**SOUTHERN SUDAN MISSION**

**May 4, 2018**

**Dear friends and supporters of Southern Sudan Mission:**

**We as Paul did, “Always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel.” Philippians 1:4-5. We are deeply thankful for your continued love, encouragement, prayers, trust, and financial support.**

**We are excited as we quickly approach our busiest time of the year: June 25th, classes in the School of Biblical Studies will begin and July 2nd, the 6th annual Vacation Bible School will begin. We are expecting 25 level one and level two students to take classes for credit in the School of Biblical Studies. There are also several additional students that will audit the classes. This year the VBS team (8 from Woodland Oaks, 7 from New Mexico and 2 from Arkansas) plan to teach 1,800 children in the 2 week sessions.**

**The past several years we have given the VBS children t-shirts for several reasons, most importantly most of the children only have one set of clothes: pants, blouse or shirt and shoes. They wash their clothes as they bath in the river and wear the same back home. With this in mind the t-shirt gives the child a second shirt or a new shirt. The shirt also has the church name inscribed on it making people aware of the church. Additionally the students anxiously look forward to receiving a shirt from a church in America.**

**As mentioned, in the past we have given the students a shirt, but with the additional number of students the cost has escalated tremendously. With this in mind the mission leaders considered giving the children a 15”X18” draw bag with the church name on it; however, realizing the importance of the shirt to the children and the exposure the church gets from the children wearing the shirts every day, we would like to give the students a shirt again this year.**

**This can only happen with the financial help of each of us. The cost of 1850 shirts and freight from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the shirts will be printed, to Gambella will be approximately $13,000.00. We will proceed by faith and if we do not receive enough funds to pay the down payment, $6,500.00, on the shirts by May 25th we will use the funds we have to purchase the draw bags and use the difference to help pay for the VBS expense.**

**We have several additional great plans for the year. As mentioned in previous news-letters, the government has given the mission 25 acres of agriculture land in two areas where we work: One in Abol, Ethiopia, Anywaa Tribe territory, and another in Lare, Ethiopia, Nuer Tribe territory. The land in Abol has been cleared and the Brethren are in the process of fencing it. Upon completion of the fence the Brethren will have the land tilled and plant corn. The land in Lare has been fenced and the Brethren are awaiting a dozer to clear it.** **When the land is cleared it will be tilled and corn will be planted. If the corn is planted before the rainy season, the middle of May to early June, there should be enough corn to feed the brethren in the bush and many of the brethren on the Ethiopian side of the South Sudan Border. The land will also grow several fruit trees including avocados, bananas, lemons, limes, mangos, pineapple, oranges, papaya and more. I know the Lord will bless our efforts with an abundant crop.**

**If you recall from the March, 2018, News-letter, Brother Jim Chandler, an elder in the Lord’s Church and a farmer/rancher from Portales, New Mexico traveled with me to Gambella to teach in the School in March. While there Jim installed the electric pump in the previously drilled water-well which is now supplying water to many Brethren as well as others around the compound. Jim and I also traveled to the two areas mentioned above and Jim’s elevation of the land was, “It will grow crops for four to six years without additives to the soil.” He also said after harvesting the corn we should plant beans, then wheat. If this becomes reality, and I believe God will make it happen, we will have plenty of food for all the brethren and others which will be a testament of the Lord’s working through the church to further the gospel. Brother Jim’s son, Colin and 6 others from New Mexico will help with the upcoming VBS. While there Colin, an elder and also a farmer/rancher, will assess the land situation and help educate the brethren about the possibilities.**

**Lord willing, in His time, we will have the funds to raise cattle, goats, sheep, chickens, etc. to feed the brethren. PLEASE NOTE: We are not interested in being commercial farmers. WE WANT TO BE HUMBLE RESPONSIBLE SERVANTS DOING WHATEVER THE LORD PERMITS to feed the brethren and others and further the gospel.**

**Of course, these and other future works require a lot of finances. BUT, BE ASSURED IF GOD WILLS HE WILL SUPPLY THE FINANCES. Our goal is to dream and get out of His way and let Him work through us.**

**Please note a couple of emails from David Thoatmer about the working of God in the mission.**

**April 1, Hi Brother Tyrone**

**We have baptisms from different locations 2 from Kule A, 1 from Kule C and I from Gambella. Let us praise the Lord who make his church grow, David**

**Hi Brother**

**We Baptized eighty years old woman into Christ yesterday she came from Pinyundo Nuer church of Christ. Also we will have another baptism in a few hours from Bazil church of Christ.**

**Thank**

**David**

**Hi Brother Tyrone**

**Yesterday brother John Chuol the preacher returned back from Wanding church of Christ and KanKan church of Christ, there, 6 people were baptized into Christ Let give praise to the Lord who make his church grow.**

**And thank**

**David.**

**Hi Brother Tyrone**

**It is good news Lord added three soul to his church (church of Christ). Yesterday we baptized two ladies and one man into Christ. Let praises be to the Lord who gives increase. Gatluak and i David Thoatmer went to Lare and baptized them.**

**And thank**

**David**

**God is GREAT!**

**If you would like to help finance the tee-shirts and/or support this great mission effort, please make your tax deductible checks payable to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ, ear-marked Southern Sudan Mission and mail the same to Tyrone Mynhier for posting and delivery to Woodland Oaks.**

**Thanks again for loving the Lord, the lost, the mission and Alma and I,**

**Tyrone Mynhier**