

# Serving South Sudan

A Report from Chuck Dennis & Dennis Cady  
July 2014

## We/I Report

We left for South Sudan together May 14th. Chuck returned home June 2nd for a granddaughter's wedding and to attend to other family and business matters. Dennis returned home June 30th. Therefore this report includes some things we shared and some only Dennis experienced.



## Crisis Update

The South Sudanese term for fighting that started December 15th and continued until a cease fire agreement was reached in late April is "the crisis". We are thankful fighting has stopped. Rebel and government leaders have agreed to form an interim government by August. In 4 1/2 months over ten thousand were killed and more than one million displaced, most of them currently residing in refugee camps in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya. We spent about five days each at camps in Uganda and Kenya, encouraging some who had fled from Bor and who we had helped in various ways and teaching hours of

Bible classes. The entire nation was not equally affected by the fighting and destruction. Three states suffered the most: Jonglei (where we work on the bank of the Nile River), Unity and Upper Nile. We could see positive changes from the time of our February visit until May and Dennis especially observed many returning to Bor during the month of June. Government employees, who are mostly men, were told to report to work. Some have although many left their families in the security of the refugee camps.



## Humanitarian Focus

The crisis created tremendous humanitarian needs among those who fled from their homes, in most cases with only what they were wearing. Our assistance can be divided into three phases. Initially we sent money to help people reach refugee camps. We enabled some to buy food, clothes, and medicine. In a few cases we gave money with which they could buy materials to build shelters. Once in the camps they were and continue to be provided food items by the UN.

The second phase consisted of distribution of food and non-food items to families who had returned to Bor. We have had two distribution days each assisting 75 families. Each was given corn meal, rice, beans, cooking oil, soap, a mattress, bed sheets, and a mosquito net. One man, representing a group of recipients, said "I didn't know there were people like you." As of this writing he has been present at each worship service since. As more people return there will be more need for these items. Our level of involvement will depend on funds available. You write the checks and we will do the leg work. The problem with a lot of benevolence is that, as necessary as it is short term, it accomplishes little or nothing long term. During the third phase we want to do something which will last. A borehole (ie water well) will be drilled at the corner of our campus. It will be equipped with a hand pump and be available to the public 24/7. Many health issues in developing countries are caused by bad surface water used for drinking and other household purposes. This water will be safe to drink without treatment or boiling. We are also working on a plan to build a clinic/pharmacy. Daniel Tong worked, and will work again, as a nurse in the government hospital. He also had a clinic and attached pharmacy. He functioned more as a doctor than a nurse; treating patients and prescribing medication. His clinic, along with most similar facilities in Bor, was destroyed during the first rebel

attack on December 18th. We would like to make it possible for Daniel to be back in business. More than to help him and his family this will make medical care available to those who would not otherwise have it available. His patients, clients, and customers will pay for his services which they are willing to do. If we are able to carry out this plan, the clinic will be constructed on the front part of our campus with its own access from the main road. Both the well and the clinic will be recognized as help made available by us and affect quality of life for years to come. Hence, good will shall be created along with opportunities to teach the gospel. The clinic will be Daniel's business. We do not plan to operate a clinic. In exchange for our assistance to him, Daniel will provide medical care to our students and staff as needed. He will pay rent. Money is in hand for the borehole. We thank those who have made this possible. It will cost \$75,000 to construct the concrete block building and equip and stock it initially. Funds for that are being sought.



### School Plans

Repairs are being made to campus facilities. While the city of Bor changed hands four times during the crisis and parts of the city were totally destroyed, our buildings sustained relatively minor damage. Still the repairs are costly. \$16,000. We now plan to open the school in February 2015, one year later than initially planned. Jacob Agany has been appointed Principal. We feel having a South Sudanese as

head of the school is a great advantage. If Jacob were replacing someone as head of an existing school his job would be significant but it is even more challenging as we do everything for the first time. Teachers will come from outside South Sudan. Three are now under contract, coming from Kenya and Uganda. We continue to look for one or two more. Every student will study Bible and agriculture and each one will select one vocational skill. There is much to do to get ready for our targeted 64 students.



### Spiritual Matters

We say a great deal about helping with the here and now needs of those who have so little in normal times and less than enough in times of crisis. The kind of religion God wants is not that which merely has us sitting comfortably in a church building and listening to someone say what most of us have heard many times. Instead it is that which helps those who are least able to make it in this life without our help. Read James 1:27 and see if this isn't true. Having said that, if we help people meet life's earthly challenges and they miss heaven we have seriously failed in our responsibility. So we teach God's Word energetically and unashamedly. That is why students in the school will be taught the Bible. We also have a Christian literature center which is basically a Bible correspondence course program. We offer three courses. A number of people have obeyed the gospel after learning it through this means. What a joy to follow a group to the

Nile River and see one immersed into Christ, knowing it wouldn't have happened if we had not gone with the gospel to this city. We witnessed nine baptisms on this trip.

### Needs

Will there ever be a time when dollars to do what needs to be done are no longer sought? Probably not. Let us share current needs and thank you in advance for partnering with us:

1. In our September 2013 newsletter we stated about \$45,000 was needed to furnish and equip the newly constructed campus. \$17,000 of that need remains.
2. \$16,000 is needed to repair things at the campus damaged by rebels when they took the town of Bor.
3. \$75,000 will let us build and equip the clinic/pharmacy and make medical services accessible where they otherwise will not be.
4. \$1200 monthly is needed to operate the literature center (rent, utilities, salary, printing etc.). This is a very effective way of teaching the Word to truth seekers.
5. Once the school opens the first of February 2015 the monthly budget will be between \$15,000 and \$18,000. The most costly part of it will be food, since we will be feeding 70 plus students and staff three meals a day.
6. We seek opportunities to speak with individuals and groups about current and ongoing needs. We have a story to tell. Let us hear from you if you would like to know more.

Contributions should be made to Starfish Foundation and sent to the address below. Every cent received will be used for its intended purpose. Nothing is taken for a U.S.

salary, our travel, fund raising, or reporting.

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