



## Walk with me...



Catrin and my house

donkeys usually stand/sleep walking, I pass lots of people on the road, particularly children, who will always greet me saying: "Kowaja, how are you?" Kowaja, meaning 'foreigner' or generally 'white person.' On average, I hear this greeting about 50 times a day. I will go past the borehole where the women are usually busy getting water for their families – during homestay, I got such a bad sunburn from waiting at the borehole for

Well, I've been here now for 2 1/2 months and most of my time is taken up by language study – Juba Arabic, which is a low dialect of Arabic. Every day, five times a week, I set out in the morning to walk the 2 miles to my language helper's house, Mary. At first, I turn to the main square where the – they are really cute! While



Mary and me



an hour (granted, I had forgotten to put on sunscreen ☺). When I finally reach Mary's house after 30 minutes of walking and greeting people on the road, she welcomes me and gets ready for the lesson – here, people start getting ready when you show up, so

it usually takes another half an hour.

I am just so amazed and thankful for how my relationship with Mary has grown over the last few weeks. She is truly a gift from God – and due to her help, I can now even say that in Arabic ☺! Often, after finishing the lesson, we would sit together and she would make Arab coffee, drunk out of tiny little cups. The peaks are when we cook together on the Sudanese charcoal ovens – I am not good in the kitchen at any rate, but it is quite another challenge to cook on charcoal. However, she is so patient with me and after all, cooking together is just another excuse to spend some more time talking...



Mary's compound

When I get home, my little kitten 'Sid' is waiting for me. He is only 4 months and was flown in from Kenya a few weeks ago. I've called him Sid, because he strongly reminds me of the Sid in Ice Age as he can never sit still and takes ages to go to sleep ☺. On a spiritual note, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote:

"We should allow ourselves only to be found where Christ is. We truly can be nowhere else than where he is. Whether you work over there and I work in Africa\*, both of us are only where Christ is. He takes us along. Or, have I perhaps avoided the place where he is? The place where he is for me?"  
\*(America in the original) *Who is Christ for us, 55*

I believe I've come back to that place where God is for me. All in all, I feel like I've come home, like God has waited for me here and has put my heart at rest.

All gifts should be marked  
'Verena/Sudan'  
and sent to Elim  
International  
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### Prayer Points:

- for my relationship with Mary
- that I can excel at Arabic
- for my placement at a bible school (we are still testing options)

### Answers to Prayer:

- good health
- good relationships in our house
- a general feeling of having settled in well

### Postal Mail and Birthday

A few people have emailed to ask about sending presents for my birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June and mail in general. I'd love to receive mail and letters – as a general guideline, chocolate, haribo, sauce mixes, magazines and sermon CDs/DVDs are your best options. Please don't send anything heavier than 1 kg as I will pay for customs clearance on this end – padded envelopes A4/A5 are best. Mail will only take about a week to Nairobi, but from there it often takes another 3 weeks to reach me as it has to be flown to northern Kenya and will then be delivered whenever an AIM Air plane comes to Torit. The address is in my email signature