

Hannah and Tim Latin Link

Serving Marginalised Communities in Brazil and South Sudan

Dear friends,

We are at the end of our tour of the UK, having arrived in Kent for the imminent arrival of bump (due mid-April).

As well as our engagements with churches (if you weren't there, you can listen to 2 very different sermons at <http://www.stjohnsegham.com/sermon-archive/choose-whom-you-shall-serve/> and <http://coshambaptist.org/messages/real-unity>), and lots of cups of tea with friends & supporters, Tim has been able to attend 2 relevant events: a Sudan's Programme conference on the borders of Sudan & South Sudan, and a Ghidam event on reconciliation. At the latter event, it was emphasised by several people that the S Sudan Council of Churches is the only body with the experience & credibility to lead National Dialogue in S Sudan.

In March, church leaders in South Sudan had to decide whether to engage with a National Day of Prayer which the President had called. Some people distrusted the President's motives and felt it better not to attend, but the most senior church leaders decided to attend. You can read their remarks online (including at <http://www.eyeradio.org/national-prayer-day-clerics-speak-openly-vices/>), but we want to highlight Pentecostal Bishop Isaiah Dau's words:

"If you are repenting today, and you use to kill people, don't kill anyone because you have repented. If you are repenting today, and you use to abuse others, from today, begin to love people. If you were a thief, now that you have repented, you begin to give to people instead of taking from people. That is repentance. It is meaningless to say we are repenting, and then we go do our normal things that we do every day."

Praise God that South Sudan has such wise and courageous church leaders. President Kiir publicly repented, released 2 political prisoners & promised to release more. Pray that this repentance would not be short-lived, and for follow-through. In the bible, Nehemiah confessed the sins his nation, "including myself and my father's family" had committed (Neh 1.6-7). Many of us need to repent of our cynicism. Hope appears naive & risks our credibility among "experts". Following Bp Dau's advice, the repentant cynic should not repent & continue to speak as if peace is unlikely or too difficult, but believe that God can & does convict sinners' hearts.

Love and solidarity, Hannah, Tim & bump

April / Abril / Akoldit '17



Time away in Wales with family

Please be praying:

For bump (due on 18th April) to arrive safely and well.

For rains and a better-than-expected harvest in Abyei and other parts of South Sudan experiencing drought. Pray for peace, and protection for those delivering aid.

That the repentance demonstrated by President Kiir amongst others during the National Day of Prayer on 10 March would be continuing and deepening, and for promises to release political prisoners to be upheld. Pray that the President would be humble enough to see that he is not the best-placed person to lead the National Dialogue, and that a credible institution (probably South Sudan Council of Churches) would be tasked with this.

For CADI Gaibu and our church in Brazil whilst we are away.

For visas and for more monthly financial supporters before we go back to Brazil in July. The £ has fallen more dramatically against the R\$ than we could have imagined.

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