



Sojourners United Annual Newsletter



Freedom in Jesus' Name

Sojourners teamed up with Matthew 10 who freed 100 families from slavery **Page 2**



Shoes for the Shoeless

Using shoes made in Kenya, Sojourners United got Shoes that Grow to three countries **Page 3**



Future Project

With over twenty children in a small two bedroom house, land for a new house is needed in Uganda. **Page 3 (Uganda)**

"The Spirits voice is always blowing ... You do not know where it is coming from or where it is going. So it is with everyone completely born of the Spirit" (John 3: 8)

What a year of unexpected twists and open doors! 2025 featured more trips to more countries as God opened incredible doors to help those in distress with the hope of the Gospel. We thank Him for the generosity and prayers of many of you. Most of the trips turned out different than planned as God opened and shut doors.

Table of Contents

Page	
2	Iraq, Pakistan
3	Kenya, Uganda
4	North America, Next Year Trips
5	Transplant Journey Advisory Boards



with some of the team

Sudan and South Sudan



One unexpected development was for Karla to join up with a group needing experienced health care providers in South Sudan and Sudan.



reaching out to distressed

For two weeks, **she encountered extreme summer heat** such that the digital thermometers got too hot to function. In northwestern South Sudan and southwestern Sudan the team experienced **cholera outbreaks, lack of water and dehydration, and other diseases uncommon** in the West.

In Sudan, **they were told that the entire team would be killed if anyone they cared for in clinic died.** Once an extremely dehydrated young girl was sent with bags of fluids to the closest hospital in hope both she and the team would survive. She did!

Water & Hospital for S Sudan

On her return trip to Juba, God arranged for Karla to sit next to a woman with a desire to grow in God's Scriptures, and to establish a woman's and children hospital.

We are praying for God to open up doors to have solid connections that would enable us to help drill more wells for needed water, and to establish and properly administer a hospital in South Sudan. **Pray for God to make all things possible and provide good honest godly connections and resources.**



(endless) lines for care



Freed Families Celebrating



Clinic for brickyard slaves

Freedom in Jesus' Name

Our Winter Trip to Pakistan allowed us to raise funds through our home church to free one family from slavery along with one hundred other families. What a special, incredible celebration! Please visit our blog to read more about what this incredible day was like. It was unparalleled!

<https://www.sojournersunited.org/1/make-a-joyful-noise/>



Two Syrians preparing for missions to Ethiopia

Northern Iraq



Do more by doing less. The last 3 years God gave us wisdom to sustain and support our base house, with many distance zoom calls and creative ways to get funds while out of country. At the end of April, God revealed our need to step back from our Iraq housing commitments in order to attend to needs and open doors elsewhere. **He is able to do immeasurably more than we can think or imagine!**



Medical Care to Displaced Afghans

In the process of shutting down the house, Eric turned the lease over to the guys living in our house to manage it entirely on their own, under their name and self-financing. The house now has more people staying in it than we ever did, and they are taking ownership and care of it. **Some of the guys are trying to establish ministries** in Europe and Ethiopia. One widow we care for, and her family, are on a tenuous track to immigrate to Canada and be nestled within believing communities. **This is all possible through God working through your prayers and help.**



Some of our partners in Pakistan

Return trips to Iraq are coming, but the timeline is uncertain. May be Spring 2026?! We will be solidifying relationships with those we have worked with and continue to use Iraq to be a platform for launching medical relief during times of disaster and conflict. Our daughter and her family are there. Prayers and support for their ministries are appreciated.

Pakistan



Karla and Eric had **opportunities to reach out to many Afghani refugees** facing mass deportations back to Afghanistan, as well as to several brickyard slaves through medical clinics, food and clothing distributions., **God opened doors for medical care to extend healing and hope to desperate, grateful people.**

During clinics, Josiah and others were able to engage those waiting in meaningful activities and discussions. Josiah had the opportunity to stay with our on-the-ground partners for two months, seeing how they operate with and without visiting teams. His insights and wisdom are indispensable as we look to expanding trips that could involve hosting medical (and more) teams in 2026. **Pray for the coordination and planning of these trips,** that they would encourage and build up the local believers and unite groups as part of Christ's body.

We are sad to report that Pakistan recently raided and shut down a Center run by our co-laborer that was providing education and training to over 700 Afghan Refugees. Families without Visas were deported back to Afghanistan, even with UN Formas noting risk for retribution. Many were beaten. Some placed in Pakistan jails. **Please pray for this distressed population!**



Preparing to give out NEW SHOES



for orphans in Kenya

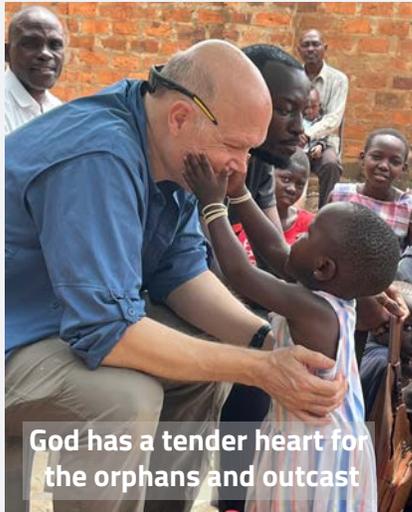


and in Uganda

Shoes for the Shoeless

150 pairs of shoes that grow were first distributed to orphans in Kenya and Uganda, with the remainder going to Pakistan for Afghan refugees and child slaves in brickyards. These shoes, made in Mumbaza Kenya, are designed using latches and velcro to adjust through three sizes, perfect for growing children!

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



God has a tender heart for the orphans and outcast

Kenya



We were able to visit Kenya "twice" in January, leaving and returning to Pakistan. **Here we were able to pick up "Shoes that Grow"**. Some went to orphans in Kenya, others came with us to two orphanages in Uganda. The remaining shoes went to brickyard slaves and Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

While in Kenya, God opened doors for a **widows clinic** that grew and grew, as well as for **community focused, church based medical outreaches**. We expanded the orphanage feeding and toiletry areas, and the two-storied chicken coup and cow shelter. Well to water the fields and for drinking water was improved. Water filters to make the water safer were delivered.

The Kenya ministry team drove us in the donated van to Uganda. This turned out to be their first time ever out of country. What a blessing to see them jump in and engage with people who spoke a different language, yet the common language of God's love shown through!

We plan to return to Kenya in January, expanding visits to one of the pastors our home church in El Paso has been supporting for years and providing supplies to a mission medical clinic amazingly discovered at the recent Global Health Mission Conference in Kentucky.



Clinic for the widow



Water Filters

Uganda



Sojourners made its first visit to two orphanages we have been supporting over the years. Shoes, food, school supplies and times of singing were center stage on this visit. It allowed us to see the places these children are growing up in.

FUTURE PROJECT

Our heart still rejoices, yet aches with one of the sites where they have opened their home and lives to so many orphans that twenty kids end up sleeping on four mattresses in two tiny rooms. **Our desire is that God open up land to be purchased for this group**, such that a new larger orphanage could be built with an ability to grow some of their own food. We also desire this to be close to a school and a church of believers to help train up the next generation. Some of the proverbial pieces of this puzzle are starting to take shape. Pray that we will have wisdom and hear God's voice as we try to return to Uganda again in January.



some of the many orphans we met

TRIP SPOTLIGHT

UN Panel Discussion



"Non-Violence"
UNHQ Sculpture



"A Broken World"



Panel Discussion with Doug Chin

We are grateful for each and every door that God opened for us this year. Each person, each place a special time to be an instrument of God to bring His Healing to the Nations, to whomever was in front of us at the moment. one of the more interesting paths God put together was going to the UN.

To learn more about this trip, to include how God even provided the means of travel for this trip, please see our blog at <https://www.sojournersunited.org/1/confirm-for-me-the-work-of-my-hands>

10th Wedding Anniversary for Daughter Elisabeth and her family



God
the

North American Travels

God opened doors for us to visit and stay with many friends we haven't seen for years.

From Eric's Guide (counselor in training) Leader from the Christian Outdoors Camp that he had not seen for 44 years, to a medical school classmate friend of nearly 40 years that we last met in Georgia over twenty years ago, to staying with one of Pastor's in California from 36 years ago last met (serendipitously) in Iraq four years ago ... These and so many more have been some of the joyous reunions that we have had this year.

Karla was also able to make two trips up to Canada to assist her family as well as help advance getting a refugee widow and her daughters relocated to Canada. In November, we were blessed with a month-long 5,000 mile trip that featured a Global Medical Missions Conference in KY, and then visiting and staying with friends and fellowships in WV, VA, SC, GA, LA and TX. Only God can open these doors!

NOTE: All travels are personally financed by Karla and Eric using retirement savings. This allows 100% of your gifts to be used in countries showing God's Kindness and love to those hurting and in crisis, building better countries both now and eternally. Thank you for your generosity and for your prayers. They open doors that otherwise would be shut.

NEXT YEAR: Possible Trips

Syria

While at the Global Missions Health Conference in November, we came across a group that is providing medical support within Syria. **Please join us in prayer as to how and when we should/could go!!!**

Sudan

"Worse the Wild West!" This is one of the phrases I (Eric) use to encapsulate the conditions Karla encountered with her visit to Sudan in May. And yet God is placing a calling on us to look to help their water and hospital system. **Pray for contacts! Pray for connections!** Pay for us as we look to return sometime this coming year!

India



For years, we have been supporting a pastor in India who has a heart for reaching peoples with the Good News of Jesus Christ. **They are begging for a medical trip to their impoverished communities.** Pray that we can figure out when and how to get their, to include favor with the Visa process as India often denies entry to anyone who has been to Pakistan (and vice-versa)

One of the many friends and fellowships we got to see this year



Pastor from 1989-1991, San Bernardino CA

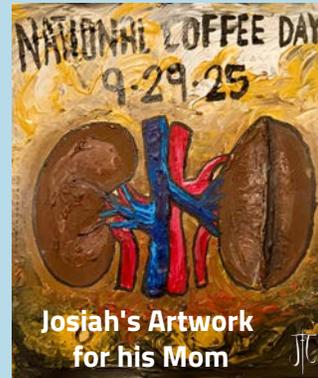
2026 Calendar:

Jan-Feb: Kenya, Uganda,
Mar: Westcoast Ground Trip??
Apr-May: Iraq-Pakistan-Iraq
Jun-Oct: Rapid Response Window (New Crisis, visits to new countries – South Sudan, India, Syria; North American travels, Organizing in El Paso,
Oct/Nov: MidWest Travels into GHMC (mid Nov)

"If a person has two tunics, let him donate one"

Donating a kidney required us to carve out four months to be in the US and as such introduced a lot of uncertainty with the calendar.

However, on 29 September, (National Coffee Day) Karla was able to donate one of her kidneys to a person from church.



Part of Karla's rationale: Jesus said love one another even as I have love you; He gave us his life; she was only giving up one kidney. We are thankful for how many people have walked alongside us in thoughts, prayers and support during this journey of love and a gift of improved life and freedom.

Advisory Boards Forming Up: "Go into all the world" (Mark 16:15)

Sometimes schedules and circumstances do not allow you physically to go. But there are other ways: your prayers, your generosity, and your giftings. In short, there are ways to go without leaving your home towns!

We are looking for people with interest or experiences to join with us as we trail blaze new paths to better steward resources, disciple followers of Jesus, and expand into the nations of the world. Our goals: to unite Believers, Families, Tribes, Churches and Organizations under Christ as we seek to serve, honor and expand God's Kingdom.

Please review the list below, and if you find God raising an interest in you to know more and possibly get involved, please send Eric an email at. In your subject, enter "Advisory Boards". Eric will return your message within a week.

Advisory Boards being considered:

- **Prayer** Advisory (Rapid Text needs) and **Pastoral** Advisory
- **Sustainable/Economic Development**
- **Legal** Advisory
- **Finance and Communications**
 - Donation methods/tracking
 - 990
- **Communications**
 - Email, FB/Twitter et al, Newsletters, Blogs
- **Travel Advisory** (travel is getting more tricky)
 - Import/export
 - Visas
 - Country Specific
 - Pakistan
 - India
 - Kenya
 - Uganda
 - South Sudan
 - Iraq
 - Haiti
- **Medical**
 - Consulting Network
 - Medical Outreaches
 - Hospital/Medical Development
- **Tech Advisory** Board (These can help multiple NPs)
 - Web
 - Google Workspace
 - Adobe, Canva Groups (Graphic Designs)

Send an email to Eric@SojournersUnited.org if you are interested