

# SEPT 2012 **SUDAN AFRICAN MISSION**

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**Beginning construction on the church building in Atar, South Sudan which is now nearly completed**

## **Report from Santino in Atar, South Sudan** (received Sunday, August 18, 2012)

Greetings in the names of our lord Jesus Christ "Amen".

We wanted to say big thanks to our American brothers and sisters who have stood behind our churches in Atar. We cannot "pray in rain" so we have built our churches through your contributions.

The church we built is big enough to accommodate a total of four hundred people we have here in Atar. Our congregation is encouraged and increasing every Sunday. Because of the great number coming from north Sudan, these people have found a home with freedom of worship. New people are testifying that they want to receive Jesus Christ and submit to the Lord.

We thank God for blessing this (building) program with a lot of support from many expert builders, energetic men, and God-loving women who have stood with us through the building process until the building is completed and ready for dedication. Dedication will be soon with church leaders and commissioners of the area invited to come and see the blessings of God.

Our churches are two, one is now near the canal and the other is the one we have constructed in Atar. One may have 40-50 children and besides their parents and visitors which come from the north as "returnees". Pray for these children that they are going to be a blessing to the church growth in south Sudan.

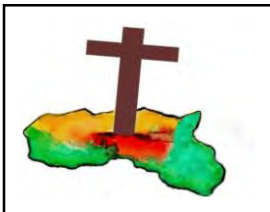
Lastly, am very thankful to my sponsors and the American people for the greatest support that they give to Sudanese churches in Africa. Pray for my family.

My plan is to have a workshop with 48 evangelist and people but they need writing materials e.g. exercise books, blackboards, chalk or marker pens.

And I do also suggest if there is funds, we need to make our Sunday school children uniforms to be a form of motivation as we have done in Camp Kakuma which was actually good encouragement to Sunday school children. They have three days of programs with Bible teaching, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening.

**Our challenges are lack of clear water. People drink dirty water which causes sickness such as typhoid and stomach pain.**

Mosquitoes along the river Nile have become problem as it causes malaria. We now have a malaria outbreak which is killing children. I do appeal also the SAM team and contributors, if they can support us with funds so that we can buy mosquitoes net and bed sheets for our women groups to keep them protected. There is no clinic so people are using herbal medicines.



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#### **Update on Yournew which was received on Sunday, August 26th"**

Greetings to you all in the name of Almighty God. I hope you are doing well in the Lord. We are doing well in Aweil except there are heavy rains in South Sudan which have destroyed all the crops and have left nothing. We are busy doing God's work in the Aweil churches. The ministry work is going well. The only problem facing is the poor internet in Aweil, which makes it hard to send you our activity updates. If we have network in Aweil, we should be sending you the reports while we are there. I am working on the Evangelists reports and I will send them to you as soon as I finish them.

**Yournew Wol, South Sudan Church of Christ Ministry,  
Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Aweil State, Malek Mission**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

#### **Devotion from SAM Board Member Myron Wells at a recent board meeting**

At the moment Southern Sudan is not doing all that well! Here are some statistics I pulled off of the internet: In this nation of 8.26 million *more than half* of the population is below the age of eighteen; 72% of the population is below the age of thirty; only 27% of the adult population is literate; 51% of the population live below the poverty line; 38% of the population have to *walk* for more than 30 minutes one way to collect drinking water; 83% of the population live in mud huts called tukuls; 50% of the population uses firewood or grass as the primary source of lighting and 96% of the population cook with it; for the most part the women do the work while the men loaf; the old men with cows take young brides while the young men struggle to come up with a means of buying enough cows to give to the father of the girl they want to marry; for the most part the people of South Sudan view Christianity as Catholic and many are into ancestor worship; the SPLA, *the Sudan's People Liberation Army*, is accused of rape and abuse; the new government is also accused of graft and deceit; 98% of the income is through oil which at last report, has shut down the pipeline running through Northern Sudan because of a disagreement in price per barrel that the North must pay.

So the BIG question for us, the SAM Board of Directors, is HOW do we continue the good work Paul and Marilyn Douglass have done? How do we *sculpt the methods of evangelism* to be **more effective** through the native evangelists? How do we truly make the work in Sudan become a Sudanese work, *driven and supported by the Sudanese*, instead of by the American dollar, as we fan the flames of conversion of all of Southern Sudan? **And how do we help without hurting? How do we help them sustain their work without developing and continuing an unhealthy American dependency? I believe these are the questions we have to wrestle with as we continue the wonderful work of winning the world's newest nation for Christ.**

#### **Water Buffalo from IDES**

IDES (International Disaster Emergency Service based in Kempton, IN) had designated funds to purchase water buffalo. Because of their generosity and thinking of SAM, the mission should be able to buy six or seven water buffalo for use in South Sudan. The water buffalo will be given to the people who have a plow from SAM's plow program.

#### **Funds from Anchorage to help the Christians in Atar**

Faith Christian Community in Anchorage, Alaska has a poor box at the front of the auditorium. Members are encouraged with a "remember the poor" sign on the front of the box to contribute money each week to help the poorest of the poor around the world. Santino Makol sent a request for funds to help feed the refugees coming to Atar from North Sudan, and shared the need for mosquito netting, food and medicine to help the people of Atar. A request for \$18,340.00 was presented to the poor box mercy team and was immediately approved. Lives will be saved and the gospel preached to these refugees because of this gift. We are grateful for generous partners.

#### **Prayer Concerns:**

Pray for peace in South Sudan, Pray for the new government that it will protect the people and lead with justice and integrity. Pray for the new believers who are being baptized in Atar and the Aweil area through the ministry of Sudan African Mission. Pray for the orphanage at Malek, that those who are leading will have wisdom and share God's mercy. Pray for the Bible College as it begins this Fall with 20 students. Pray for the hospital, that people will be helped, healed and saved from sin as well as disease.