

December 6, 2017

Dear friends of South Sudan African Mission:

A man with experience working in Africa compared it to emptying the ocean with a teaspoon. Work in Africa, especially in South Sudan, is often frustrating and discouraging. The low point of this year has been the tribal warfare that has been raging across South Sudan. Our mission in Aweil has been minimally affected mainly because there isn't oil in the area. The primary prize in the fighting is control of the oil fields. Our churches in Atar and Bentiu have been devastated with some killed and many fleeing to refugee centers on the border. The impact in Aweil has been hunger and starvation. All the customary trade routes have been disrupted, creating food shortages. We have sent as much "extra" money as possible to Yournew to provide food for the people most at risk.

In the midst of the struggle, ministry continues. Two new churches were begun in areas of Aweil town. Both are among immigrant groups; one from the Nuba mountains and the other from Darfur. Both churches grew to 300 plus almost overnight! After experiencing such persecution from the North, hundreds of these people are running to Jesus and each congregation has baptized more than seventy adults.

We are also very encouraged with Aweil Bible College. On January 7th, Bev Campbell, Steve Holsinger and Wyatt Brown (Steve's grandson) will attend graduation ceremonies for twenty more Sudanese young people. A highlight of our trip will be visiting 6 new church buildings and a primary school facility built with handmade bricks donated by church members.

Our first young lady graduate, Regina, has returned to Malek to lead a ministry teaching people to read. Villages will be equipped with "Proclaimers"- solar powered "audio Bibles" that will broadcast scripture so that everyone can hear the word of God. Regina will travel with the mobile medical clinic from village to village.

Because of the progress we are seeing, we are encouraged to keep "dipping away" with our ministry teaspoon! All of the things take money. Would you be willing to help us with a generous year-end gift? You can designate funds for food, Bibles, building materials, Aweil Bible College, Malek Christian Hospital or simply to South Sudan African Mission. Any amount will help and all will be carefully used to spread the message of Christ to the Sudanese.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you and yours!

Steve Holsinger, Director, South Sudan African Mission