

# anita do Yesu

only you Jesus

AMONG THE LAARIM  
WITH JOEL GERBERICH

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as  
Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.  
2 Corinthians 4:5 NIV

**April 17, 2021**

Five weeks ago I wrote to you from Uganda, and now I'm sitting at a table in Nairobi—the coffee maker is sub-par. Since I may have you wondering if I truly live in South Sudan, Katie (my girlfriend, who I'm actually seeing in person!!) has graced us with some of her insights of life with the Laarim.



How good is this!! Katie and I preparing to take off for Nairobi from the Laarim.

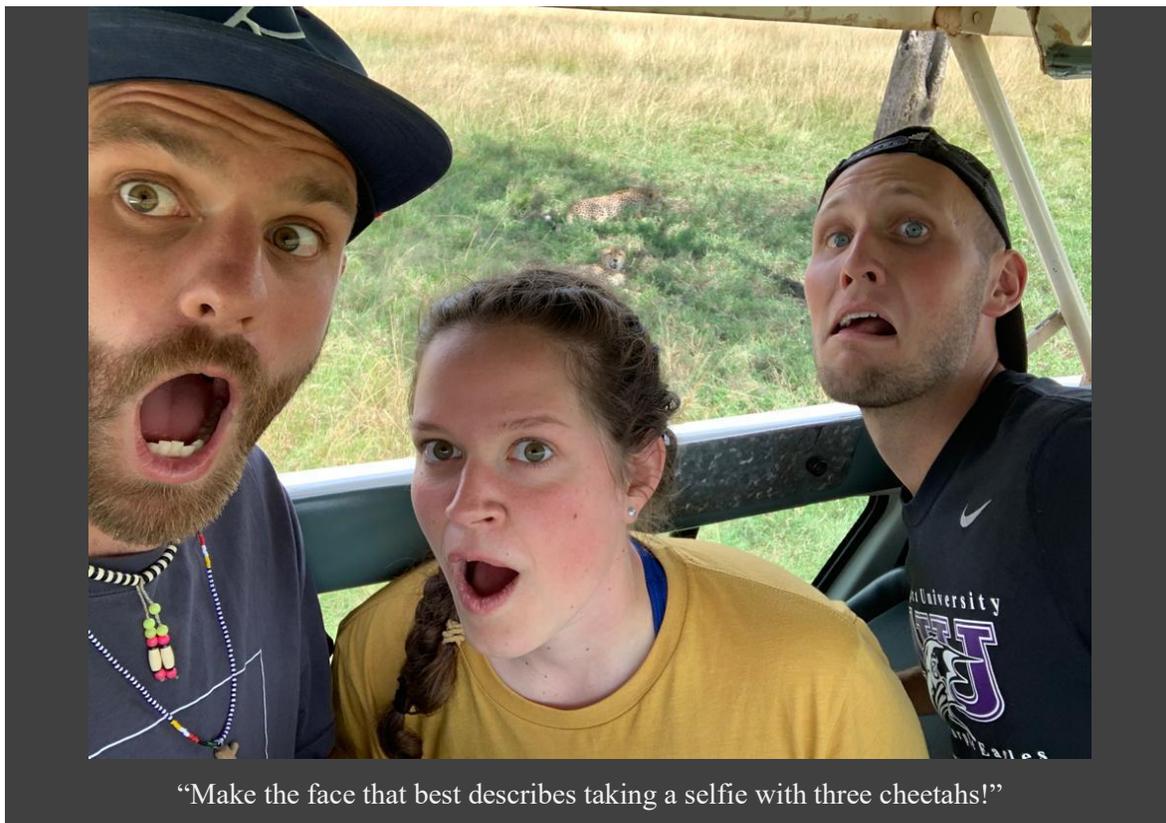
An outsiders' view of South Sudan:

- pretty hot here
- hmm Joel really does wear the same clothing for a week
- SO MANY BUGS
- everything has thorns on it

But actually, as an outsider coming in to see just a bit of Joel's life, I learned much about what it's really like and what they're actually doing out there. It's awesome. Life can be a challenge... all those above things are true. And there's a reality of living in a hard place that I could never have appreciated before seeing it in person. But shoot it's awesome to see Joel doing what he does. Here are just a couple insights!

Their team is a family. They worship together and have very honest conversations together and encourage each other. They push each other to run the race with perseverance and joy in all the hard realities of life in the bush. I am thankful that Joel is loved so well by his team!

Church is happening!! Sunday mornings they ring a bell (hit it with a big rock) and people come and sit under a tree and worship and read bible stories in Laarim. This is a church that didn't exist before, and now there are people singing truths about God and engaged in the teaching. I didn't understand anything, but it was awesome all the same.



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Christ continues to be worthy of my life and his love continues to be a joyous motivation in hard times. Between my tiredness and my desire to send this tonight, I will wrap up with the words to NEEDTOBREATHE's song Garden. It just happened to come on, and I think it captures some of my thoughts at the moment:

Won't You take this cup from me?  
'Cause fear has stolen all my sleep  
If tomorrow means my death  
I pray You'll save their souls with it

Let the songs I sing bring joy to You  
Let the words I say profess my love  
Let the notes I choose be Your favorite tune  
Father, let my heart be after You

In this hour of doubt I see  
That who I am is not just me  
So give me strength to die myself  
So love can live to tell the tale

Let the songs I sing bring joy to You  
Let the words I say profess my love  
Let the notes I choose be Your favorite tune  
Father, let my heart be after You

Father, let my heart be  
For You  
For You  
For You  
For You

Keep praying friends, much love,

#### **A Few Other Notes**

- The DeLeeuws (team leaders) moved back to the Netherlands with their kids
- Jacob is back from the States and is now our team leader
- Some unrest from recent shootings involving our people has settled quite a bit
- We remain hopeful that the schools will open soon

#### **Prayer Calendar**

I have begun sending monthly prayer calendars as well. If you are not receiving those and want to be, email me and I will add you to that list!

To the ends of the earth,

Joel