

Serving South Sudan

A Report from Chuck Dennis & Dennis Cady
December 2023



**Dennis, Susan, Chuck
Three Wonderful Weeks**

It was 41 hours from when we boarded the first plane until we landed in Wichita Falls, exhausted but blessed. We are thankful Susan could join us on this trip, her first. She was a hit with the ladies.



Leadership Training

“We were very weak. Now we are very strong.”

Those were the words of George, a village church leader, at the end of the six day Leadership Training effort attended by about 30 men from eight congregations. Bartholomayo did a wonderful job organizing the effort, arranging facilities, etc. Chuck and Dennis each taught about 4 hours each day. Most spoke English to varied degrees, but all lessons were translated into the Dinka language. Chuck’s lessons came from the book of Matthew. Dennis’s from Acts. There was a lot of Q and A. These men have now taken newly gained knowledge and motivation back to village churches.

A bonus for attendees was the fellowship. They met Christians from places they did not know there were Churches of Christ. This took place in the northern area of Aweil where exceptional growth is taking place. From the first baptisms of World English Institute students there in 2020 God has opened so many doors. We expect the receptivity in this area, bordering Sudan, to continue. So many opportunities! Local leaders have said the 7 churches of Aweil may become 14 by the end of 2024.

Sunday Worship

We worshipped in South Sudan three Sundays. The first with the newest congregation: Newsite, in the national capital Juba. Started this past fall by a university student from the Aweil area who will be in Juba 4 years to get his degree in Nursing. There was no congregation near him.



Newsite Congregation

Travelling regularly to worship was not practical. He said if he didn’t worship faithfully for 4 years he might become a bad person. So he invited fellow students to his room and started a congregation. When they outgrew the room they worshipped under a tree, then under the roof of an openair tea shop. We later assisted the group in the getting of a sheet iron building measuring 20’ x 26’. We provided plastic chairs. Deng Angony got his

spiritual education from World English Institute. It is amazing what he knows of the Bible. He told Dennis, “I’m addicted to teaching God’s Word.” Attendance was 41 adults and 21 children. Dennis taught the Bible class and Chuck preached. The 2nd Sunday we worshipped in the village of Rumawu.



Rumawu Worship

We were introduced to this congregation in March and made three unsuccessful attempts at providing them a water well. We were welcomed but again with repeated requests for water which is non-existent anywhere near them in the dry season. There appears to be nothing we can do to solve the problem. Attendance was 397; 193 adults and 139 children. We believe this is the largest attendance ever at a Church of Christ in South Sudan.

Admittedly, some attended to see the white visitors. They showed us over 10,000 bricks they have made from mud, cow manure and water.



Bricks Drying @ Rumawu

When they have enough (probably around 50,000), we have agreed to

provide money for transporting the bricks to the building site and for the labor and materials other than bricks. They have little money but they are doing what they can. At present, \$7,500 of the required \$13,000 for our part is in hand. This is a great church with good leadership.

Mangala Refugee Camp

The third Sunday we worshipped with the congregation in the Mangala “refugee” camp for people displaced by floods and tribal fighting. The church there meets in a classroom of New Sudan Primary School where we have 300 students. When school is in session, church attendance is significant and they have outgrown a classroom for worship. A multipurpose building is needed on the campus. It will be used as a church building but unlike so many U.S. church buildings will not set empty most hours of the week. It can even be made available to the community for community occasions. Attendance was 129, 25 adults, 104 children. School was on a two month break.



Sewing grads working in market

Vocational School Term Ends

There are two 5 month terms a year at the vocational school. The most recent graduation was November. Sixty two graduated. With a capacity of 100 it breaks our hearts to turn so many away due to limitation of money. This past term 300 applied for admission. We are committed to taking 75 for the term starting in January. We don’t yet have the money for that! If God wants it done, He will provide but we’ve been around long enough to know that God most often does such things through His people. Among those who were students from June

to November, 66% obeyed the gospel. JCVBS is not a Bible school but Bible is taught.



JCVBS electrical grad in business

Students must live on campus with Christian teachers. Some strong Christians have come from JCVBS. It may take a while to get the beds and classrooms fully occupied but we are working on that. Please help us. We call this the financial elephant in the room. That elephant is always hungry. Jacob Agany and the staff do a wonderful job.

Matching Challenge Status

We launched the \$100,000 matching challenge the first of November through January 31st. Thank you to those who have participated so far.

2024 And Beyond

To say needs are many is an understatement. Would you like to participate in one or more of the following? If a donation is designated for something specific and that is already funded, we will use what is received as needed most: Balance for Rumawu church building Balance needed after members there make the bricks: \$5,500

Chairs for village churches

Help us provide stackable plastic chairs for congregations. \$15 is the cost of a chair delivered to a village church. Buy 1, 10, or 100. Right now the following are needed: Rumawu 60, Uchan 50, Adierchien 40 and Gok-Mar 50. 200 total right now. There will be more needed as new churches are planted and existing churches grow.

Multipurpose building for Mangala refugee camp

The congregation on the campus of New Sudan Primary School in the refugee camp presently meets in a classroom, then when it is not big enough in a very hot building made

of used canvass. A metal building which can accommodate the church on Sundays but serve other purposes for the church, school, and community is needed. Cost: \$8,550 3-5 day seminars

Somewhat like gospel meetings, these are the most effective means of planting churches and grounding new Christians. Several places are on the waiting list for a seminar. Average cost: \$850

Support for JCVBS

The budget for the January-June 2024 term is \$164,440. If you want to help people help themselves by teaching tailoring, electrical, and computers; you won’t find a better investment. We intend to accept 75 men and women this upcoming term. Many more will apply. Most unspecified dollars will go to JCVBS. To fund one student is \$2,200.

REMINDER: Everything given by January 31st will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. Not one cent of donor money is used for a U.S. salary, fund raising or reporting. 100% of what you give will end up in South Sudan. Give by mailing a check, by accessing the website to use a credit card or PayPal either directly or by taking a picture of the QR code below with your cell phone.

PLEASE DONATE



Starfish Foundation
P.O. Box 3696
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301
www.thestarfishfoundation.net
940-631-1985
DCady6@gmail.com