

One day we went up to a volcano, they climbed the volcano but me and daddy stayed in the car and read some more of the Hobbit.



Another day we drove out into the desert to fly kites. We also watched the sun go down, the moon come up, and lots of satellites in the sky.

Every night while having dinner we would watch a movie. We stayed in Kalacha for four days and then we flew home. I had lots of fun.



by *Aline Toews*

ON THE HOME FRONT

Well things are going fairly well here at home. Aline is going into 5th grade, and Tabitha is going into 2nd. Teagan and Loewen are both doing very well. Loewen at 2 years of age is now bigger than than his sister Teagan who's four.



Originally we were planning on going back to the states this summer, but because of delays in the adoption process we have had to push the date back. We are now hoping to leave in February 2007.

We seem to have encountered some major set backs in the adoption process. Everytime we think we have it sorted out they change their laws

or procedures and want something else. We have been to the U.S. embassy several times this week and we think that we are on the right track now. However the paper work that we need to finish and file could still take some time. We would really appreciate your prayers on this matter. That we would get all of the paper work done, that this paper work would be sufficient to fulfill all the requirements, and that the adoption would be granted quickly.

Frank & Tiffany Toews

