



Brian and Helen's News & Views

Furlough, USA

November, 2007

Our Trip to Kenya !



Helen at the FOBAI Conference, Nairobi.

What's Next For Us?

We are finishing up our 6 months of furlough, and the clock is "ticking" to finish all our plans in time to return to Papua New Guinea.

Pray For:

- Traveling safety. Brian will travel to Dallas in December for an SIL Leadership Training seminar.
- David has settled well in Seattle. Pray that he would find like-minded believers to encourage him in the faith.
- That we would be sensitive to God's leading as to how we manage our remaining time in the USA. There just seems to be so much to "do" all the time.

An African Conference:

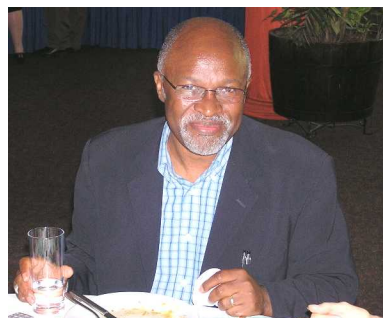
After a brief time in Vermont during September, we traveled to Nairobi, Kenya for an HIV/AIDS conference sponsored by the Forum of Bible Agencies (FOBAI). Helen represented SIL and our work in PNG. The Conference was amazing. We met some of the best of African Christians who have a passion to make a difference in their own countries, and for the church in all of Africa.

The church in Africa, as in Papua New Guinea, has many struggles to overcome in preparing to minister in an age of high AIDS prevalence. We heard reports and discussed strategies to overcome prejudice and social stigmas related to HIV / AIDS. Some deep seated attitudes need to be corrected starting with the Church itself. A major theme of the conference was how to mobilize the church to care for those "affected and infected" in this generalized epidemic. We also heard

moving testimonies from those who struggle with HIV and AIDS today.

Bishop Zac Niringiye:

The Rev. Zac Niringiye, (Anglican Bishop) from Kampala Uganda challenged us as a plenary speaker. Zac asked us to see how expectations, traditions and experiences may have blinded us to seeing the person of Jesus Christ. Would we recognize Jesus if He were to join us today? Would we be so very different than those two who walked on the Emmaus Road? (Luke 24:13-30)



Bishop Zac Niringiye. He was a wonderful speaker.

The AIDS epidemic in PNG is generalized, it is not a disease of a specific class or group. As the infection spreads almost no one will remain untouched. Ultimately everyone is affected. The theme of grace in the face of suffering and need was an important message of this conference. Right behavior is important, but only in the context of God's grace to all of us sinners. We heard the call to the church: "Extend help to the needy and suffering in your midst, and love them with Jesus' love." This message is something we hope to take back with us to PNG (and the US).

Safari Holiday

When all was done on the mission side of our work, Helen and I took a much needed holiday in the



Black Rhino in a rain storm. Nakuru Lake National Park.

Lake Nakuru and Masai Mara countryside. What an incredible experience seeing God's wonderful creation up close. Sometimes VERY close. If you wish to see it for yourself then please visit our web site for more pictures in our "Photo Gallery" section.



Colorful Masai woman on the way to work

Recent News

In October Brian spoke at a mission conference hosted by "Open Door Baptist" church, in Richmond Virginia. Then in November we had a special time attending a Medical Missions conference in Louisville Kentucky (GMHC). Both events were refreshing to us, but the best time was interacting with so many eager, young, missions minded University students at the GMHC Conference. They were totally inspiring! May their tribe increase!

We are sorry we have not been able to see everyone we would have liked to on this short furlough. Please forgive us, if you are in a part of the country where we did not get the chance to visit with you. Our prayers are with you still – along with thankful hearts for your support of our ministries.

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