

Prayer Requested

Tohru and Claire in Sudan January 2010



Tohru in Nairobi on the satellite phone with Atar

Crisis in the New Year (by Tohru)

Prayer requests

1. For the missionary families as they recover from this terrible incident
2. For the continued efforts of the member care team
3. For the Atar community who are also still suffering from this attack
4. For the family members of the Sudanese who lost their lives
5. For peace in this area of Sudan
6. Praise for God's provision over everyone

You can view a video of the opening celebration of the school in Atar at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9ONY5q5FS4>



On New Year's Eve 2009 at around 11am, the phone rang at our house in Nairobi. It was the compound manager at our base in Atar, Southern Sudan. He proceeded to tell me that the Atar village had been attacked by a hostile group of armed men from a different tribe and that the SIM compound the missionaries were living in was completely burnt down. Four of the missionaries had some burns but the others were ok. I talked with him for less than 5 minutes and got as many details as I could. I tried to ensure that they were in a safe place, and promised to call back from the office. I immediately called the director and started calling members of our crisis management team (CMT).

Over the next four hours we continued conversation using the county commissioner's satellite phone since the missionaries had lost theirs in the fire. The village had been attacked at approximately



Missionary housing destroyed

4:30 in the morning. I assessed the possible evacuation routes and, in consultation with the Sudanese authorities in Atar and the CMT, we decided on an air extraction. A contingent of South Sudan government soldiers and the county commissioner stayed with them and secured the area. Claire, with a half an hour notice, accompanied the pilots to northern Kenya and then flew into Sudan the next morning.

The six adults and five children were picked up early on Jan 1 and made the 7 hour trip back to Nairobi where they had an opportunity to be seen by a medical professional and recuperate.

They lost almost everything they had. Members of the community who had also been attacked gave their own shoes and clothes. In the end, we praise the Lord that we managed to get everyone to Kenya alive and well.

Atar, in Jonglei State, is the site of the SIM Sudan Basic Education Learning Center. It was started four years ago and we have good relationships with the community. The Primary School teacher training was initiated in September of 2009 but all students were away from

the school for the Christmas holidays. The BELC building was not damaged in the attack but 1/3 of the village was burned.

This attack is one of many in the escalating tribal violence we have seen in the past year. We do not know the reason for this attack.



Many people have asked for information on helping. If you are interested in giving financially to help our missionaries replace lost effects and to the ongoing management of the situation you can do so by giving to the **"Sudan Relief and Contingency"** account (**SD #82490**). Gifts can be made online at:

<https://usanet.sim.org/SIMGift/default.asp>

Or by sending cheques with the account number to:

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

SIM USA, PO box 7900 Charlotte, NC. 28241