

Hannah and Tim

Serving Marginalised Communities in Brazil and South Sudan

Tim



May / Maio / Ker '17

Say hello to Rita Nyanabyei Flatman!



Rita was born on 28th April, weighing 8lbs 6oz. She is named after Tim's Granny. The two Ritas are the youngest and eldest members of our family. Granny is an incredibly kind, generous and compassionate person with strong convictions and a love for the Lord. We hope that baby Rita will share her character as well as her name. Nyanabyei is a name suggested by several women in Abyei. "Nyan" means "girl", so the name could be understood as "daughter of Abyei". We are enjoying sharing Rita with family and friends in the UK and know our friends in Brazil are desperate to meet her too.

One of our favourite bible verses is Romans 12:15: *Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.* As you celebrate with us, we also ask for your prayers for the Catholic church in Abyei at this time. On 9 April, Father Karlo passed away in El Obeid. He had not been a well man for some time. Father Karlo loved to read and was a big fan of Martin Luther. He had a gift for administration and was passionate about deepening the biblical understanding and theological insight of his catechists. He and Father Biong complemented each other very well. Fr Karlo believed firmly that if a joke or story was worth telling, it was worth repeating. It was Father Karlo who paved the way for other denominations to plant churches in Abyei. In the 90s, the local government refused the Episcopal Church of Sudan permission to plant a church, but relented when Fr Karlo said that they were welcome, that all Christians are brothers and sisters, and that it may be that protestant churches could reach people who would not be reached by the Catholic church. Churches were subsequently planted by the Presbyterian and Pentecostal denominations amongst others.

Father Biong was on the plane which caught fire when landing at Wau airport on March 20. He thanks God that he is still alive, but says that he still feels "confused". He lost all his documents in the fire. Please pray for him as he recovers from the shock, grieves for Fr Karlo and runs a busy parish with unique challenges.

Love and solidarity, Hannah, Tim & Rita

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