

SOUTHERN SUDAN MISSION

Jesus

shining the "Light" into South Sudan



www.missioninsouthernsudan.com

EIN 81-1577318

March 29, 2021

Dear friends and supporters of Southern Sudan Mission,

Thank you for the privilege of affording me and other mission workers to continue furthering the Gospel of Jesus Christ to South Sudanese Refugees in Ethiopian Refugee Camps and villages in Ethiopia and South Sudan through your prayers and financial contributions.

Pictured is Churier James Lol. Churier has a story like many South Sudanese Refugees. A few months after he completed high school in South Sudan a severe tribal war began as the President



of South Sudan, a Dinka (the Dinka Tribe is the largest tribe in South Sudan) accused the Vice President, a Nuer (the Nuer Tribe is the second largest tribe in South and the major tribe we work with) of starting a Coup resulting in a tribal war which exists to date. The Dinkas raided his village, killing everyone and destroying everything in sight. Churier was one of a few that escaped as he ran to the woods for safety. He was rescued by the United Nation Army and refugeeed to Gambella, Ethiopia. A few weeks after Churier was refugeeed, he heard of the School of Biblical Studies. Upon visiting the school, he requested admission and was accepted. Churier stated he was a Seventh Day Adventist. After a few days in class, I realized Churier was an exceptionally smart young man and grounded in Adventism. He certainly made every class exciting as he defended Adventism. Ultimately, he understood the Scriptures that refuted the Adventist teaching regarding observing Saturday as a special day of worship and law keeping. The final day of his last semester, Churier and I studied for a lengthy period and he obeyed the gospel according to the Scriptures. Upon obeying the gospel, Churier realized his responsibility as a Christian to teach others about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Additionally, he is an excellent teacher and preacher.

Secularly, Churier always desired to work in the medical field. After completing the School of Biblical Studies, he applied for entrance to an Ethiopian University to study medicine. When he was asked about his high school records, he explained he graduated from high school in South Sudan and his records and diploma were burned up when the Dinka's set the village on fire. He was told all students had to have records of graduation from high school before admittance. He appealed to the Authorities over the university and was told if he wanted to attend the university, he would have to complete ninth through twelfth grade classes in Ethiopia. Churier attended high school and graduated among the top of his class. While attending high school he was very active with the mission. He preached, taught new converts, and helped with several of the mission's Vacation Bible School efforts. Upon completion of the Ethiopia high school, Churier was admitted to the university and will graduate in June of this year with a degree in delivering babies (what we call a mid-wife). Upon receiving his degree, he must give three years of service to the Ethiopian Government to pay for his education. Fortunately, he will be sent back to Gambella to work for the government and will continue working with the mission. After his

commitment is completed, he is free to work anywhere. I visited with Chudier a few days ago via telephone and he is looking forward to returning to Gambella delivering babies and getting involved with the mission teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Each time I return to Gambella I try to spend several days working with and encouraging the preachers. Unfortunately, due to COVID I have not been to Gambella since February 2020. Things continue to go well with the mission; however, it seems some of the preachers are struggling a little after the COVID problem (there were only a few COVID cases in Gambella, but the restrictions were plentiful). After visiting with James (the native Director of the mission) and the instructors of the school, we decided to bring all the supported preachers (52) to the Gambella Compound for special training and encouragement. Pictured are the first fifteen preachers taught last week. Others will be brought to Gambella for training with the goal of teaching all of them in a few more weeks.



The Brethren are excited and hopeful we will have Vacation Bible School this year. David Thoatmer has traveled to the states twice since COVID started and his last trip in February 2021 was basically as before. He was tested before leaving Houston and not quarantined anywhere. I met with Bryce Caldwell Saturday and we discussed the 2021 VBS. Bryce said he would be talking to the teachers about material preparations, etc. this week. We need a minimum of 12 teachers for each week. Colin Chandler, an elder from New Mexico and his team will teach the first two weeks of July, Nathan Lockwood and his team will teach the third week of July and Bryce Caldwell and his team will teach the final week of July. Please be prayerful about this and help us look for prospective teachers.

It is time to plant corn in Gambella. As you know the mission feeds many starving Brethren from the corn harvested and last year's crop was destroyed by the Nile flood. Additionally, the Brethren are repairing or rebuilding the grass church buildings that were damaged or washed away by the flood. We are praying and need your prayers for an abundant harvest to help feed the Brethren stranded in South Sudan and for the restoration of the grass buildings. There has been a delay on the work at the orphanage compound as the government wants the land surveyed again to be sure the new proposed road will not affect our property. Chan is working endlessly to get this matter taken care of. It is time for elections and the officials seem to be more concerned about being elected than anything else.

If you would like to help support this great English-speaking mission, you can make your tax-deductible check payable to Southern Sudan Mission or Porter Church of Christ, ear-marked Southern Sudan Mission. Please mail contributions to Tyrone Mynhier for posting. You may also give through PayPal or Venmo by going to the mission website, missioninsouthernsudan.com

Thanks again for partnering with us. Never forget you are as important to the mission as we are. We cannot go without your prayers and financial support.

Tyrone Mynhier, President for the Board.