



# SUDAN newsletter Claire and Tohru Inoue

## Leaving on a prop plane...

June 2007

At around 9:30am we could hear the soft hum of a prop plane coming in to it's final approach on our dirt strip. April 12th marked the day we ended our first term in Sudan. Claire and I have been there two and three years respectively for SIM and Samaritan's Purse. Leaving was bitter sweet. In many ways Sudan is our home where we both feel natural and called to.

From the time we first arrived, there have been lots of changes in Sudan. It has emerged from its long civil war which started in 1983 and ended on January 9, 2005. This conflict has

meant the death of nearly 2 million people and displacement of many other hundreds of thousands in neighbouring regions and



Grand Caravan plane in Kumuk, Sudan

countries. The conflict, sadly, continues to rage on in parts of Darfur.

In the last three years we were able to do many things through programs such as the hospital, a com-

munity centre, livestock and agriculture programs as well as water projects and pastors training. Claire has been able to start a non-formal education program targeting girls and has also done wonders painting the paediatric ward in the hospital to brighten the darkened post war mood. We have built a number of friendships there which we will also maintain as we return (God willing) in the coming year. It is still a fledgling new government which needs a lot of support, mentorship and prayer. It is our hope that they will one day be a fully functioning government. We long to return there to be a part of it all again!

## Our Furlough so far

June 15, 2007

Our time back in Canada can be summarized in one two words: 'Road Trip'. We have been trekking across the United States and Canada visiting supporting churches and individuals to share and report on our work in Sudan. Our travels have taken us from Montreal through NY, Washington, Augusta (GA), Sebring

(FL), Fort Mills (SC), Franklin (TN), Chicago (IL), Winnipeg (MB), Caronport (SK), Bashaw (AB) which translates into over 11,000 km on our little Tercel.

**"Have you ever been in a room with over 1,000 years of missions experience?!"**

One of the highlights of the trip has been meeting with

the retired missionaries from the 40s and 50s who have been in areas like Sudan. These early missionaries were there during the second world war and are one of the reasons we are able to work with Christian tribes. Have you ever been in a room with over 1,000 years of missions experience?! Their commitment has served to renew ours.

(Continued on page 2 see **New Chapter**)

### PRAYER requests & PRAISE reports

Finding a church body to worship and study

Raising our necessary support for the coming

Safety on the road as we travel

Support from friends and churches so far

God providing us with a house in Calgary

Encouragement from retired missionaries



# New Chapter

June 2007

Don't you love chapters? When you finish one, they leave you off on a high full of suspense so that you long to start reading the next chapter. God has ended our first chapter in Sudan on a high and you might ask "What lies in store for us in the coming year". God has lined up things for us already.

The following year will be one of formation and preparation. I have been working with Samaritan's Purse for the last three and a half years and now will be looking to join SIM



Claire and Tohru in Ottawa, April 2007

as a long term missionary. Claire has been with the mission for 12 years.

I have recently been accepted into the Canadian Theological Seminary (CTS) in Calgary for the fall and will be studying there for the year towards a diploma in intercultural ministry. This will serve to consolidate both my knowledge in the Bible as well as the aspects of intercultural mission and missionary work. God has prepared this by providing us a place to live in Calgary. As many of you may know, the cost of housing and rent has dramatically increased over the last year and we were wondering what we were going to do. God simultaneously had some people in mind who were going to teach in a school in Ethiopia who were needing to have their house looked after. Enjoying the chapter so far?! We are!

Claire will be helping the SIM prairie provinces representatives as well as

"(In Calgary), the cost of housing and rent has dramatically increased..."

taking courses of interest. We will also be raising our support over the year so as to be able to return to Sudan (God willing) in 2008 at the end of the summer. Since my application is still in the pipeline financial gifts can be made towards **Claire Inoue (#011038)** by mail at the below addresses and online at any time.

SIM Canada  
10 Huntingdale blvd.  
Scarborough, ON  
M1W 2S5

[www.sim.ca](http://www.sim.ca)

SIM USA  
PO box 7900  
Charlotte, NC  
28241-7900

[www.sim.org](http://www.sim.org)

We urge you, our supporters to continue to pray for us as we venture in the continuing chapters of our lives. Stay tuned!

Check out more stories and pictures at:  
[www.claireandtohru.blogspot.com](http://www.claireandtohru.blogspot.com)

## Wedding in paradise

October 21, 2006

O that you could have seen the beach that day! Colours meshed so nicely as in a Monet painting. There is just something soothing about the sound of waves at any time of the day. At a distance, they are a soothing background like a gentle massage to the ears, closer still, their energy starts to impress and stir.

We arrived so that we would have ample time to relax and to enjoy the beach before our "big day". Daily, local market people would bring us, the catch of the morning fishing outing. Red snapper, prawns, lobster, squid and other strange fish I had never seen before. The housekeeper would wash, gut, clean and prepare the fish for us daily. It was like living in a fancy seafood restaurant with fresh produce from our garden which was the Indian ocean.

Who could ask for a better routine: wake up in the morning to the smell of the sea; go for a pre-breakfast dip in the ocean,

come back and have eggs with toast and fresh papaya with lime; followed by more swimming and tanning. Lunch is grilled and perfectly salted red snapper with lemons. The afternoon may follow with a nap, some reading, playing on the guitar.

The day came about not a day too early. It had rained heavily the night before and was raining through most of the morning. Our afternoon wedding wasn't to be spoiled. Here, rain on your wedding day is a true sign of blessing from God. My



Tohru and Claire Inoue in Watamu, Kenya (October 2006)

best man and I retired to his quarters to prepare for the wedding. The ceremony had been split in two: one for the district commissioner who was to marry us legally and then one for our Indian pastor. The clouds parted to give us a most beautiful scene as we married our lives together. She looked so beautiful, I thought. My beautiful wife!

Pictures on the beach were some of the most natural and relaxed moments as our first steps as a married couple. She would be mine forever, and I hers. It was our wedding in paradise, not quickly forgotten. To this day, we like revisiting that day with the many pictures and videos taken.

We wish all of you at home a blessed year. May your loved ones always be close to your heart and in prayer. May our God watch over us all and reveal to each of us His good and perfect will.

AMEN.