

SOUTHERN SUDAN MISSION

August 18, 2018

Jesus

shining the "Light" into South Sudan



Dear friends and supporters of Southern Sudan Mission,
Thank you for your continued prayers, love, encouragement, and support of the Southern Sudan Mission.

In this chaotic time, I pray you are lavishing in the peace of God that passes all understanding. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7

As of August 2020, there are 17,999 confirmed cases, 10,520, active in Addis Ababa, a city of approximately twelve million people and our port of entry. Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, still has strict restrictions throughout the country including quarantining all individuals entering the country.

I visited with James Puot, the Director of the work in my absence, via telephone and he stated there have been twenty people infected with the virus in Gambella, Ethiopia where our main compound is located. He said when an individual tests positive for the virus, they are placed in an isolated place until they recover. Fortunately, none of the Brethren are affected, but the virus has prevented many of the mission's plans. We are praying and trying to make the best of every available opportunity.

If you recall from the July newsletter, James said since the School of Biblical Studies' enrollment was limited, I will send two teams of instructors to the South Sudan border to teach for a month. One team would teach twelve students on the Ethiopia side and the other would teach twelve students on the South Sudan side.

James reported the instructors were graciously received in both village locations. Furthermore, the students that were selected to attend the classes were excited and thankful for the opportunity to learn more of God's Word regarding Christ's church.



Unfortunately, the village on the South Sudan side of the border, where the instructors were teaching, was raided by some Murle Tribesmen. (The Murle Tribe basically survives by raiding other tribes' villages, killing the men, and capturing the women and children, selling them into slavery). Several men were killed, and many women, children and cattle were taken captive.

Thankfully, none of the Brethren were affected. James told the instructors to leave the area, but they refused to leave until the classes were completed.

Resulting from the success of the classes the mission will continue to send teams of instructors to congregations in the villages to encourage the preachers, teach new converts and maturing classes. Yes, there will be the continued threat of the Murle Tribesmen, particularly on the South Sudan side of the border, but the Brethren in the villages need encouragement.



You may also recall the mission's orphanage opportunity discussed in the February 2020 newsletter. Realizing the need for additional compound locations around the city of Gambella where our main compound is located, James Puot, the Director in my absence, Colin Chandler, a Board Member and I were successful in finding a great track of land just outside the Gambella city limits. In addition

to being a perfect location, there is an orphanage which houses approximately six hundred orphans on the adjoining land. We asked the owner of the orphanage, a man that frequently attends our assembly, how we could contact the owner of the property. He said the owner did not live in the area, but he could contact him for us.

When Colin and I returned to the states, we visited with The Board of Directors about acquiring the land if it was available. Although most of the mission's church buildings and compounds have been built on land given to

the mission by the government, the Board, realizing the value of the orphanage opportunity, voted unanimously to purchase the land, if possible. James was instructed to pursue the opportunity to purchase the land and the owner agreed to sell it. The land was purchased a few days before COVID 19; therefore, the Brethren fenced it for protection. We plan to start construction of facilities when COVID 19 ceases or the restrictions are lifted.

The purchase provides the mission many great opportunities including:

- 1) A location for a needed church building and compound in the area;
- 2) An opportunity to work with the children in the orphanage on a regular basis; and
- 3) The land is considerably closer to the refugee camps than our main compound.



James says the corn planted on the agricultural land looks like it will produce an abundant crop again this year. If so, it will be a special blessing as some of the harvest will be given to the

workers and the rest will be sent to our starving Brethren in the bush.

There have been sixty-five individuals baptized into Christ this year. (*“So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were **baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**” Galatians 3:26-27 cf. “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self, ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised **by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.**” Colossians 2:9-12)*



We do not know the number of baptisms in the bush because we are unable to communicate with the Brethren there. Individuals living in the refugee camps or villages where there are no rivers, streams, or lakes desiring to be baptized must be bussed to our compound in Gambella to be baptized. Unfortunately, due to government restrictions, the buses are basically unavailable.

Please keep the Mission work and the Board members: Bryce Caldwell, Colin Chandler, Buddy Faulkenberry, Nathan Ingram, Nathan Lockwood, Tyrone Mynhier, Dave Roberts, Todd Watrous, and James Puot and the other native leaders in your prayers during this difficult time.

Thank you again for your love and financial support. Never forget you are as important to the mission as we are. We cannot go without your support.

If you would like to support this great English-speaking mission you may make your tax-deductible check payable to Southern Sudan Mission or Porter Church of Christ earmarked Southern Sudan Mission. You may also make tax deductible contributions through PayPal by going to the website, missioninsouthernsudan.com and clicking on PayPal.

NEVER FORGET

God is the Creator not the created.

God is in absolute control of His universe and all therein.

God will accomplish His will.

There are no surprises to God.

God is a promise keeper.

"I (Jesus) have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

"Without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[b] have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

"To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:21

Tyrone Mynhier, for the Board