



# CrowdersInAfrica

*Serving with SIM Sudan*

*Chris: Area Director Beverly: Medical Coordinator*

Volume 1, Issue 1

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### SIM is:

*a community of God's people who delight to worship Him and are passionate about the Gospel, seeking to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.*

### SIM's Mission Statement

*To glorify God by planting, strengthening and partnering with churches around the world as we*

- *Evangelize the unreached*
- *Minister to human need*
- *Disciple believers into churches*
- *Equip churches to fulfill Christ's commission.*

### Articles

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## A (Slightly) More Normal Life

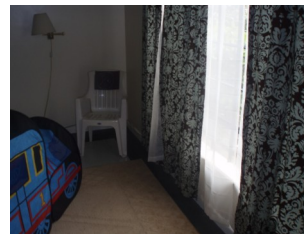
After living in 11 different homes in 12 months, we have finally settled down in Rose Avenue #2 in Nairobi, Kenya. It is a townhouse operated by SIM Kenya.

With glee, Beverly got busy hanging curtains and decorating the boy's rooms. Chris's cordless drill worked late into the night hanging pictures and stuff. A \$50 sofa was recovered. Then, we actually bought a stove and a refrigerator!

The boys have their own rooms which helps immensely since Jonathan loves to sleep but Thomas rarely does so.

Thank you Lord for this home. Chris is able to bike to the SIM

Sudan office in five minutes and we are surrounded by colleagues and missionaries who are in transit to various places. When Chris travels to



We actually have drapes! Thomas' time-out chair graces the corner alcove.

Sudan, Bev has support from neighbors and friends. We know Nairobi is not a secure city but what a blessing to let

our dear watchmen George and Humphrey and an enormous German Shepherd dog keep watch.

Our minivan is constantly running back and forth to the office and the various guest-houses. Welcoming and hospitality go along with our team leadership roles. Just today a new missionary is packing her bags to leave at noon and because of your faithful support we are able to give her a lift in our minivan through rainy and cold Nairobi streets.

Although our jobs do not allow us to live in Sudan we are thankful for a semi-permanent place to live.

## Pray for New Baby— Due 13 April 2010

Our third child is due 13 April 2010, and we've decided to have the baby at home this time. We plan to fly to the USA the first week of March 2010.

Our motivation is first, to allow our families to take part in the event and sec-

ond, to take special care of Beverly since this will be her third c-section. As of now, her morning sickness and tiredness (which was quite intense this time) has mostly subsided.

Please be in prayer for little baby to come!



## About: Beverly



“What a privilege to serve the Lord by serving our Team!”

Beverly wears many ministry hats these days.

Whenever I see her locked in conversation with a girlfriend, I know that she is preparing to **encourage** one of our female missionaries who serve in difficult places.

She also gets to love on “**nieces**” and “**nephews**” (children of colleagues) when they

come to Nairobi for R&R. It’s one way to keep some semblance of family structure since we are all away from our birth families (see Matt 19:29)

Of course, her main ministry of **discipling** and **teaching** Jonathan and Thomas is one which goes on round the clock.

As our **Health Coordinator**, she orients new mis-

sionaries, helping them to prevent illness so that they can enjoy serving. Our brave ones serve many, many miles from developed health care services.

Finally, she is a **confidant** and wise advisor to the field director (Chris).

“My calling is not a burden. I was never this busy, this tired, or this fulfilled in my former life.”

Thomas’ newest buddy is Rehema Rainsford who is originally from Sudan.

## About: Chris

Looking back on my career in management and telecom engineering I can clearly see that it was a training ground for **my current role as Area Director**. Budget time? No problem, I’ve done that. Contracts, financials, memos, mountains of emails—all familiar to me.

The new angle is that **my job is to set the team vision and launch holistically healthy and well-equipped missionaries into South Sudan to carry it out**.

What is different these days is my role as a dad. Now, this is truly something new and not easy to

understand. Please pray as Bev and I together sort out issues of discipline, nurture, training, and fun all against the backdrop of Kenyan and Sudanese culture. **Please pray that I would get rest and have my morning time in God’s Word so that I can be strong.**

## About: Thomas Ollen Crowder



Thomas Ollen is a very happy and strong-willed

little guy. Our nickname of **Turbo Rooster** fits because he wakes up early and goes hard all day.

Thomas is learning how to pray out loud and obey. It is fun to hear him express what he is thankful for.

He’s a delight and a source of many silly sayings. (see p. 4)



# About: Jonathan Lee Crowder



Our first nickname for Jonathan Lee Crowder was **Big Hoss** because he was a gigantic baby. Lately, we've been calling him **Small Buddy** because he's grown into a fun, calm, little person who enjoys sleeping. He enjoys eating tons of anything. In fact, it's the only thing he yells about.

Of course, he adores his big brother and mimics him end-

lessly.

Personality traits are already beginning to come out.. We notice his **tenacity** and **strength**. He loves to use his strength to pick up the heaviest thing he can find and he pursues his play with single-minded intensity and focus. How will the Lord use those traits in the future?

*"I am an educated Sudanese diplomat, yet I have never voted in an election." -*

*GOSS Head of Mission, John Andrugá Druku*

## A Foreboding Forecast for Sudan

In a recent press conference, Sudan's condition was described as a "perfect storm" of 3 factors: **financial crisis, hunger from lack of rain, and spiraling inter-tribal violence**. In the next 18 months, Sudan will arrive at a **major watershed event**: the 2011 Referendum. Sudanese

will have the opportunity to vote for a unified Sudan or to separate into two countries. If Southern Sudan declares independence, that choice may have many consequences. Please pray that further armed conflict would not happen. Pray that SIM Sudan will have wisdom to understand

the times and respond as God commands us.

God promised King Josiah that we would die in **peace** and that his eyes would not see the destruction to come. Concern for Sudan causes me to lose sleep, but God can and does change world events as we pray.

## Doro: One of Five Bases in Sudan

**1000 km away from my desk, near the swamps of Upper Nile State is our Doro base.**

**Let's look at Doro by the numbers:**

**80** The average number of patients seen in a day

at Doro clinic (more than 1500 per month)

**2,300** The number of women that die in pregnancy per 100,000 (the highest rate in the world)

**20** The number of community health workers trained at Doro since last

year.

**100,000** The population of Mabaan county in need of health care

**1** The number of doctors working in Mabaan County (Dr Rob Congdon, SIM)



*"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:15*



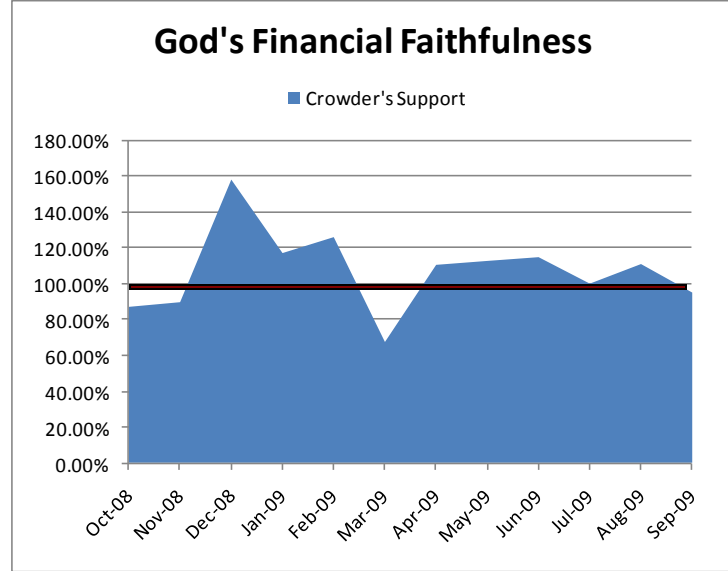
During this global financial crisis, we are so thankful to have this tangible sign of your love and trust. The chart below shows how **steadfast** your support has been.

### Supporting The Crowders

SIMUSA, Crowders #22469, P.O. Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241  
 Online Giving: <https://usenet.sim.org/SIMGift/detail.aspx>  
 Our Web Site: [crowdersinafrica.com](http://crowdersinafrica.com)

Chris' mobile: +254 736 755 226  
 Beverly's mobile: +254 736 755 227  
 E-mail: [chris.crowder@sim.org](mailto:chris.crowder@sim.org),

SIM has been **By Prayer** Since 1893



## Our Doro Base, continued

**216** The number of malnourished children treated at the Nutrition Village in one year.

**5** The number of Missionary lives spared in April 2008 plane crash at Doro.

**575** The number of households lost in recent flooding.

**4** The number of SIM Missionaries buried near the station (Bob and Claire Grieve, Claire Ogilvie, David Masters)

**1937** The year that SIM first began work among the Mabaan people.



Above: First, the foundation is laid.

Below: Pillars going up.



Silly Sayings by Thomas Crowder:

"Yoo hoo mama, stand up and come get me."

Recent Conversation with Mama:

**Thomas:** (sits down) "Mama, Jesus is my best friend."

**Bev:** "That good, Thomas. Does he live in your heart?"

**Thomas:** "Yes, and it hurts! I have to get him out!"

