

# TIMO CONNECTIONS

February 2009

## TRAINING IN MINISTRY OUTREACH

### *Walking on Dry Ground*

How much of what we do do we do because **WE** can do it? How much time do we spend calculating our resources, making sure we have everything in place, confirming we can accomplish what we want based on our abilities? This is very Biblical (Luke 14:28)! However, how often do we step out in faith, based on God's leading, and undertake what we can't possibly do? How often do we allow God to show His power, by risking the plunge of defeat?

Joshua was in just a situation. God had told this young leader to order his priests, in view of all the people of Israel to step out into the Jordan River and watch Him part the water. The Jordan was in flood stage at that time. Many of us can picture the water roaring down the river bed, knowing that stepping into that torrent is risking our lives. Joshua had seen God work through Moses, but would he have the faith to trust God in this moment of

decision?

What could be your Jordan River? Let's not test God foolishly! We are warned against that in scripture (Deut. 6:16). But, as we



Paul T, TIMO Logistics, attempts to cross a wadi in full flood.

spend time in prayer before God seeking His leading, can we be bold in response to Him? Knowing His heart for this world, can we dare to step out in obedience and risk the plunge to walk on

dry land?

What does this mean for TIMO? The TIMO Administrative team can only run so many teams a year consistently. Yet, we believe God wants Christ-centered Churches established amongst all African Peoples. Can we step out and trust God to raise up partners to help us run these teams? Can we dare to double the number of teams in 2010 trusting that God will raise up the team leaders? That God will fill the teams with quality team members fully backed with prayer and finances? That God will enable all the logistics to be accomplished, orientations held and LAMP courses run? From our perspective, only God can make this happen.

Pray with us, that God will direct us and enable us to step out and watch Him do the impossible! Part the waters and walk (or drive) on dry ground!

by David H  
TIMO Coordinator

***How often do we step out in faith, based on God's leading, and undertake what we can't possibly do?***

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### *Commitment to the Local Language and Culture*

TIMO believes it is critical to the proclamation task to articulate the gospel in the context and mother tongue of the hearer whenever possible.

### *Relationships, Relationships, Relationships*

All mission work involves relating: with our Lord, our teammates and fellow missionaries, our national church brethren, and those to whom we minister. TIMO encourages its members not only to offer their skills and giftedness but their entire selves to the ministry. This is costly and painful but also brings its own rewards and glorifies God. Our goal is to be able to say, along with the Apostle Paul: "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our own lives as well (1 Thes. 2:8)."

- from *Twelve Values of TIMO* (#2 & 3)

Current & recent teams

*Didinga, Sudan* October '08 to October '10

Leaders: David & Deborah (US)

Members: Janette (US), Tianne (US), Kim (US), Shawn & Carly (US), Elly (US), Bill (Canada), Dustin & Anne (Canada), Deborah (US), Amber (US)

**Elly writes,**

Greetings from Sudan. We have arrived safely. Currently we are camping in tents on a mountain ridge five hours (by foot) from our village. We stopped here to practice the language with some of the Didinga people who have had some Western interaction already. We are learning the culture and customs so as not to offend when we arrive in Makiria. The Makiria area is very much uncharted waters. In some ways this will make it very difficult - both cultures so foreign, trying to figure the other out. But in other ways it is an amazing opportunity, perfectly fit to introduce the gospel in it's pure, untainted truth. Since the Didinga in Makiria have no previous concept/knowledge of Christianity, we have a great responsibility to present an accurate portrayal of Christ and his teachings. Please pray for wisdom on how to do this.

The last few days have been spent learning the Didinga language. We have had some children come and teach us the greetings and simple phrases like "What is this?" "What is your name?" "My name is..." Then we go out in the community and practice. We have been invited in many *tukels* (huts). In three days we will pack up and make the five hour hike. Our village is on the ridge of the next mountain, so we must go down this mountain and up the next - higher than we are now. It will be a challenge. (The mountains are beautiful, by the way.)

Unfortunately, it looks like we will be "camping" for a while longer once we get there because most of our set-up supplies have been stolen - we were told by someone who hiked over. Everything can be replaced in Nairobi - bedding, pots and pans, dishes, buckets, lanterns, etc., but we are not scheduled for a flight until January. When we get to our village we will evaluate the extent of the theft, and if our food supply was also taken we will have to order a plane for a supply run.

Our team is bonding well and eager to get to the people to whom we will minister. Please pray for safety, language learning, and the theft situation. All is well here. God is faithful and good. I am happy and I send my love.



Team members meet with their language helper, a student from the local school (top). Didinga children at play near team's orientation camp.

Below: David sits with Didinga school children; neighbors of Dustin & Anne; a friendly smile.



**David writes,**

I am amazed to realize that the team has only been in Makiria 11 weeks. Already they are learning the language and learning to live with new realities, such as doing laundry at the stream and hauling water back to the house. More importantly, they have begun building deep relationships with their "home stay" families and neighbors. Life can be surprisingly busy here. The unexpected happens daily, whether it is multiple visits from neighbors, or someone who needs basic medical help. The day seems to race by.

Here, as elsewhere, busyness can be the biggest enemy to the work we really need to accomplish. In time, we do hope to establish a small clinic, teach Bible and other subjects at the local, small school, and initiate other "ministries" in the community. But, are those our true "work?" No, the true work we have before us is a spiritual challenge, the changing of hearts by the Spirit of God. That work is a God-sized work, one that we ourselves could never accomplish. So how, then, can it possibly happen?

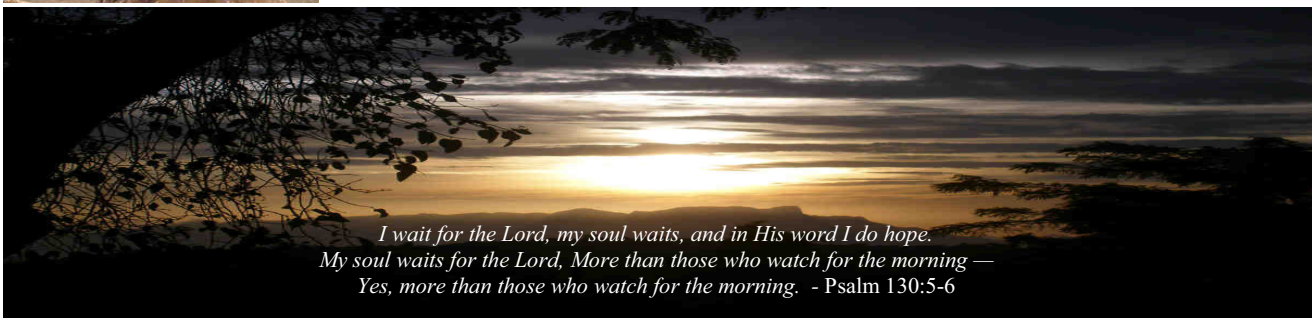
The only way we can defeat "busyness" and accomplish our true "business" is by waiting

on God. As team leader, I have felt impressed over these last few weeks to teach the team about "waiting on God" and encourage all of us to make waiting on God our highest priority. We spend the first 1-2 hours of our weekly team meeting in prayer, waiting, devotion and Bible study. That time in prayer probably significantly reduces the amount of time it takes us to then go through our business.

Our waiting on God, or lack thereof, shows what we truly believe. If we believe that we can do the work ourselves, albeit with God's help, then we will not "waste" the time sitting in God's presence. However, if we believe that we truly cannot do the work but that God can, we will wait on Him, thinking it to be the most valuable thing we can do.

Already we have seen God open unexpected opportunities for helping people who have been our enemies and for sharing the message of God. He has given us wisdom in some very difficult circumstances. We trust that these things are just the first fruits of our intentional waiting on Him.

- January, 2009



*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord, More than those who watch for the morning —  
Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. - Psalm 130:5-6*



## Chalbi, Kenya April '08 to April '10

Leaders: Scott & Susie (US)  
 Members: Steve & Angie (US), Barbara (US), Charmyn (Canada), Paul & Salome (Kenya)

Charmyn writes,

We just attended a prayer conference at Kurungu (5 hrs from where we live). Yes it sounds very 'missionary' like... but really it was all of us in the north getting together to discuss ideas and strategies, what's working and what's not, the amazing things that God is doing and the ups and downs of our collective goal - taking the Gospel to nomads. For me I felt like a little kid sitting at the feet of a wise father... the amount of collective knowledge and experience there was amazing!

We learned lots, were encouraged and then went out to have some fun. Sand boarding, ice cream eating (a BIG highlight for those of us in the desert!), game playing and there was even a baby dik dik for me to pet and play with. God is so good. - November, 2008

*“I felt like a little kid sitting at the feet of a wise father... the amount of collective knowledge and experience... was amazing!”*

## Nairobi, Kenya February '08 to February '10

Leaders: Julio & Angelica (Brazil/Argentina)  
 Members: Joseph & Sophia (Kenya), Darnell & Christy (Canada), Megan (UK), Raja (US)

This team is entering its second year working with a challenging group of refugees and immigrants in the Nairobi area. As with all of our teams, pray for unity, humility, and love to abound. And that, according to His promise and will, the Lord would build His Church.

## Zaramo, Tanzania July '07 to July '09

Leaders: Tim & Emily (US)  
 Members: Paulina (US), Jeremy (Canada), Monica (US), Daniel (Canada)

Jeremy writes,

The group of 4 new believers have been meeting twice a week and that has been going fairly well. Tim has been teaching them through a basic study of the essentials of the Christian faith. They have been growing in their new faith and getting up the nerve to pray and have started to sing some songs and are looking into God's Word and memorizing Scripture verses. God is working in them and is teaching them through His Word. A concern is that Mr. Kombo has only been to 3 of the 8 fellowship times. He is a busy man and has been traveling and working in his garden and having funerals to go to and other things to do. It is discouraging to see that He has not been attending. I don't think that it is because of a lack of interest of going but because he is busy.

There is another ring well being put in at a community called Videte and that work has been going well. The community has really gotten behind the work and have been digging the well very well and have accomplished a lot. The other communities have not shown as much enthusiasm and effort as getting behind the work as Videte has. They have 4 rings in the ground now and about 4-5 feet of water and they want to put one more ring in the ground with another one above the ground! We are really encouraged to see how hard this community has worked. -February, 2009



Two men in the well, one digging and the other bucketing out water.

**Pictures from Chalbi area:** Top left to right: dust storm rising, men gather for ritual sacrifice, Barbara with friends Olla Chile. Bottom left to right: young girl walks through family compound, women gather to welcome Ezekiel (Steve and Angie's new baby), woman carrying child past wind generator.



## North Africa Jan '07 to Jan '09

All across Africa, there is a phenomenon we like to call The Slow, Hard Way. If a house needs torn down, a crew of day laborers are brought in with small pickaxes to chip away bit by bit until the house is demolished. *Tink, tink, tink*, can be heard throughout our neighborhood these days as an old abandoned house is being carefully torn down. Today as we were passing it, the thought came of how differently we Americans would demolish a house. We would bring in a wrecking ball, or some dynamite, and watch it fall in one day! Work among Ms is a lot like taking up our daily pickaxes and chipping away at an ancient house called Islam. There are days when we want to bring in our way of doing things and just attack it with a wrecking ball, but the risk of unwanted damage is too great. Little by little, we are *tink, tink, tink* away at this ancient house, and one day, like the workers over this wall, we may hit just the right spot that will bring the whole wall down.

### *A Few Bits of Rubble from our lives these days...*

□ Our student group just completed their two-year program. During that time many heard and experienced the Good News. Hearts were comforted by the power of the HS, and needs were met in His name. They leave behind a group of witnesses who are closer to salvation than they were two years ago. *Tink, tink, tink...*

□ The look of gratitude in a homeless man's face as D gently held his wounded head until help came... He was lying in the middle of the highway surrounded by onlookers all unwilling to touch him because he was considered unclean. He was the victim of a hit and run.

- January '09



## up and Coming Teams

### H2 April '09 to Aug '11

R & T write,

In the last few days, we have packed up and moved out of our rental house. Packed up and moved out of temporary housing (today). Packed up and taken our two eldest to school (today). Packed up all our remaining things and taken them to be loaded on a plane (today) which will take us to the "H" tomorrow morning.

Yes, it's been about a 4 month process, but tomorrow, the family moves up to the "H." Needless to say, we need your prayers!

R begins teaching almost immediately. He just recently found out that they want him to teach physics again... that should be a challenge for him!

T will work on unpacking and setting up the house... all while looking after the 4 other kids which also involves homeschooling. Then, there will be setting up team houses so

***We musn't  
forget the deeper, underlying  
concerns... the spiritual matters***

they are all ready by late March. Of course, there are always ongoing security concerns.

But those are all "surface" things. They are important and necessary and require much devoted prayer.

But we musn't forget the "deeper,

underlying" concerns... the spiritual matters. It's easy to get involved in the surface matters and forget what lies below.

As our older children have returned to boarding school and we head up to the "H," Deuteronomy 31 has been the passage we've pondered. Moses is exiting the stage; Joshua is entering the spotlight; the people are on the edge of the promised land. Moses' words to the people and to Joshua are the same... "BE strong and courageous," "DON'T BE afraid," "Obey the LORD's commandments"... (all good imperatives.) Then Moses supplies the reason - "because the LORD your God is WITH you..." That's a pretty awesome thought! - January '09

## Ndengereko, Tanzania July '09 to July '12

Jason writes,

Since my last newsletter John and I have gone back down to Ndengereko land to do a follow up on three possible villages that we were considering as possible team sites. I thank you for your prayer and God for His guidance, as it became abundantly clear where He wants us to put our first team.

The first village we looked at, Utete, would have had trouble supporting a team and we felt like it was too isolated in a church planting movement. The second village, Ruaruke, had so much of what we were looking for. First of all it is

located in the heart of Ndengereko land and boasts a sizable six thousand people. It sits on an intersection of roads that will make it strategic for the spreading of the Gospel along natural transportation routes. It also has a pretty good infrastructure to accommodate the team. There is a decent sized market in the village, a well with a pump to different taps throughout the community, cement block housing that we can fix up, and a good hospital an hour up the road.

As a final confirmation, due to a graduation ceremony, all the local big wigs were in town the

day we were there. Because of this we were able to hold an impromptu meeting which ended with them telling us that they needed to be our number one choice.

You would think that all the villages would at least be interested in hearing what we were about but in the last prospective village, Bungu, it was hard to get anyone to even talk to us. Many people just ignored us and walked or ran away. For this and many other reasons the last village did not compare to Ruaruke.

- From *Habari za Nden-gereko*, December'08

**Pray for Jason and short termer, Richard, who are now on site arranging housing for the team, and working on necessary renovations.**



## Mahajanga, Madagascar August '09 to '11

Leader: Marlene (South Africa)

Members: Joe & Sandy (US), Graeme & Eli (UK), Frances (US), Thea (UK), Stephen & Lynsey (UK)

Marlene writes,

It was a good time with Monte and Paul from TIMO headquarters. There were some surprises for me but I can see God's wisdom and faithfulness once again. An important step has been the decision to focus the whole team's ministry on the International students at the university. This means that the whole team will be staying in the university village which has more of a

rural feel rather than urban. It is a distance from the town centre but is serviced by public transport.

These students are vital. They are open and will be the leaders of tomorrow. Let's trust God for the harvest. Just today I was able to meet more .com students and God gave me the opportunity to share about my plans to move into the area and that others will be joining me who will be both learners and teachers.

**Please pray for all the preliminary preparation for the team. Pray for the right accommodation. Pray for preparation of community leaders and students.**

I just read today that "prayer is a reflection of our relationship with God". I trust that as you pray for this work in Mhja that you are experiencing a closeness with God that makes you want to draw even closer to Him.

– November, 2008



Marlene getting around in a "pus pus" cart.

*"I trust that as you pray for this work... you are experiencing a closeness with God that makes you want to draw even closer to Him."*



Yes, this is Africa!

## Lesotho Teachers Team

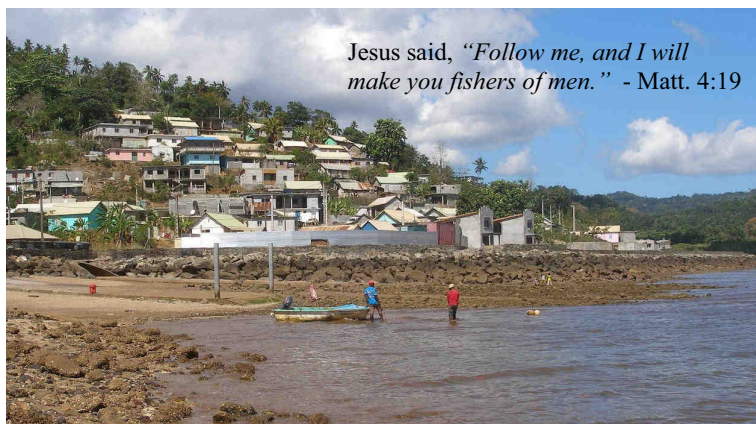
September '09 to September '11

Leaders: John & Shan (South Africa)

Nestled in the Highlands of South Africa, the nation of Lesotho is known as the Kingdom of the Sky. The Lesotho team will be a team of teachers working in the public schools. They will be seeking to disciple both teachers and students. This will be the third TIMO team in this country.

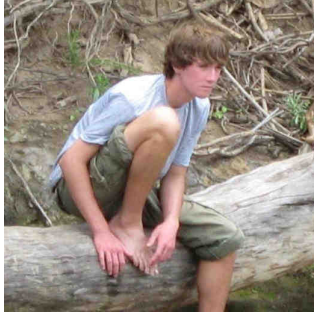
## Islands in the Indian Ocean, Coastal East Africa, the Highlands of

There are so many peoples of Africa yet to have an effective Gospel witness among them. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would use the TIMO Program to send laborers into these harvest fields. Pray for team leaders to hear this call, for individuals to come together by His leading to serve as a united part of His body reaching out. Pray for unity and love on the teams. And pray that the Word of truth would be communicated, souls introduced to the Saviour, and new songs sung before the Throne of the Lamb.



Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matt. 4:19





## Reflections from a TIMO Kid

Jonathan H grew up on TIMO teams in rural Kenya and Tanzania. He is now a senior at Rift Valley Academy heading to University. Here are some of his reflections:

### Of his younger years:

Growing up in the bush (Tinomoi, Kenya), I had time to do what I wanted to do and to explore my surroundings. I have fond memories of my friend Kipruto, playing in our imaginary land among the dust hills and sliding down them (my Mom saved special pants for these adventures!) There was little routine. I loved the freedom of that life.

### Of his pre-teen years:

Mariwanda (near the Serengeti plains) was a land of sandy soil and thorn trees. I remember fixing flat after flat on my bicycle. I remember being scared of the water scorpions swimming in puddles (after a heavy rain) in the plastic sheet above my bunk bed. The plastic was tacked as a "ceiling" beneath our grass thatched hut. I remember a special time when Daddy and I went on a survey trip. We left in the coolness of the early morning, and I could wear my Tigger sweatshirt. Before that, I rarely remember wearing sweatshirts. It was always hot. It was here where I remember having bad dreams due to malarial fevers.

I received my first CD player when I was in 7th grade. I remember being interested in this new gadget. I thought life was fine without it but it might be better with it. The whole world of technology is coming together now, but the lack of it was very freeing. The joy in simple things is still fascinating to me.

### Of his teen years:

I felt I did not fit in Olpiro (near Ngorongoro). I felt too old to live in the bush. I wanted to buy and make things. The local dukas selling sugar, teas leaves and cooking fat, didn't have what I needed for my projects. I was frustrated and wanted to move on. A few years later I found my self at Rift Valley Academy becoming part of a whole new world.

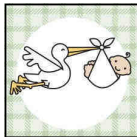
### Looking back:

In each of our bush locations God gave me a special friend or two, which was a blessing. There are times when I feel I don't relate to my peers and where they are coming from. I know I'm different. I liked the way I learned everything I needed to know. I would do it again.

- February 2009

"I liked the way I learned everything I needed to know. I would do it again."

## From Engedi



Congratulations to Steve and Angie (Chalbi team) on the birth of Ezekiel, Paul & Salome (Chalbi) on the birth of Ezra, and D & D (CA1) on the birth of Margaret Anne, B & J (CA1) on the birth of Galilee Noelle, and Tim & Emily (Zaramo) on the adoption of little Imani. We rejoice with you as your families grow.



Romance has certainly been in the air lately. Congratulations to Jeremy (Zaramo) and Paulina (Zaramo), Dan (Zaramo) and Lindsay (H1), and Catherine (Sudan) and Martin (Sudan) on their recent engagements. Also John and Nancy's daughter, Danielle was engaged to Ryan just a few weeks ago here at Engedi.



On a less joyful note, we were sorry over the past few months to have had to say good bye for various reasons to some team members: Winny from Didinga, Duane & Tanya from the Zaramo team, as well as Keith and Tammy also from Zaramo. We pray God's blessing on each one as He continues to lead you on.



Thank you, thank you to all the short term teams who helped set up for TIMO teams this year. A special thanks to Steve, Frank and Richard, Short Termers who conquered huge language and cultural barriers to help set up for the Didinga as well as other teams over the past year.

**We always enjoy visits from team members here at Engedi.  
KARIBUNI sana!**



Standing between a curious Didinga crowd and an AIM plane, Richard and Frank regard a stack of supplies to be delivered to team houses.

## Alumni updates

### A STORY GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU SMILE

*\*Bridget and her husband Kevin served on a TIMO team among an Island Muslim people group in the Indian Ocean. They currently live and continue to minister to Muslims in the U.S..\**

Bridget writes,

Last spring, I visited one of the Muslim ladies from our Teas whom I had been wanting to build a friendship with. I was determined to stay long enough to get past the "small talk" and be able to share life concerns together as moms of young daughters. I felt like this was what God was telling me to do. Eventually she told me how they were wanting another child, but just had not been able to conceive yet. She had only one child at the time who was five years old. I took the opportunity to ask her if I could pray with her for God to give her another child. I was excited because I knew God was telling me to pray for her. So, (after a discussion as to whether she would mind if I prayed in Jesus' Name, which she said she did mind) I prayed confidently "In Your Name" that God would bless them with another child and that he/ she would grow up loving God. It was much longer than that, but that was the gist. I really felt I was to pray a blessing on the

baby she was about to conceive. It was not eloquent, but was with compassion and was what God wanted me to do. After wiping away a tear in her eye, she said, "Thank you, that was a beautiful prayer." I fully expected to get a phone call from her after 4 weeks saying she was pregnant. I really believed that God was going to answer that prayer, or rather, that He was calling me to pray so that this would be a "God thing" in her life, and a way to draw her to Himself. Well, there was no phone call. And frankly, I never saw her or communicated with her after that until yesterday. For what ever reason, she was not able to attend the rest of the Teas and was not able to meet up with me in summer when I called her.

But, I saw her yesterday as she picked up her daughter from the same school that Savannah goes to and found out that she is indeed pregnant! And due in January! (I don't remember the exact date that I visited her, but you do the math...). It was a joyous reunion. She hugged me for a long time in the middle of the school grounds surrounded by crowds of people, which I was surprised at since she is a reserved person. I congratulated

## Where are they now?



The Sudan team had their debrief in July, 2008.

her, and I said, "See, God answered our prayer!" She responded, "Yes, I know, I was just telling my brother yesterday that you prayed for me." I was so glad that she viewed it as answer to prayer! Praise Him! Maybe one day, she will understand that a Christian is praying in Jesus' Name whether we say His Name or Lord or Your Name. Do you know what else I learned? Following and obeying the Spirit's leading in my life can be really fun! Sometimes you just have to be patient in seeing how God has answered prayers. Not because He was late in answering them, but because we won't always know the outcome in one's life for whom we have prayed.

- September, 2008

*"I never saw her or communicated with her until yesterday..."*

*"Following and obeying the Spirit's leading in my life can be really fun!"*

### THE GLOBAL MALL

*\*Joel & Elizabeth served with the H team which ended last June. They are currently in the US on Home Assignment.\**  
Joel & Elizabeth write,

The Global Mall is not nearly so global as the name implies. In fact, it is 100% S people. Amazingly enough, this mall is in Columbus, Ohio. We were the only non-S people there as we walked around, meeting people, finding groceries that we're used to in Africa, bargaining for clothes, browsing the Islamic book store. And it was so *fun!* People welcomed us warmly, offered us S lessons, asked us for English lessons, grabbed Isaiah right out of our hands and loved him. Our first visit to the Global Mall was a success!

As we scoped out this area of town, we found all kinds of halal (this is like kosher, but for Muslims) butchers, African restaurants and stores selling common items from the Horn. There was the Juba Value Center (Juba is a main river in S land) and the Zamzam Grocery Store (Zamzam is the well in Muslim tradition where Hagar found water in the wilderness). We visited a local library and saw many covered women with their children. As we talked and visited with people, we saw tons of potential opportunities to meet these people, become friends, serve them and share our faith. That is exciting for us and for the many people in Columbus who want to reach out. Please pray for us as we continue to make contacts in this community, study language and share with others about reaching out to these Ss.

- August, 2008

*To our dear alumni, We really are wondering where you are now! Please send us your updates.*



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*Now to Him who  
 is able to do far  
 more abundantly  
 beyond all that we  
 ask or think,...to  
 Him be the glory  
 in the church and  
 in Christ Jesus to  
 all generations..."*

Ephesians 4:20-21

### Training In Ministry Outreach



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.timo-aim.com](http://www.timo-aim.com)

### *Invitation* to all TIMO

team members & leaders, past, present and future:

Do you have any Tips for Bush / Urban Living or suggestions for TIMO Connection?

Please drop us an email at

**connect.timo@aimint.net**

Also, don't forget to put us on your recipient list for any updates you might be sending out. We pray for you here at Engedi. Blessings!

*David & Julia*

*Paul & Virginia*

*Monte & Kendra*

*John & Nancy*

### **Tips for Bush Living** from *Cooking in the Bush* by Virginia T

The good news is that with time, practice & lots of creativity we can eat pizza, brownies, cinnamon rolls - almost anything! - in the bush. (Ok, ice cream is a bit of a problem, but then some sacrifices have to be made!)



It's Christmas Dinner for the Chalbi Team. We heard confirmed reports that there was an actual turkey involved!

My first piece of advice is get a couple of good cookbooks. With a few exceptions, the older the better. Cookbooks calling for cake mixes or other packaged products aren't the most helpful - at least early on. It doesn't take long to realize that much of what we call "cooking from scratch" in the west is really only 1 step removed from prepackaged meals. My favorites are: More with Less - this cookbook has many meatless recipes & uses for lentils & beans etc.

The Joy of Cooking has been an invaluable resource for learning about origins & descriptions of foods & ingredients (offering ideas for substitutions), cuts of meat (including step-by-step directions on how to cut up & degut a chicken!)

Lastly, an old Betty Crocker cookbook had the recipes for familiar foods from my childhood. Each person has their own favorites & asking around may lead to other gems.