

FRANK & TIFFANY TOEWS

the
PLANE *facts*

2007 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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Remembering Why we Fly

I sat in the front seat of the Land Cruiser trying to hold myself in my seat as the truck jolted down the road. It was hot and dry and as the beads of sweat started growing on my forehead I longed to be back in my little airplane. At 10,000 ft where the outside air temperature is a brisk 50° F, and the ride is usually a lot less bumpy.

We had just landed in a little town called Mundri, and were now proceeding to the Samaritan's Purse hospital in the town of Lui. Which is only about 25 km, but because of the horrible conditions of the roads which is typical here in Africa it takes almost an hour.

As we continued down the road I noticed up a head was a circle of red rocks surrounding a stick with a red flag on it. As we approached it we slowed down and cautiously navigated around the "obstacle". To my surprise inside the circle of rocks was a land mine.

Apparently the rains had washed away some dirt from the road thus exposing the mine. To think that this road had already been "de-mined", not to mention the fact that I had driven right over that mine a half a dozen times before.



This incident sharply brought home what I had encountered about a month earlier when I was in the Sudanese village of Yei. There a girl had hit a land mine with her garden hoe, only her encounter turned out tragically. She lost an arm, a leg and was disemboweled.

Mines are a big issue here in Sudan. The U.N. estimates that there are between 500,000 and 2 million mines in southern Sudan, and more than 11,000 km of main supply roads are still mined.

Unfortunately mines aren't the only concern. Due to the war and tribal insecurities practically everyone is armed with automatic rifles, even kids. With the war over and soldiers not being paid many have turned to banditry, and tribal clashes seems to be on the raise again.

Not long ago while I was flying in Sudan I was diverted to pick up a missionary in the village of Poktab. After we took off he started retelling his recent ordeal.

The previous night they were sleeping outside in tents when they started hearing gunfire and the bullets flying overhead. By the time it was all over 300 cattle were stolen, 5 people had been killed and another 5 were very seriously injured.

If tribal fighting, raiding and banditry weren't enough the U.S. estimates that

there are some 40 different militia groups in southern Sudan that are backed by the northern government to promote insecurity and division.

This is the back drop of life in southern Sudan, just a glimpse at the world which many missionaries find themselves living and serving in. With "peace" established between the north and south more and more missionaries are beginning to move back in.

Many of the missionaries and organizations that we serve have told us that they could not be ministering in Sudan without the help of AIM AIR. It is for these missionaries that AIM AIR exists.

In the few years that we have been serving with AIM AIR I have been sent on various medical emergency flights. One was to evacuate a missionary who had a heart attack out in the bush, another was to get a pastor who



had a stroke and was three days away from the nearest hospital, and these are but a few. There has also been a few times when AIM

AIR has been called into the thick of things to evacuate missionaries when the bullets were still flying.

For the missionaries we are always only a radio call away in times of need. Whether it is simply for supplies, transportation, medical emergencies or times of real crisis AIM AIR is here to meet the needs of the missionaries. Being a willing servant to serve those who serve Him.

Planet of the Apes

Last weekend was Tabitha's birthday so we thought it would be nice to go for a drive through Nairobi's game park. The kids always enjoy looking at all the animals, and making a list of everything that we see.

After a nice morning of watching giraffe's, zebra, gazelles and lions, we decided to stop for a nice "relaxing" lunch at one of the picnic areas. We did notice a sign which informed us to beware of baboons, but as there were none to be seen we didn't think much of it.

Well we no sooner got out of the car when we were surrounded. I had put the cooler on the ground and was in the process of getting Loewen out of the car when a big male baboon decided to help himself to its contents. On seeing the primate Loewen went hysterical, so I quickly through him back into the car and attempted to rescue what was left of our lunch.

After our incursion with the baboons we decided to give up the picnic tables and eat in the back of our car. As



the kids ate, Aline and I kept watch to keep away any overly curious monkey's. When lunch was over we continued our safari and the kids were glad to leave the

baboons behind.

It's finally Over !!!

On Wednesday May 2nd we went to court for the last time. The judge granted the adoption, so it is finally over. Well, almost! Now we just need to get the official adoption certificate from the court house, process the paperwork to get his Kenyan traveling documents, and finish up the paperwork with the department of Homeland Security and the consulate section of the U.S. embassy and then it will really be all over.

The plan is to leave on July 3, which gives us about two months to finish the paperwork. We would just ask if you could continue to pray that all will go smoothly and we will be able to get everything finished in plenty of time.

Our tentative itinerary in North America is as follows: July - Florida, August & Sep. - Ontario, Oct. - travel to western Canada and back to Florida, Nov. & Dec. - Florida, Jan. - Canada, Feb - Florida, March - Back to Kenya.

We are so looking forward to seeing all our family and friends, and being able to share some of what God has been doing over the last three years. So keep your calendars open because we would love to get together with you.



In His Service,

Frank & Tiffany Toews

