

SOUTHERN SUDAN MISSION

Jesus

shining the "Light" into South Sudan



September 10, 2020

Dear friends and supporters of Southern Sudan Mission,

I pray you are rejoicing and comforted in the promises of our Lord. Hebrews 6:13-18

“The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

As most of you know the above recorded Scripture is the charge of the Southern Sudan Mission. The Scripture alone is powerful, but as one considers the Scriptures preceding it, (recorded below) the Scripture becomes more powerful.

*“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to **the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus**, To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, without ceasing. I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For **God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind**. Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord**, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the **power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel**, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher¹ of the Gentiles. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for **I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day**. **Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus**. That good thing, which was committed to you, **keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us**. This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day, and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus. **You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus**. **And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also**. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” 2 Timothy 1:1-2:3.*

In spite of COVID 19 and government restrictions, the June – September 2020 semester of the School of Biblical Studies was completed September 9, 2020. If you recall, the government restricted groups to ten or less; however, 12 students wanted to attend. James asked the government officials if the two extra students could attend class and they approved his request. Well, 2 additional students arrived the next day and I am not sure if the government approved them attending class, but James emailed me stating fourteen completed the semester. Most of the students will return and work with their former congregation.

As mentioned in prior newsletters, in the genesis of the school, the mission invited American instructors to teach and equip native men to become qualified instructors, realizing there could be times, like the present, when American instructors could not teach. Thankfully, the plan was successful. This semester all the faculty were natives.

With occasional challenges of over-seeing the mission, sometimes the Devil tempts me to ask myself, is it really worth it? Then the Lord answers with success after success. Ken Stegall and I, along with our wives, attended our Alma Mater, White's Ferry Road School of Biblical Studies, 50th reunion Friday, September 4th and it was extremely encouraging and enlightening. We listened to former student's testimonies for several hours. One after another spoke of how God had used them to teach others, who have taught others and the unbelievable works they and others have done and continue to do around the world. YES, IT IS WORTH IT!

You may recall Brother Ojula Didumo, from the Anyuak Tribe, in other newsletters. (The Anyuak Tribesman and the Nuer Tribesman, which I work with, hate each other to the point they kill one another upon sight.) We had the opportunity to teach many Anyuak and hundreds have



obeyed the Gospel. Seven Anyuak men, including Ojula, attended and graduated from the School of Biblical Studies. Some Anyuak Brethren even met with the Nuer Brethren, while others met with the Anyuak Brethren in one of seven different locations. The Anyuak Brethren grew quickly in number. In fact, the VBS Teachers taught approximately one thousand Anyuak children in the past few years. Unfortunately, the Anyuak Preacher, also an instructor in the School, deserted the Lord and many Brethren became discouraged and left the faith. About the same time there was a major conflict between the Anyuak and Nuer and several from both tribes were killed. Resulting from the conflict the Anyuak Leaders threatened to kill anyone that attended one of the Anyuak congregations. The leaders visit the congregations frequently to threaten the Brethren.

We presently have three Anyuak Congregations: two in refugee camps and one in a village called Abol. The leaders do not threaten the refugee camp congregations, but continually threaten the Abol Congregation. Ojula has preached at the Abol Congregation for three years. Although most of the members have stopped attending the assembly due to the leader's threats, Ojula fearlessly continues to preach and work with the Brethren. Additionally, he has turned his attention to working with the children. With the help of the mission, Ojula made a soccer field and volleyball area in the woods. He invites the children to play five or six days a week;

however, there is a prerequisite to participate in the activities. Each child must attend the 45 minutes to an hour Bible Class Ojula teaches. If a child is late to the Bible study or if they do not participate, they cannot participate in the games. Additionally, they must attend Sunday Bible Study and assembly. Ojula said, “the parents may be afraid, but the children want to participate in the games; therefore, they will come, and I will teach them to grow up fearing the Lord instead of man.”

Chan Gatkouth and the native teachers have had a difficult time getting the VBS organized and underway. With public school starting soon they will teach VBS classes all day Saturday and a few hours on Sunday after the morning assembly.

I visited with James, the director of the work in my absence, and he said although it is only the middle of the rainy season, many areas are flooded due to exceedingly heavy and continuous rain. He further said, if the rains continue as they have been, our thirty-acre corn field may flood and destroy the bountiful corn crop. Please pray for the Brethren displaced by flooding. We also need to pray for the corn harvest. We depend on the harvest to help with the expense of feeding the Brethren in the bush.

Good News! There have been limited COVID 19 infections in Ethiopia and none in Gambella for a few weeks. The Prime Minister is to make an announcement in a couple of days and the Brethren think he will let life in Ethiopia return to normal.

September 11th is New Year's Day in Ethiopia. The new year will be 2013. That is right, Ethiopia goes by the Julian Calendar. It always feels good upon arriving in Ethiopia because I become 7 years younger; however, when I leave, I return to the same age as before.

The mission has many on-going evangelistic opportunities among the South Sudanese Refugees and will have a lot more when the curfew is lifted. Any financial assistance you can contribute will be extremely helpful.

You may make your taxable contribution to Southern Sudan Mission or Porter Church of Christ ear-marked Southern Sudan Mission. Please mail the same to Tyrone Mynhier for posting.

You may also make tax deductible contributions through PayPal. To contribute through PayPal go to our web-site, missioninsouthernsudan.com

I am extremely appreciative of you and your continued love, prayers, encouragement, and financial support of the mission. I pray we will always be worthy of your trust and support.

Never forget you are as important to the mission as we are. We cannot go without your support!

“To Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Tyrone Mynhier

President for the Board