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*"Sudan will stretch out her hands
onto God." Psalm 68:31*

Melutimes



26 February 2011



A New Country has been born

Sudan never ceases to amaze me! Despite all the gloomy forecasts, the referendum went well and peaceful, for which we can only praise and thank God. The referendum results were made official a couple of weeks ago and almost 99% of voters last month chose independence from the north (they only needed 60%). Let's join in with our Sudanese brothers and sisters and celebrate and praise God!

The real challenge, however, still lies ahead of the new-born country. On the ninth of July, South Sudan becomes the world's 193rd nation – you'll have to buy a new world map. South Sudan will also be one of the world's least developed nations. This follows years of war and neglect by the Sudanese government in Khartoum. South Sudan is about the size of France, yet it has only fifty kilometres of good roads and almost no public

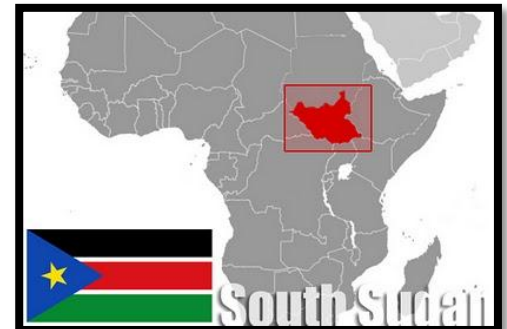
electrical power or basic health care. Illiteracy rates are high and affect more than 80% of the population. In short, there is a lot of work ahead of the new government and the road to development will not be easy. Let us, therefore, continue to pray for this new country, for its political leaders, for the future relations between the north and the south and for our Christian brothers and sisters.

My colleagues, the Donker's, have returned to Melut last week and are now preparing for the start of the new semester and the 2nd year for the students. Please keep praying for the college and for the spiritual development of the pastors there.

Personal Plans

I have been back in the UK for almost 4 weeks now and it has been a great pleasure to catch up with many of you. My time here is drawing to a close and I'll be leaving for Germany on the 7th of March. I very much look forward to spending time with my family and with my home church. I'm still waiting to hear from the universities in the States, which will probably take another 5 weeks, so no decisions have been made about where I will be studying as yet – hence, I'd greatly appreciate your continued prayers in that area. I've got about 6 job interviews scheduled for the first week and very much hope to be able to start work in April – again, I'd be grateful for your prayers for the right job. I'll be living with my sister in Munich until August and you'll be able to reach me as follows: landline: +49 (0)89 48955868, mobile: +49 (0)151 52228330.

Generally, I have to confess that all the changes ahead are quite scary. I still feel a bit like I'm just on holiday here and every once in a while it hits me that I'm actually staying this time (for a while at least)! Many of the things that are normal for you, I seem to have to learn again – or find out about. My sister asked me recently what I thought about wikileaks. I looked at her and asked: "what leaks?" To cut many such long stories short here – I'd be grateful for your prayers for good acclimatisation, both emotionally and spiritually.



Prayer Requests:

- ✚ Good acclimatisation
- ✚ That I can start work in April
- ✚ That I'll get a university offer with a scholarship to start a phd in September
- ✚ For continued peace in Sudan
- ✚ For the development of the new nation
- ✚ For the relationship between north and south
- ✚ For the work of GTC

Answers to Prayer:

- ✚ A peaceful referendum
- ✚ That Khartoum has accepted the referendum results
- ✚ A safe journey home
- ✚ A fruitful time in the UK

All gifts should be marked 'Verena/Sudan' and sent to Elim International Missions, Elim International Centre, De Walden Road, West Malvern, WR14 4DF, England (cheques payable to Elim International Missions). Charity no 251549 (England); SC037754 (Scotland)