



# South Sudan African Mission

*Over 25 Years of Service to the People of South Sudan*

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SOUTH SUDAN AFRICAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

## **DR. JOHN'S PRAYERS, DREAMS, GOALS AND PLANS**

*Northland Christian Church in Kansas City, MO supports Dr. John monthly and this is two of his four dreams, goals and plans. We will share the other two as space permits in future newsletters.*

Dear friends at SSAM, Northland Christian Church, brothers and sisters in Christ across the USA:

Please know that I have not taken your support and prayers for granted. Your care through your daily prayers about the people of South Sudan make a difference. Because of this difference, I am who I am today. I receive so much support that I don't deserve from friends like you. I realize this is because God has planned it as such. I am left not being able to describe my gratitude to everyone in words, but in my daily prayers I can never forget people like you.

I have these dreams for our mission in Aweil:

### **1. I dream of building a maternity hospital in Aweil State, South Sudan.**

This dream gives me much hope but it seems unbecoming with the current man-made economic and security devastation in South Sudan. Assuming things don't get reversed quickly, with my faith and hope in the Almighty God, I believe that we together can do something that will make the name of Christ be praised and glorified across South Sudan. It is estimated that 80% of the deliveries in South Sudan are not safe and are conducted by unqualified health care providers. This makes Aweil the worst place on earth where mothers still give birth under grass thatched houses (tukuls) and dust or mud plastered floors. At times a shelter is shared with goats, cows, chickens or dogs and communicable, zoonotic and infectious diseases are contracted during the process of childbirth. This contributes to poor maternal health and increases the chance of dying during, before or soon after childbirth. The child is exposed as well to communicable or infectious diseases because the birth attendants don't have any basic knowledge and skills about cord care which allows an entry of microbes/illness into the blood stream. This explains the high neonatal mortality and morbidity rate in South Sudan. 2,054 out of 100,000 women died last year while giving birth or from pregnancy-related pathologies. This and other reasons give me such dreams and courage to continue seeking opportunities where I can support my people with the knowledge and skills that I have acquired. I dream that we could render compassion to the most remote villages in Aweil State. As an associate physician in Obstetrics & Gynecology, I would like, together with Yournew and his team, to support maternal and child

healthcare services in Aweil and South Sudan. This aim is to provide services including prenatal doctor visits, a labor ward, admission ward for pre and post-delivery, a children's ward and an immunization unit where newborns receive vaccines. This may be supported by the government and World Health Organization. I and the Aweil team will need a secure space and will start with affordable local materials and human resources.

There is a nurse and midwife training college in Wau about a four-hour drive south from Aweil where we could train a few local evangelists. The course is completed in a two to three-year period. When necessary I and the team at Malek Christian Hospital and Mobile Medical Clinic will train the existing volunteers to conduct safe deliveries.



Dr. John, Bev and Yournew

### **2. I dream of training others to help their communities know God through Christ in South Sudan:**

As a peace building or peace supporting institution in the country, I believe we can change our country into a patriotic and peace loving nation through preaching the gospel and mentoring youth in leadership and community development. This is not a first for SSAM. All of us who have volunteered in SSAM, have planted and supported churches across South Sudan and have made a difference in many lives. I see love, faith, truth and great hope that we will have a better tomorrow. Those who have attended Aweil Bible College plant churches of Christ in Aweil as volunteers just as I am at the Malek Christian Hospital. They have demonstrated the love of God, followed the life of Christ and have risen to be national leaders. That legacy is seen in them, in us, in SSAM and in

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**PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES**

- Pray for wisdom and courage for Hon. Governor Ronald Ruay as he leads Aweil State during this difficult time in the history of South Sudan. Ruay is one of SSAM's first graduates from Great Commission Bible College in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Kuac Wek Wol (John Kuac) serving in the Aweil State Parliament. John Kuac is also one of SSAM's first graduates from Zimbabwe Bible College.
- Peace and a spirit of unity would be cultivated in the hearts of leaders in South Sudan.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Con't.... Dr. John's dreams and goals*

American people. I believe more will come to light if we put our trust in God.

I believe that if I am back to Aweil and Malek, I can contribute a lot to what the team is doing there. I could support ABC, (Aweil Bible College), our evangelistic and church planting teams, the Mobile Medical Clinic, the Malek Christian Hospital and possibly a clinic in Aweil Town. Village volunteers can give time, money and talents to see this goal is met instead of relying entirely on our brothers and sisters in the USA. (To be continued in future newsletters)

**PROCLAIMERS**

--Steve Holsinger

It was a joy to walk in to the "kitchen" area (an open fire, a few utensils and a crude table and a couple of racks) of the Malek compound and see Regina sitting with a "Proclaimer" wrapped in pink bubble wrap to protect it from the dust. All around the area people were sitting in the dark listening to the gospel of Matthew in Dinka. In fact, the simple little solar, hand cranked or battery powered box was proclaiming the gospel loud enough to be heard in the entire area! Because of decades of war, most of these folks have never gone to school and can't read either Dinka or English. In church services they hear at best a few verses at a time. With the Proclaimer they are able to listen to chapter after chapter. Regina will be teaching both the English and Dinka alphabet so that they can learn to read by following along in Dinka or English Bibles provided by mission supporters. What a thrill it was to see people hearing and embracing God's word in their "heart language."



**Dr. John attending a patient at the Malek Christian Hospital**



**Listening to the Proclaimer in the village with Joseph and Regina's help**

**WHERE WILL SSAM BE?**

March 26 p.m. St. Helens, OR Christian Church  
March 31 – April 1 – IDES Board of Directors Meeting, Noblesville, IN