



## May 2024, part 2

### A Birthday Wish from Addie

Dear Friends & Supporters,

This is letter #5 in a series of Dear Friends letters I'm writing for 2024, focusing on the word "connection." If you'd like to go back and read the first four letters in this series, please visit my RCA missionary page at [rca.org/tenclay](https://rca.org/tenclay); scroll down to the *Resources* section on the right-hand side of the page, and click on the links for the three 2024 Dear Friends letters.

And if you'd like to just go back and read the previous letter focused on connection and South Sudan, click [here](#).

In that letter, I talked about connecting with Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather over our shared commitment to caring for refugees and God's love for the people of South Sudan. It's been a joy to get to know the Smith-Mather family better over the past five years, and a privilege to partner with them on the RCA Global Mission South Sudan Refugee Care Project.

In the midst of this connection, Shelvis and Nancy have also shared stories about—and prayer requests for—their children: Jordan, Adalyn (Addie), Nicole, and Alice. I've committed to caring for our colleagues' children as much as possible, just as we (as both a missionary and ministry family) have relied on colleagues to care for our children. The Smith-Mather children have been a constant on my prayer list for the past couple of years.



Smith-Mather Family

Similar to our family, the Smith-Mather children are active participants in the mission work their parents have been called to do. Last week, Shelvis reached out to me and shared an update about how his daughter, Addie, is currently participating in this work.

As I mentioned in my previous update, RCA Global Mission has committed to raising \$85,000 to support the work of the Smith-Mather family and our local partners of RECONCILE, International in equipping South Sudanese refugees to serve as peacebuilders, social cohesion facilitators, and trauma healers within the refugee camps where they live in Uganda. We set the deadline to reach our goal as June 1.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto:kgilmore@rca.org) to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.*

## June 1 is also Addie's 10th birthday!

Shelvis shared that several months ago, Addie became more committed to helping with the refugee situation and wanted to raise money to care for refugees for her birthday.

So, every couple of weeks, Shelvis and Addie skip a meal, and they save the money they would have spent on food for that meal to donate to the South Sudan project. Addie's 7-year-old sister, Nicole, has even joined them on a few occasions to save a little extra money for the project.

Two weeks ago, Shelvis, Nancy, and Addie gave a presentation for Addie's class about the South Sudan Refugee Care Project. They discussed how anyone can contribute to the project because every little bit helps. The class also made a card of encouragement for the refugees living in refugee settlements where Shelvis and Nancy work and they recorded messages of hope for the refugees as well. Shelvis will deliver the card and messages directly to the refugees this week!



Addie Smith-Mather

And, finally, Addie's 4th-grade class recently completed a business project in which a group of her classmates created a business plan, wrote to investors, and participated in a market fair. Addie has asked her classmates and teachers to donate some of the profits from this business project to the refugee care project.

**Friends, I cannot think of a better way to thank God for Addie and to celebrate her 10th birthday than by raising the remaining \$6,000 we need to meet our \$85,000 goal.**

So, I'm going to end this letter with three invitations:

1. Will you take a moment to thank God for Addie and the Smith-Mather family?
2. Will you skip a meal or two between now and June 1 and donate the money you saved to the [RCA Global Mission South Sudan Refugee Care Project](#)? Better yet, invite a group of friends or family to join you in solidarity!
3. Will you record a message of encouragement for South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda? (You can send a video or audio file to me via email at [jjtenclay@rca.org](mailto:jjtenclay@rca.org), and I will send them to Shelvis.)

Happy 10th Birthday, Dear Addie. May God bless you as you continue to bless others.

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