

## CONSTRUCTIVE WORD

The Esala Prayer Letter---September 2006

### KIDS' SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Karissa and Annaka stayed busy the entire summer. There were swimming lessons, visits to the pool, camping out, jet ski rides, boating, the library's summer reading program, birthday celebrations (especially their new sister Aili's), fishing, craft projects, trampoline jumping, biking, tie-dying, VBS, steams in the sauna, kick ball games, catching lizards and tadpoles, visits to theme parks, dress-up, and bobble-sitting (that's a kid thing).



*Annaka was full of energy at the pool, often thinking that she could swim like her sister*

### DEAR FRIENDS,

This summer brought us great joy and great sadness. Our #1 summer highlight was the arrival of our newest family member. July 5<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Aili ("I"-lee) Esther Esala. We have all done well in the adjustments that come with a growing family. Karissa and Annaka are excellent big sisters. Annaka especially is quick to run to Aili's aid at even the smallest peep. Aili also proved to be quite adaptable throughout our travels in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. **Thank you for your prayers for our family and for our travels during these adjustments this summer.**

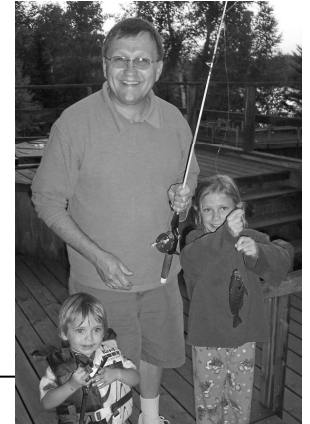


*Aili's baptism*

August brought us some shocking and sad news. Abdulai, one of the men who works for us, died. Abdulai patiently allowed Annaka to "help" him with various tasks, teaching her quite a bit of the language in the process. His children are Karissa and Annaka's favorite playmates. If you've seen the video we've shared during our travels, you've seen his kids. Abdulai was wise and innovative, finding solutions to a variety of problems—sometimes involving people, other times a generator, or still other times the removal of a bat flying around my living room. He will be greatly missed. We dread the thought of his absence when we return. But this story doesn't end here. (see next page)



*Karissa and Annaka on a bike ride with the Baker cousins – all of them sporting their Cousin Camp tie-dyed shirts*



*Karissa with her grandpapa, Annaka, and one of nine fishes that she caught*

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KOMBA LAND WHILE WE ARE AWAY?

Two big things...

1. Literacy! David Federwitz and Pastors Samson and Emmanuel along with another man named Elijah have been working on the first Komba primer! A primer is a small book that teaches you how to read. The first primer introduces letters and the sounds they make and key words that start with those letters. A is for Apple. It makes the sound (short a). They also printed five small leaflets that tell traditional Komba stories complete with a picture! This helps give people something to read. **Pray for these men as they develop and launch the literacy work more formally.**
2. Scripture engagement and women's literacy. LBT intern Karin Brandt helped create three readers based on the story of Ruth. The stories are illustrated with 18 pictures. The first reader is the easiest reader and tells the basic story through the picture and a simple sentence on the page. The other two are each a step up in difficulty level. Finally the last level will be the translation itself. Ms. Brandt taught several workshops with our pastors on how to use these books. She promoted reading them by going around to our local Komba markets and selling popcorn with small printed leaflets written in Komba. She encouraged women to read the basic Ruth readers while she was there. It was a very challenging summer for Karin emotionally, spiritually and intellectually, but we believe she did very well and we leave the results up to God! **Praise God for Karin and the seeds that were planted during her time in Ghana.**

## **LBT FALL BANQUET TOUR**

Nathan is going to be the missionary speaker for the Fall LBT Dinners. Check and see if any of these dates are in your area. To attend, RSVP by calling LBT at 1-800-532-4253. Nathan would love to visit with you personally before or after the dinners while he is in your area.

November 6	Phoenix AZ	Crowne Plaza	12 PM Lunch
November 7	San Diego CA	Sheraton	6 PM Dinner
November 9	Buena Park CA	Knotts Berry Farm	Lunch and Dinner
November 11	Seattle WA	Trinity Bible College in Issaquah	12 PM Lunch
November 13	Denver CO	Sheraton Graystone Castle	12 PM Lunch

We continue to speak in the Dayton and Cincinnati areas through October. **Pray that these times of sharing would be full of encouragement and that our comings and goings would be safe and sane.**

Our updated speaking schedule is posted on our website <http://sc.lbt.org/users/esalas>. The old web address [www.lbt.org/esalas](http://www.lbt.org/esalas) still works, but you have to click "Go to Personal Website" to get to our homepage.

## **DEAR FRIENDS CONTINUED**

About a week ago Nathan was talking to our colleague David who's in Ghana and found out that Abdulai was alive. We were again shocked but full of joy. David had greeted at the funeral house and given a gift, thinking it was for Abdulai's family. It wasn't until David traveled to southern Ghana and was talking with Komba men from our town up north that he learned of his misunderstanding. He had indeed greeted the funeral house of the missionary's deceased worker, but it was a previous missionary's worker.

This may be the closest thing to a resurrection encounter that our family will experience on this earth. Of course, no one actually came back to life, but we have a greater understanding of the range of emotions that the disciples went through between Maundy Thursday and Sunday. Isn't it great that Christ's story didn't end with Good Friday? Praise God for the resurrection and the resurrection moments he gives here on earth.

**Pray with us that Abdulai and the many Komba people who do know Christ as Savior will come to faith as the Word is shared among them so they can partake in the resurrection that is to come when Christ calls them heavenward.**

## **OTHER PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS.**

- **Praise God for our co-workers David and Valerie Federwitz who are persisting in LBT's work while we are away. Pray for the Federwitz family as Valerie travels to the U.S. to attend a wedding and David and the two older kids stay in Ghana.**
- **Pray that the harvests will be sufficient to meet the needs of the Komba in our area. The rains came late for many this year.**
- **Pray that the Komba community leaders and church leaders would see the value of literacy and translation in their language and do their part to promote this work.**
- **Pray that more Komba individuals would be identified to serve as translators in our project.**

**Celebrating the resurrection,**

*Sarah for Nathan Karissa, Annaka & Aili*

### **Contributions and Correspondence**

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