



Campus Construction Complete

The campus of Jonglei Christian Vocational Boarding School is beautiful. We had seen pictures at various states of construction but what a sight when we arrived in Bor August 9th. Ten buildings make up the campus: an auditorium which will also be used as a dining hall three times a day and place of worship on Sunday, a building with three classrooms, a building with the headmaster's one bedroom apartment, an office and two dormitory rooms and two buildings each with a one bedroom teacher's apartment (each to be shared by two teachers) and three dormitory rooms, a kitchen, a shower house, latrines, a generator building and a workshop. Each dormitory room will house eight students. We also have our own well and water tower.



From the designing of the campus, to several revisions to trim costs, to communicating with builders in another culture 10,000 miles away, to adapting to materials available, to weather issues and more it has been a challenge. Most of this has been completed in less than five months and for the exact bid amount. It was only possible because of Chuck's skill as a home builder.



Teachers and Staff

As the name indicates, when the school opens about February 1st, it will be a Christian vocational school. The challenge is to find strong Christian teachers who are qualified by training and/or experience to teach vocational skills that graduates can use to provide for themselves and their families. There are few South Sudanese who are skilled workers. In the building of our campus those with skills in cement work, block laying, electrical, plumbing and the like had to be brought from neighboring Kenya and Uganda. This is typical.

In our search for teachers we stopped in Nairobi, Kenya on our way to South Sudan in August. We interviewed eight potential teachers.

We hope to be able to make an announcement about teachers in the near future.

The Plan

If you have followed the work from the beginning you are familiar with the plan. Jonglei State is the largest of South Sudan's ten states and covers about ¼ of the nation's total land area. It is inhabited by six tribes which unfortunately are often fighting with and stealing cattle from one another. At the request of the governor, the school will invite students, ages 18 - 40, from each of the tribes to enroll and learn a marketable skill. Each student will also study Bible and agriculture. It will be a boarding school. Students will obviously study together. They will sleep together. They will eat together. They will play together after school. They will worship together on Sunday. We hope much of the tribal prejudice with which they come will be eliminated. And, ours is a Christian school. We will teach them God has a plan for their lives and help them see what that plan is. This is why it is important that teachers be committed Christians. The fact that the teachers live on campus and eat with the students means they will be mentors as well as instructors. Having the right teachers is essential to the success of the plan. We know some of the students will become Christians and we expect them to open doors of opportunity to plant churches in their villages throughout the state. We are confident this will be a win (skills taught), win (harmony encouraged), win (new Christians and churches)!

Christian Literature Center

A few months ago a 12' x 14' space was rented in the main market. Called a literature center it is primarily a Bible correspondence course office. Two courses are offered at this time. A third will soon be added. This is manned by church members. There is no postal system in South Sudan so lessons are brought to the center in person, graded, and returned to the student along with the next lesson. Those in charge explain the lessons further, especially when an incorrect answer is given. Personal and group studies result. God's Word is formally and informally discussed there six days a week. This is proving a very effective outreach and maturing means. Five were baptized while we were in South Sudan in August—all initially contacted through the literature center. It is a joy to meet new brothers in Christ who would not have been reached if it were not for this center. It is interesting, though unfortunate, that not a single female has obeyed the gospel to date. We pray that will soon change.



Jacob Ajak

We could share so many inspirational stories from our visits to South Sudan. Let us tell you the story of Jacob Ajak. He is 19 and the oldest of 4 brothers. His only sister died when she was five. He is a member of the Dinka tribe. On January 13th men from the Merle tribe attacked his village. They burned the grass roofs and contents of the mud houses. They stole the cattle and murdered innocent people. Jacob's mother was one of eighty three killed. Forty nine children were kidnapped, probably to be sold into slavery. Jacob survived by fleeing into the bush.

He said he grabbed a baby and ran. He remained in the bush two days caring for 4 small children. Some of the young people of his village asked him to join them as they went after the Merle and to retaliate. He declined. When asked why he said, "First, because I might have died immediately and second, because the Bible says God will take vengeance, not man, and It talks about forgiveness." In April Jacob enrolled in one of our Bible correspondence courses. Dennis had a study with him the day before we left for home on that trip. The time was spent answering about 20 written questions he had prepared. About two weeks later he was baptized and he has since led every part of worship, including preaching once. It just takes one Jacob Ajak to make the time we spend away from our families and business, the travel, and expense worthwhile.....but there are many like him.



Empty Buildings

We have shown pictures of some campus buildings. Each of the buildings pictured are complete, BUT THEY ARE EMPTY. We need your help to furnish and equip what has been built. We estimate about \$45,000 is needed for this purpose. A list of some of the needs is attached with estimated prices. If you would select a specific item or items that would be so appreciated. If we receive a contribution earmarked for something specific which is by that time provided for we will feel free to use your donation for something else on the list. A teacher may want to provide a white board or a teacher's desk. A farm family may want to provide one or more sets of farm tools. You

may want to involve your children. Can they provide a plastic chair? How about asking your class at church to provide one or more bunk beds or student lockers? Who wants to pay for the lawnmowers.....ie goats?

The next need will be to bring teachers from their respective countries to Bor. We would like teachers in place about January 1st, and plan to open the school the 3rd of February. We expect this to cost about \$3,000.

Please, help us furnish and equip these empty buildings. The plan is sound. It is already bearing fruit.

Contributions should be made to Starfish Foundation and sent to the address below. Contributions may also be made through the PayPal connection on our website. Every cent received will be used for its intended purpose. Nothing is taken for a U.S. salary, our travel, fund raising, or reporting. If you would like to talk about the work in person or to invite us to speak to your church or a group of friends in behalf of Serving South Sudan, we would love to hear from you.

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