

Serving South Sudan

A Report from Chuck Dennis & Dennis Cady
June 2018

You Matched & Beyond

Our annual matching challenge has become a major and essential source of funds. In the challenge which ended January 31st whatever was given up to \$50,000 would be matched. \$66,693.42 was given. THANK YOU to all who participated.



Troublesome Times Continue

While we would rather not talk about the human suffering in South Sudan, it would be less than honest not to. Here is a quote from secular media:

"The New Zealander heading the United Nations mission in war-torn South Sudan says he is staggered by the extent to which civilians are being targeted. Civil war broke out in South Sudan—a country of 12 million—five years ago—after President Salva Kiir fell out with his vice-president, Riek Machar. Since then, 2 million fled to neighboring countries while another 2 million are displaced within the country. The war has hit women and children particularly hard, with a survey of people in the camps in Juba finding about 70 percent of the women have been raped since the conflict began. There are horrific tales of elderly people being burned in their homes, mass rape, people running away

from the violence and running literally into the swamps because it's the only place they can be safe."

Our hearts nearly break when we listen to stories of the suffering of innocent people. Google [South Sudan News](#) for more information and daily updates.



Lynn Keller & Rusty Holland

Consider the unrest. Consider the absence of creature comforts. Consider the exhausting travel to go, then to return home. Why would two ladies well into their 70s go to South Sudan? To teach children--156 of whom attended their VBS and other classes! To teach ladies--5 of whom are Christians today as a result. To be observed by local Christians who now better know how to teach children and women! This was Rusty's second trip and Lynn's first, to South Sudan. We pray it will not be their last. Want

an adventure for Jesus that will change your life? We can put you in touch with these heroes.



New Sudan Primary School

Any solution to problems in a 3rd world country must include education. This is certainly true in South Sudan. How better can we help people help themselves? We recognized this on our first trip there in 2012. Hence the vocational school which is a big part of our work, has not only trained people needing skills but has put us in good standing with the government. We are recognized as givers. Forty five graduated from Jonglei Christian Vocational Boarding School on June 7th. A new term will begin soon. Bible is taught and students baptized. Teacher's salaries and meals for students and teachers are major expenses. See the table describing the 7 classes at the end of this report. On the elementary level we have described schools where over 100 children are in classrooms 20' x 30'. It is not uncommon for classrooms to have dirt floors and not a single piece of furniture. Teachers have no desks. Children either sit on the ground or bring buckets, cans, or plastic chairs from

home each day. Teachers seldom have training and if they are paid, it is when there is money with which to pay them. No electricity. No restrooms. No water. Such described New Sudan Primary School when it drew our attention about three years ago. It was a private school. The headmaster enrolled in our Bible correspondence courses. He allowed us to teach Bible classes, using laminated visual aids we had been provided. In April we were approached by the owners of NSPS. It was no longer solvent and about to close. Facilities had not been maintained and were nearly beyond use. Salaries were not being paid so some teachers quit. Enrollment declined when there were few or no qualified teachers. We had already built a latrine; basically a six hole "outhouse", and dug a water well with a hand pump, which served both the school and, after school hours, the community. The campus is 150 meters square in Block 5 of Bor. To say the school was needed was an understatement. We now have a 10 year lease on the campus. Two one room buildings will be kept and used as storage/office. Classrooms have been demolished. Ten new classrooms, each 5 meters by 6 meters, are being built in an L shape. Still dirt floors. New dirt walls are being plastered with

cement to slow erosion. Sheet iron roofs. Every student will have a desk-- actually a desk/bench combination, one meter (39") long. Up to four students will share most desks/benches. Each teacher will have a table, chair and blackboard. A donor who knows the need for education and loves children has funded what has been done so far, but all is not done. Needed immediately are 75 desks/benches. Cost is \$75 each. The school will reopen with 3 pre-school classes (called baby classes) and grades 1-7. You will soon receive a special edition of our newsletter about New Sudan Primary School.



Evangelists

The training of the 10 men currently in Mutare School of Preaching in Zimbabwe and Andrew Connally School of Preaching in Tanzania and the boots on the ground in Bor of four who have graduated in Zimbabwe is beyond wonderful. You may remember that another generous family is paying

for the two year training of these men, as well as salary for them during the three years following. This is Huge. These men are the best and brightest who have been converted to this work. Those who are married go to these other countries without their families for their training. At this time, we are involved with three congregations: Block One in the center of Bor, Block Q on the campus of JCVBS and Panyagor, about 4 hours from Bor. We get frequent reports. There are often baptisms. The literature center is staffed by these men on rotation. Two of the graduates join Jacob Agany as the school board for NSPS.

Contributions for any part of the work may be made by sending a check payable to Starfish Foundation or via the Donate button on the website. If you wish to earmark your gift for something specific please so indicate. Options include:

- **Vocational Training
- **Literature Center
- **NSPS Elementary School
- **As needed most

Starfish Foundation
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JCVBS Class Statistics

| Class # | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 | #7 | Totals |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|--------|
| Graduation | 6/27/2015 | 11/26/2015 | 7/1/2016 | 12/15/2016 | 7/5/2017 | 12/13/2017 | 6/7/2018 | |
| Men | 19 | 29 | 24 | 41 | 26 | 32 | 17 | 188 |
| Women | 1 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 31 | 25 | 28 | 114 |
| Total M & W | 20 | 42 | 33 | 48 | 57 | 57 | 45 | 302 |
| Baptize Men | 8 | 19 | 7 | 21 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 69 |
| Baptize Women | 0 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 55 |
| Total Baptized | 8 | 26 | 13 | 23 | 16 | 19 | 19 | 124 |
| Age Range | 20-39 | 17-40 | 16-48 | 16-59 | 16-44 | 16-50 | 16-45 | 16-59 |
| Married | 8 | 24 | 15 | 17 | 30 | 23 | 24 | 141 |
| Single | 12 | 18 | 18 | 31 | 27 | 34 | 21 | 161 |
| Carpentry | 4 | 6 | 4 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 14 |
| Computer | 9 | 19 | 14 | 16 | 12 | 17 | 10 | 97 |
| Electrical | 5 | 17 | 6 | 21 | 14 | 19 | 6 | 88 |
| Masonry | 2 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 2 |
| Tailoring | N/A | N/A | 9 | 11 | 31 | 21 | 29 | 101 |