



January 9th South Sudan began their vote for independence. This vote is long awaited and comes after decades of war.



I have been a missionary in Uganda for 11 1/2 years. More than half of that time was spent in a Sudanese refugee camp.

Since I first heard about the Sudan and the war between the Christians South and Muslim North in October of 1996, I have been praying for peace and for independence.



Living in the refugee camp and seeing the devastation caused by war and hearing the testimonies of those persecuted for their beliefs made peace seem so far away and almost impossible unless the Lord intervened. What a day it was when peace did come! I remember going to Bible study and no one was there. I could not figure out what was going on. All of a sudden I heard shouting and large groups of people. When they were close enough I could see signs saying "Peace has come" and "The war is over". That day I cried and prayed. This time it was tears of joy and prayers of

thanksgiving.

As we look forward to the outcome of the Sudan votes I pray for a similar outcome. We have seen God's faithfulness in the past and He does not change.



The South needs 60% participation for the vote to be valid. People are traveling from all over to vote and bus companies sympathetic to South Sudan are offering free transport.



If enough people vote for independence, South Sudan will become the newest country in the world.



In Uganda we have 10 polling stations where Sudanese who have been displaced since the war can also vote. It is exciting to have this historic vote be right on our doorstep.



I feel blessed to have been allowed to be a part of this time in Sudan's history. To have come to Africa not knowing what the future would hold for Sudan, then to see peace come, to watch close friends be able to return home and now for a chance at independence.

Our prayer for Sudan is that peace will remain, that independence will come and that the newest country in the world will be a Christian Nation.



We also need to pray for North Sudan. While the majority is Muslim there are many Christians there as well. The president of Sudan has said that if the South becomes independent then he will institute strict Sharia Law in the North.

While much attention and prayer is be given to Sudan we must not forget about Uganda. Next month are our presidential elections. We pray that it will be a peaceful and fair vote. We praise the Lord that thus far during the campaigns there has been no rioting as has happened in past elections.



Uganda also needs prayer for the North. Northern Uganda in the last 2 months has literally been “plagued” An outbreak of the plague occurred. During this outbreak one missionary, Zane McCartney fell ill with it. Praise the Lord his wife and 12 kids did not. Currently there is an out break of yellow fever.

Pray for the health and safety of the people who live there and for all the missionaries who minister there.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support.

In Him,  
Brian, Jill and Luke Kanyike

