

# CI YI BAK

## Half way already!!

We cannot believe that we are already half way through our time here, in Tonj. It has been a jam packed 7 weeks and we have been incredibly blessed to be able to serve with In Deed and Truth Ministries. So we thank you MIBC sincerely for the support you have given us in order to get us here.

## Rain... and malaria

We have had some amazing answers to prayer as the rain has started to come. However, in comparison to previous years, this has been quite a dry wet season. Something I'm sure we can relate to. Please continue pray that more rain comes so that the harvest this year will yield enough for families to survive until the next harvest. As we praise God for the rain we also know that it brings with it malaria. Malaria kills millions of people every year but is also treatable. We have already started seeing the effects of this disease starting to spread through Tonj. Quite a few of the staff members here have tested positive to malaria. But it effects the youngest of the community the worst and we have already seen too many deaths from malaria, in my opinion 1 is too many. Malaria is also the cause for the majority of premature births here. At the moment the ward is full of premature babies that are struggling to stay alive. So please also keep the preemie babies, kids sick with malaria and for all those effected by this disease, in your prayers. They desperately need it!



## Update from Sarah

Before arriving in Tonj I wasn't too sure on the direction of ministry I could take. So upon arriving I spent time in prayer and seeking God for my direction and I felt the Holy Spirit direct me to make my ministry prayer. Even though there is a very obvious language barrier, God still hears my prayers and understands what I'm saying. I have loved being able to get beside anyone who is willing and pray for them, and I haven't had anyone reject the offer yet! When I am not homeschooling and tending to the kids needs, I join the pastors on their morning rounds. I have been blessed to be able to share the gospel while on these rounds and am asked to pray for the patients and parents. I have also had many opportunities to get to know the staff, hear their testimonies and pray for them. I also attend a weekly women's bible study, which I feel so blessed to be apart of this amazing group of women. The stories and struggles they share with us and yet their faith remains so strong and evident just blows me away. I am also involved in helping with the youth group. It brings me so much joy to be able to serve in this ministry. I will be sharing my testimony at the next youth event. Up to 100 youth from 12-25 can attend at one time. We always have a great turn out and a great response to the topics shared. We have just been given the thumbs up to organise a youth conference. If we want to host this, this year, we are aiming to hold it around 14th of August. The pastors will be in discussion with the other churches to encourage the other youth groups in Tonj to attend as well. We have little time to organise a big amount. We are believing that if God wants this event to happen, he will make a way. Please pray that this event will come together smoothly and that it will be a blessing to the youth of Tonj.





## OUTREACH

Aside from the ministries we are involved with here in the compound we have also been blessed to be able to attend 5 CHE graduation ceremonies. These are an amazing celebration to be apart of as it is a testament to the work God is doing here in South Sudan. Many villages are hungry for the word of God and our CHE team can't keep up with how fast this ministry is spreading. We love being able to visit these villages and love seeing the passion for God each village has.

Along with the CHE graduations we are also doing medical outreaches in the CHE communities. These are big days for the team and can be gone for up to 12hrs or more and will have seen hundreds of patients by the end of the day. Ben will be attending his first medical outreach this week and I am planning on making the following one with hopes to able to bring the kids along to one as well. Please pray for safety when travelling, some of the areas the team has to travel through have had recent instability. And with the recent rain we have had the roads/tracks have become very muddy (the team got bogged twice on their way to and from the CHE graduation that was held last Thursday).

## Update from Ben

There are so many ways that we can serve in Tonj that it has been difficult to choose where to start. Preaching the gospel is probably the best place to start. It is why we are here. The gospel is what makes us different from humanitarian work. I have preached at the local church, preached in the hospitals and prayed with the sick.

In Australia, I teach at a University about the profession of nursing and midwifery. I have been able to teach these same concepts to our Clinical assistants in Tonj but combine it with scripture, which I do not get the opportunity to do in Australia. We have 30 Clinical Assistants working through this 10 study program which covers: being an advocate, managing death, being a leader, sharing testimonies, working wholeheartedly, working with the character of God, person-centred care, being solution focused and more.

I have not spent 100% of my time in the hospital, however, I have been able to be extra hands when there are gaps to be filled. I have been: dressing head wounds, resuscitating babies, taking vitals, updating IV medication booklets, finding blood donors, removing expired medications, attending doctor rounds, administering medications, weighing babies and assessing patients that the Clinical Assistants are concerned about. I have a few side hobbies

that In Deed And Truth (IDAT) Ministries is taking advantage of. I have been assisting to redesign the IDAT website, increase social media strategies, provide basic training to others on how to create videos, photography and videography.

This has been enough to keep me very busy while still trying to balance time for the family and self. It has been such a joy and pleasure to serve God, learn a new world and take on new challenges.

