

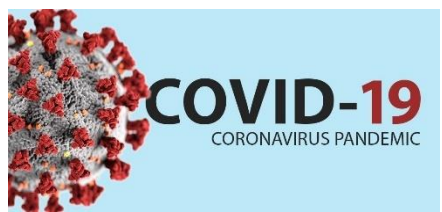
# Serving South Sudan

A Report from Dennis Cady & Chuck Dennis  
November 2020

## Matching Challenge Time



We have another wonderful opportunity to share a Matching Challenge. This provides a significant part of what we must have to work with each year. We are able to again offer a \$100,000 challenge. With the exception of sponsorship money for Good Samaritan Orphanage in Haiti, anything given up to \$100,000 by January 31, 2021 will be matched dollar for dollar. This even includes what regular contributors give. More to say about this later.....



## Covid 19

The virus has affected the work and the Cady's personally. Schools were shut down in October. Students at the vocational school were sent home, as it is a boarding school. We have continued to pay teachers and staff at NSPS and JCVBS. Their families needed to eat and we needed them available again when schools were permitted to re-open. As far as

we know, none of our staff and no students have had the virus. With little testing actually available, no one knows for sure the extent to which this has struck and continues in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. Dennis and Susan both had the virus; Dennis much more severe than Susan. During his 22 day quarantine at home, Dennis lost 24 lbs. Both are well now and grateful for calls, cards and prayers. On the U.S. side, churches closing then reopening partially, has restricted opportunities to visit with some about the work. It has affected the contributions. Some individuals felt a drop in their income. Others did not but the uncertain atmosphere didn't help the positive thinking of those who give their "above and beyond" money. Almost every organization which depends on donations has felt the pinch. We are no exception. Schools have recently been permitted to re-open. Only those in class 8 at NSPS have been called back to complete the year. At this writing, 38 are attending; 31 boys and 7 girls. Other elementary students have lost the 2020 school year. All who were studying at JCVBS who could be reached have been invited to return and continue. Some have moved to the national capital, Juba, or other places too distant. At this time twenty five students have returned. They will graduate before the year ends. Both schools plan to re-open as normal after the first of the year.



## Flooding – Evangelists Fleeing Panyagor Via the Nile River

In July, heavy rains in central and eastern states of South Sudan caused the White Nile River to over flow. Since then things have only gotten worse and continue today. Bor Town is on the bank of the river. Flooding is not rare but this is exceptional. The last time for anything close to this occurred in 1963-64 and many feel the flood of 2020 is worse. Waters are not expected to recede until December or January. More than 700,000 people have been affected. Many moved to higher ground, then moved again as waters continued to rise. Many have gone to other parts of the country, hoping to return when conditions permit. Businesses, houses and crops have been destroyed. Animals have died. Transportation difficulties have driven prices up. Three staff members moved their families into the NSPS classrooms when their houses flooded. Schools have recently been permitted to re-open. Fortunately, the campuses of NSPS and JCVBS and the literature center in Marol Market in the center of town have not flooded.



### Evangelists

A significant part of the work for sometime has been training and supporting African evangelists. Eighteen men are in this program. All have now completed two years of training at either Mutare School of Preaching in Zimbabwe or Andrew Connally School of Preaching in Tanzania. There is no formal training available in South Sudan. Each is involved at various stages of the five year program, which calls for the two years of formal training, and three years of being supported and assigned to work with congregations and/or in other aspects of the work. Four conclude their five years at the end of 2020. While not supported, each is then helped to go into business or get a secular education; so they can be self-supporting. Fourteen are somewhere in Jonglei state on their three years assignments. The final five graduated in October and will be assigned posts soon. We are working with them to determine where the greatest need is and who is best suited, considering a number of factors, to meet the challenge. Once they are assigned to establish a new congregation or work with an existing one, we receive weekly reports of worship attendance, contributions, provides leadership in the services and baptisms. There are other activities such as training of young men. A number of circumstances prohibit Chuck and Dennis from travelling to South Sudan at this time but one or both of us communicate with one or more men there by internet almost daily.



### JCVBS & NSPS

We have already said some about the schools as they were affected by Covid 19. The elementary school might have had to be closed because of flooding, not on our campus but because of neighborhoods where children lived, but Covid 19 had already taken care of that. The other classes will start back after the first of next year if something else isn't thrown in our path. As this is written, 27 have returned to JCVBS 10 in the tailoring class, 2 in the electrical class and 15 in the IT (computers) class. They will graduate the end of November or early in December. So many have been driven from their homes by the flood. We expect to hear from more as conditions allow things to return to normal. At NSPS, before Covid enrollment had grown to nearly 1000 children in 3 preschool classes through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We were able to build two additional buildings with 4 classrooms, but facilities are stretched to the limit and beyond.

### Matching Challenge (Again)

We end as we began: Anything given to Starfish Foundation between now and January 31<sup>st</sup> will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. This is essential to make possible what we do. It gives you an opportunity to partner in soul winning, church planting, providing vocational training, making possible an elementary school and special needs as they arise. The only exception to the money that will be matched is the \$80 monthly per child sponsorship in Haiti. Money given

for Haiti beyond the \$80 per month will be counted as will all regular monthly donations during this period toward the matching challenge.



### Remember This Experience?

One specific thing we feel must be done with some of this money is the construction of another toilet at the elementary school. One thousand children plus staff shared a four hole "out house" last year. Very similar to what was out behind grandma's house in America back in the day. There are salaries to pay, upkeep to facilities and more. We anticipate another newsletter at the end of 2020 to give a report on the progress of the matching challenge and hope to have some more specifics about where money is going at that time. Dimes make dollars so no contribution is too small but obviously to raise \$100,000 there must be some checks with zeros in them. Thank you in advance for what you do.

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
- \*\*Planting churches
- \*\*Maturing Christians
- \*\*As needed most

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