

SOUTHERN SUDAN MISSION
532 Raleigh Dr.
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Jesus

shining the "Light" into South Sudan



www.missioninsouthernsudan.com

June 3, 2020

Dear friends and supporters of the Southern Sudan Mission. In the mist of Satan working to create turmoil, hatred, disobedience, confusion, etc. in the world and especially in America, be comforted to know:

1. God is the Creator of the world and all there in. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," Genesis 1:1
1. Man is God's creation. "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being," Genesis 2:7
2. Satan is God's creation. "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God made," Genesis 3:1
3. God has power over Satan. "The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, BUT, on the man, himself, do not lay a finger," Job 1:12.

"The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well, then, he is in your hands; BUT you must spare his life,'" Job 2:6.

Doubters should consider Nebuchadnezzar: God used Daniel to warn Nebuchadnezzar he must acknowledge that the most high, **God**, is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes. Daniel 4:24-25. "Twelve months later Nebuchadnezzar was bragging about his mighty power and accomplishments and, immediately, what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird. At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'" Daniel 4:28-35. **One would be wise to know and acknowledge God ruled the world with a man living with and acting like a dumb ox.**

Consider: "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else." Acts 17:24-25

One might ask, where is God in all this confusion? Listen to the Psalmist:

"Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up, the ruler's band together against the LORD and against His anointed, saying, 'Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.' The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath, saying, 'I have installed My king on Zion, My holy mountain.' I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to Me, 'You are My son; today I have become your Father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.' Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate His rule with trembling. Kiss His Son, or He will be angry, and your way will lead to your destruction, for His wrath can flare up in a moment. **Blessed are all who take refuge in Him,**" Psalms 2:1-12

Blessed are all who take **refuge** in **Him!** That refuge includes one promised blessing after another, including:

1. "Do not be afraid." Recorded 81 times in the NIV Bible
2. "Do not fear." Recorded 45 times in the NIV Bible.
3. "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10b
1. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28
2. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30
3. "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 4:6-7

1. “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4
1. “And 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.” Hebrews 11:6

Concerning the mission:

The virus threat has also hit Ethiopia. Fortunately, in Addis Ababa, the capital, and our port of entry, there have only been 317 confirmed cases including 199 active and 5 deaths, according to a May 17, 2020 news report. In the Gambella Region where our compound is located, there are no recorded cases, however, they have limited means to check for the virus.

While the number affected are few, the restrictions are plentiful. Individuals traveling to Ethiopia must be quarantined in a hotel for fifteen days at their expense, wash hands every thirty minutes, wear a mask, and groups are limited to ten or less (including church assemblies) which the authorities check regularly.

May 28, 2020, the board of Directors of Southern Sudan Mission unanimously agreed to cancel the American teachers participating in the Southern Sudan Mission Refugee Children’s Vacation Bible School in Gambella, Ethiopia due to the coronavirus virus threat.

While this is heartbreaking for the Board, teachers, and the Refugee Children, it is unavoidable for several reasons including:

1. We do not want to expose anyone to the virus.
2. The teachers use their vacation time to go. A few go for four weeks, some two weeks and others one week. Since the Ethiopian Officials have made it mandatory for all individuals entering Ethiopia to quarantine themselves in a hotel for a minimum of two weeks and then be tested, the teachers would not have time to teach.

The 2020 plans for the VBS was to teach 10,000 children. The American Teachers planned to teach 6,000 and the Native Teachers 4,000. Teaching 10,000 children is a monster undertaking and requires a tremendous amount of preparations; therefore, many Brethren from different congregations in different states and cities have been preparing materials, many of which are completed. We are extremely appreciative of everyone’s help.

Thankfully, there will still be a Vacation Bible School taught by native teachers. It will be limited in number, without the crafts and hand-outs and the quality of teaching provided by the American Teachers. Yet it will give some refugee children the opportunity to learn about God and the Native teachers the opportunity to learn and grow spiritually. I plan to travel to Gambella when the quarantine is lifted. If that is before the VBS, I will take as much of the materials as possible.

One of the long-term goals for the VBS Team is to train natives to teach along with or in the absence of the American teachers. This is important for several reasons:

1. It will help the native teachers grow spiritually.
2. It will encourage the teachers to teach the children weekly.
3. The Natives can teach in the refugee camps where there are one million plus refugees. (The camps are off limits to the American teachers).
4. When South Sudan has peace and the refugees can return home, the teachers will be prepared to teach wherever they live.

With this goal in mind the American teachers began training native teachers. Last year they trained five women to teach. After the American Teachers returned home the



Eight new VBS Teachers

natives taught 4,000 children in the refugee camps.

Since the VBS they have taught other women to teach and together have taught children weekly.

Additionally, Brother Chan Gatkouth, the Assistant Director of the School of Biblical Studies and the native that has been responsible for organizing and working with the VBS for the past seven years has also been teaching additional teachers. Presently

there are fifteen native teachers prepared to teach. Chan will direct the 2020 VBS. Hopefully the natives will teach 5,000 – 7,000 children this summer.

Pictured is 11 of 20 students from the January 2020 School of Biblical Studies Class that was cut short due to the virus restrictions. They are looking forward to attending the June 2020 class if the authorities lift the restrictions. If the authoritative rule stating, “there cannot be more than ten people meeting together,” continues we will ask for permission to have two separate classes of ten students in different classrooms. If we are granted permission, we may still have a problem as the students stay one dorm with twenty beds. Unfortunately, we are not like an American School. We cannot teach by distance learning because the students do not have computers. Thankfully, our compound where the school is located is very large and we can host several groups of ten for services. The restrictions are not



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being enforced in the refugee camps and villages; therefore, those Brethren meet as usual.

The brethren have been working diligently preparing the agriculture fields for planting corn. Hopefully, the Lord will bless their efforts with an abundant harvest. Most of the yield will be sent to South Sudan to help feed the Brethren hidden in the bush.

If you recall from a previous newsletter the mission has an urgent need for funds to:

1. Purchase a generator to power the water-well at the Newland compound. This need has been met.	\$ 5,000.00
2. Purchase an electric pump and generator for the Lare compound and corn field irrigation.	\$ 6,000.00
3. To prepare and plant corn on the agriculture land.	\$ 2,000.00
4. Repair the fences around the agriculture land.	\$ 2,000.00
5. Purchase an available tract of land on the road that goes to Lare. The mission needs the land for a compound and church building in the area. Additionally, the land borders an orphanage with 500 children we could reach out too.	\$ 5,000.00
6. Fence the land, build a church building, classrooms, and a preacher's house	\$17,000.00
7. Repair different church buildings in the area.	\$ 2,000.00
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Total urgent need:	\$ 34,000.00

These needs are in addition to our normal operational funds.

Praise God for His continued abundant blessings.

Thank you for your partnership with the Mission in the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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 opportunity, you may make your tax-deductible check payable to: Southern Sudan Mission or Porter Church of Christ ear-marked Southern Sudan Mission. Please mail all contributions to Tyrone Mynhier for posting.

You may also contribute through PayPal. Go to missioninsouthernsudan.com and click on PayPal.

“To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” Ephesians 3:21

Tyrone Mynhier, President for the Board