

Sudan African Mission

25 Years of Service to the People of South Sudan, 1988 - 2013

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SUDAN AFRICAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

RECAP OF TRIP TO SOUTH SUDAN JAN 7-30

Written by Steve Holsinger

When we planned our journey to Aweil, I had an idea that it would involve heat, rough roads and long hours (about 40 hours sitting on a bench in the back of a land cruiser with 10 people in the vehicle.) I had no idea, though, how much it would mean to the villagers that we were willing to travel far to find their tree (place of worship) and sing songs of praise, pray and preach the word of God to them. My message regarding the Old Testament references to Cush was enthusiastically received in every place, frequently interrupted by applause and in most places ending with people leaping to their feet with their hands lifted in praise! In a couple of the places leaders said, "Please don't be offended if our babies are afraid of you. No white man has been here before".



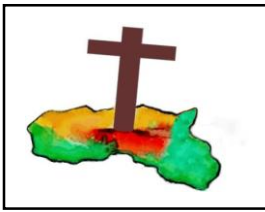
Steve teaching the South Sudanese about Cush

Santino traveled down the Rivers from Atar to meet us in Gambella, and Peter Gatdet came to Juba, so we were actually able to meet with people from all 19 of the Sudan African Mission sponsored congregations. Over and over people thanked us for "coming to our place to see our faces". Peter Rom, a Sudanese man and leader of the Sudanese congregation at Faith Christian Community in Anchorage was a special delight to the leaders everywhere we went. Each congregation was well represented through the preacher and evangelists in each place. Only one of the congregations currently has a church building (Atar).

Most of the places have good wells, some provided by SAM. We were struck by the contrast in malnutrition and general malaise at the one site without a well. (through the generosity of a SAM donor, drilling is scheduled as soon as a rig enters the area, most likely in March.) We were able to spend a few days at Malek-alel, location of Malek Christian hospital, Malek Church of Christ, Lifespring school for children (orphans) and Aweil Bible college. Because of flooding and damage to mission buildings, the Bible college has not been conducted for the last three years. We were able to meet with the students, Yournew, and the preachers who will be conducting classes as the school resumes February 1st with twenty students.

Tom Kilian of Mercy Partners was a great help on this trip and was able to demonstrate mercy medically more than once. We stopped at one point to look at a large church building and found a group of people huddled around a fourteen year old boy, Simon Deng, who was in convulsions with a very high fever. His family had gathered at the church to wait for him to die. Tom and John Kuot, the young man who is in the last part of his medical training in Uganda, treated the boy, pouring cool water over him to reduce the fever. We arranged transportation for the boy, his mother and some aunts to Aweil town. He was admitted to a clinic there and treated for both typhoid and malaria. As in Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan we arranged to pay for his care and checked on him each day after our trip. I am glad to report that Simon is alive and well and at home in his village. The clinic Doctor who treated him asked if it would be possible for him to enroll in classes at Aweil Bible College!

Our trip was cut short by three days because of complications with our flight from Aweil to Juba, but we were able to meet with the evangelist of Gudele Church of Christ, Peter Lasu Ladu. Peter attended Great Commission Bible College in Nairobi at the same time as Yournew. Peter works for the government funded anti corruption league in addition to leading the church and Christian elementary school in Gudele which is sponsored by Mercy Partners. We also had a great reunion with Ruay Deng, formerly with SAM, now Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment for Northern Bar Ghazel State. We also met with the head of a well boring company that will be moving a rig into Aweil in March. God had plans and opportunities in place in every twist and turn of our journey. We praise Him for His care and provision and for the opportunity to partner with the supporters of Sudan African Mission to bring hope and life to the world's newest nation.



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25 YEARS IN REVIEW

Written by Marilyn Douglass

In October of 1988, Paul and I left Portland, OR to go to a country we didn't know. We knew we were going to Sudan, but where?



Marilyn working on a quilt with Yournew in Khartoum (1989)

After spending a few months in Khartoum Paul and I came back to the States to collect supplies that would be needed to spend at least one year in Khartoum while Paul trained the eight Sudanese men to repair hospital equipment. When I had been there for the few months, I wished I had had my sewing machine. Since I had sewn for my grandchildren, I knew that I could make dresses and blankets for the refugees who were living in Camp Kakuma north of Nairobi. Along with our other 20 pieces of luggage that we took back, my Bernina sewing machine was packed to make the trip also.

While Paul was working in the mobile workshop each day, I kept busy making dresses and quilts plus I made over 200 cloth diapers to be used in Camp Kakuma.

PRAYER REQUESTS

John Kuot (medical student finishing studies in Uganda) Pray that I will be a hard-working servant. Pray that I may create opportunities for the gospel through my medical work. Ask God to give me wisdom for a plan to expand medical care throughout the churches in Aweil region.

Paulino Malou: (preacher in Chilkou, Aweil West) Pray that we will be able to construct church buildings in the villages. Pray for the 200 children in our area enrolled in classes to supplement their education. Pray that we will be able to teach them to pray and depend on God. Pray for me as I lead the church in the village as well as teach in Aweil Bible College. Pray for peace in South Sudan. Pray that I may be able to continue my education.

Luka Goch: Pray that we will be able to construct a church building in Aweil East. Pray for our outreach to families through ministry to small children.

Ezra Lual: Pray for healing for a nasal condition. Pray also for a church building and primary school space for his village. Pray that the well scheduled for Malual Bai will be drilled soon. Pray that he will be able to acquire a motor bike.

Joseph Wel: Pray for Joseph's ability to reach unreached people. Pray about establishing a church in Aweil Town. Family health. Wisdom as an administrator for the Bible College and Malek church. Pray for the commitment of the Malek church to preach the gospel and fulfill the call of God.

Angelo Atak: Pray that Angelo can lead the community in Mayong to be productive both in the wet and dry season. Pray for the growth of the church. Pray for good health for Angelo (growth on his foot) and Mary (kidney problems).

Yournew Wol: Pray for Deng (14 year old son) as he travels home from visiting Yournew in Aweil, and for the rest of the family in Australia. Pray that Yournew will continue to have good health. Pray for godly government leaders in South Sudan. Pray for Life Spring school for children.

Peter Gatdet: Pray for the three churches in Bentiu region. There are many refugees coming from the North with many needs. Pray for Peter and the church evangelists as they continue to share the gospel house to house in Bentiu. (Peter reports that over 1,000 people are meeting regularly in three locations in Bentiu area.

Daniel Deng Chan: Pray for wisdom as Daniel is team leader for the church in Matuic with about 200 members and regular attenders. Pray for Daniel's health he has medical issues that will need to be treated in Juba or Nairobi.

Santino Makal: Pray for Santino's family, wife Tabitha, 2 sons Ngor (6) and Buk (4) and daughter Nanyik (4 months). Pray that two more locations can be established for churches in Atar area. Pray that a well driller will be available to bring clean water to Atar