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Waffle and Dr. Val's Newsletter



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Special Giving for this Month:

- 10 Year PEACE Celebration!! 2000 people are coming to celebrate the Miracle that God has done! We now have over 40,000 people living together in Peace!
- Taxes for our "New" Land Cruiser! They are charging us almost \$20,000 in taxes and duty. We sure could use a boost to get it out of customs!

What is Our Standard for Loving?

Talking with John, one of the Discipleship Group Members about their discipleship meetings in the peace villages, he says that they are "too" excited about doing the dramas, telling stories and singing spiritual songs. In Africa here, we say "too" instead of "so". We are using a Chronological Bible Cloth of 42 Stories. We are up to story 19 with the songs that the Karamojong composed match the stories. As we work with the songs and stories in digital form, we plan to put them on SD cards in their cell-phones. Many of the former Solar MP3 players are still working but we need to update the information on them. In a non-literate society, oral storytelling and audio devices work best. Soon we will complete a workshop to craft the remaining stories. Discipleship Groups work out the practical side: planning and holding one another accountable for spir-

itual growth. We call it "Head, Heart, Hands". The "Hands" shows "how do we live it" in our day to day living. That is the challenge for all of us: "how do we live" what we have come to know of God's standard of Love?

Marital relationship is an example. Comparing Karamojong culture of paying cows in a dowry verses Biblical Marriage shows the contrast of "how we live it". Through Karamojong culture, men and women look at marriage as a relationship between the gardener and his garden, the women being the garden. The man's obligation is to pay the dowry, tend, protect and care for the garden. Paying the dowry gives him rights over the garden and honors the family that raised a beautiful lady that will become a dedicated wife. It sounds like a nice idea but the ramifications often don't work. It plays out like this: a man looks for a beauti-

ful garden that is fertile and will produce the children that will provide for the couples' needs when they are old. It is a retirement plan of sorts. Children are so important, as very little is certain, like the value of your land, money, or possessions. Here in Karamoja inflation kills and land or animals can be "grabbed" from you by thieves and corrupt leaders. What can they count on when they are elderly? The answer is "Only our Family Members" can be trusted. Children are their security.

As we plan for our upcoming Marriage Conference, we are asking, can "The woman as a garden" be a biblical idea, or is there a better way to describe a healthy relationship? We see conflict along the lines of having a garden as a possession. If your garden does not suit your needs, and children are not produced... well then, get another one. Adultery, polygamy, concubines and abandonment are the common results.



Cultural Sensitivity:
Let us "extract the precious from the worthless".
Jeremiah 15:19

Purchase a Garden

Paying the dowry is a strong social agreement between the clans, establishing a long-term covenant, but it can be abused so easily. An example of the challenge that dowry brings is our friend Josiah. He hasn't paid his dowry, so he doesn't have clear "ownership" of his garden. His wife remains very connected to her own family. His Mother-in-law is very needy. Because he earns income as a welder and works for the church, they see him as the "go to guy" for money, to prove his commitment. Their "Tyranny of the Urgent" drains his resources and limits funds for his immediate family as well as saving for dowry and paying for tuition



for seminary. Of late, his wife is threatening to leave because the dowry isn't paid. There are huge tensions in the relationship, with pressure to meet his social obligations. The threat is real. If a man hasn't paid dowry in full, another man can interlope by paying it and then take the children and the woman as his own.

For the Karamojong when the dowry is paid, the woman is taken from her tribe and is incorporated into the husband's tribe. She is subjected to his family's (Mother's) whims and pressures and has very little control or power over her own life.

Leave, Cleave, Become One

Coming very soon from the USA is a team who will train trainers on "What is Biblical Marriage". Their stories and dramas will equip our dynamic community members, so that they can help facilitate a conference on Biblical marriage. The next step will be to teach Biblical Marriage Counseling. This equipping of Pastors on Biblical marriage may be counter cultural for some, but it will bring about

change towards the Biblical idea of "A man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh".

Biblical Marriage training is key to pastors modeling it in their communities. We are desperate for God's ways and for wisdom on how to live them out. The challenge is that the extent of God's plan is so profound that the Pastors have a chal-

lenge articulating it through the Karamojong cultural worldview. This is why we long to have as much Prayer Coverage as possible for the upcoming TOT (Training of Trainers) Marriage Conference. Prayer is sooooo important. Wonderful truths from the Bible are understood when the Holy Spirit leads and guides. I know that Val and I will learn a lot in the process too!

Our plan is to instill in our faithful pastors and discipleship leaders, a spiritual DNA that reproduces itself as it reverberates through those living out these Biblical principles. We start with a handful of the best leaders, train them up through CLIDE's ministries and then equip and empower them to reach communities throughout Sebei, Teso, and Karamoja regions. Aiming high, praying, and trusting Jesus for the results. Pray with us.... Let's get this Fire Going!

If dowry has been paid, and a man dies leaving a widow, then his brothers can come and claim the children and the land, leaving the woman if they choose. Our friend Lopuka was widowed then rejected by the brothers: leaving her with nothing. No land, no inheritance, no children to help her when she is older. You can feel Lopuka's desperation when we talk of these things. How can we advise these friends on Marriage Issues?



Christian Adventure Ministry

Send Donations for Waffle and Val's Ministries to:

New Horizons Foundation
5550 Tech Center Drive, Suite 303
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Contact Waffle and Val:

Waffle's Phone: 719 203-0768
Dr. Val's Phone: 425 247-4735
Waffle's Email: wafflecrm@aol.com
Val's Email: africvet@yahoo.com



Prayer Points and Upcoming Events:

Leather Making Workshop: Oct. 17-20

Bible Story Crafting: Oct. 22-26

Peace Celebration: Nov. 2-4

Marriage Conference: Nov. 5-10

Timothy Sponsorship Retreat: Dec. 7-12

Construction Teams: January