



Classmates from the Philippines (Bea & Medea) I met up with while in Switzerland.



## OH! SPEAK LORD!

Living and working in the Philippines blessed me in so many ways. The lessons I learned there, the training I got, and especially the people I met, changed me radically.

When I returned to the States, my family was surprised by the person I'd become.

You cannot live in a country without assimilating certain characteristics. You just can't.

But living in the Philippines wasn't the first time a country imprinted on me. Before then, it was France and Spain. Now, I find myself in Sudan. Each country has taught me a new way to view the world – a

new frame upon which my stories rest.

To say that these experiences have changed me would be an understatement.

Today as I look back, I'm shocked by the journey so far.

My path has taken me on some outrageous twists and turns.

Did I think I would be a missionary in Sudan ten years ago? *Never!* Did I guess I would be

delivering babies (and loving it!) five years ago! *Not in my wildest dreams!*

When I think of the ways God has moved me from one place to another, I laugh.

It has not been easy for Him!

*"I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints..."*

Psalm 85:8

Much like an ornery mule, I have argued with God – even questioning His sanity – at the way He would move me. Eventually, I'd come around, but it was never instinctual.

However, those times I prayed Samuel's words, *'Speak, LORD for your servant is listening.'* (1 Sam 3:9), He startled me in His love!

May we all experience this kind of leading. May we all recognize His voice and obey... even if it means going to Africa! I have never been so happy as when I let God lead!

Where is He leading you today? Wherever it might be, trust it's just perfect for you, for He knows you perfectly!

Love,

*Stephanie*

My blog is updated regularly... Check it out and enjoy!

[www.wifewife4Jesus.blogspot.com](http://www.wifewife4Jesus.blogspot.com)

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Love,

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## CULTURE WHIPLASH!

This month has put me in the land of rolling hills, flowering fruit trees, and snow capped mountains. Yes, you read that right. I'm in Europe.

It's been a time of indulgence (coffee, cheese and chocolate to my heart's delight!) and rest (sleeping in 'til the sun strikes rudely through the curtains insisting I get out of my down-feathered nest).

I've tried to explain to family and friends the intense luxury of their lives here, but none of us can really comprehend the extent of it all. We laugh uneasily at the thought... and move on.

Superimposing images of this indulgence with memories of Sudan only confuse me more. Is Sudan real?

## MY EUROPEAN JOURNEY...

Many of you might be wondering what I've done on my time off. That's a fair question. Let's see....

- The first week, I hugged and kissed on my sister and her family extensively in Geneva, Switzerland where they have lived for many years.
- The second week, I went to France where I enjoyed reconnecting with my 'French Parents' and overdosed on all things 'Culture'. *Divine!*
- My third week has allowed me a restorative week back in Switzerland at a friend's house where I was able to debrief with other midwives. *Yeah!*
- My last week, I return to Geneva again to enjoy more family time. One of my other sisters will join us from the States and I'll get to meet my newest nephew! I can't wait!
- Then a week from today, I'll be landing in Sudan.



Is this land of giants a vivid dream meant to fade as I rub sleep from my eyes? Was it a dream?

It's strange to mistrust even my own memories, but I can't help it. That's how severe the culture shock has been.

As I listen to my own stories of Tonj, and they sound like make-believe tales of an overactive mind.

Have I not just made it all up? Such a place could not exist! Such a land could not be real! It's the stuff of legends and children's stories. It's the stuff of fantasy. -- yet it's true.

It's no longer culture SHOCK, it has officially become culture WHIPLASH!

Please pray with me as I head back to Sudan next week. I'm excited but a bit nervous too. Thanks.

## PRAISE & PRAYER

### RENEWED VISION

As my first year in Africa comes to an end, I'm faced with the question of what I've accomplished. I know it's my American-ness that would even dare ask such a question, but I can't help it. I had expectations and hopes for this year.

Nothing I had hoped to accomplish has happened. Perhaps my goals were OUTRAGEOUSLY unrealistic, but isn't He OUTRAGEOUSLY amazing to do all this and more?



I'm not saying nothing has been accomplished, as much has happened in this short time. But my hopes have met with the reality that is Africa.

Would you please pray with me that God would give me a renewed understanding of how I'm to help these people, this work, and ultimately bless this land. Thanks.

### MIDWIFE INVITE

I'm also praying actively for another midwife to come work with me. As the work here grows, there is just too much work for one.

Fortunately, there is a Nurse-Midwife coming over the summer. I'm SO looking forward to having her. But please pray that God would bring someone to replace her by the time she leaves in August. Thanks



### MAILING ADDRESS:

Po Box 4513, 00100 Nairobi GPO  
Kenya AFRICA  
(Do NOT send packages to this address, email me for details)  
Stephanie@indeedandtruth.org  
[www.midwife4jesus.blogspot.com](http://www.midwife4jesus.blogspot.com)

### SUPPORT ADDRESS:

In Deed and Truth Ministries  
Po Box 51253, Colorado Springs,  
CO 80949  
(Write my name in Memo Line)  
Call 760/ 707-7367 or donate online  
[www.indeedandtruth.org](http://www.indeedandtruth.org)



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