**Southern Sudan Mission**



**January 5, 2017**

Dear friends and supporters of the Southern Sudan Mission,

I pray you had a great 2016 and are committed to a greater service for the furtherance of the gospel in 2017.

Brethren frequently ask, “How is the Southern Sudan Mission?” My response, “If you did not know the greatness of God you would think that I am out of my mind when I talk about the immeasurable blessings the Lord has showered on the Mission as it is growing almost beyond belief.”

Among the great reasons for the growth of the mission is for the past four years several members of Woodland Oaks Church of Christ, accompanied by a few brethren from other congregations have taught a Vacation Bible School each year. Pictured is the John Chuol family. Left to right are: John’s wife Rhonda Nyancrew (wives keep their fathers name), Nualuak Chuol (18), Duol Chuol (16), and John Chuol. The smaller children are John’s brother’s children that he adopted after the death of their parents. Nualuak and Duol were students in the first Vacation Bible School in 2013. Resulting from their multiple years of attending the Vacation Bible School Classes, Rhonda, Nualuak, Duol and John all obeyed the gospel and are very active in the Nuer work in Gambella. Nualuak was an interpreter for one of the American teachers in the 2016 VBS. John, a former Nazarene Preacher, attended several classes in the School of Biblical Studies after obeying the gospel and is presently working fulltime with the Mission. He recently made a short missionary journey to several neighboring towns and baptized over twenty people into Christ. Unfortunately John has developed a heart problem which has slowed him down and needs our prayers.

Additionally the multiple Vacation Bible Schools, 2013 – one hundred students, 2014 – two hundred students, 2015 – 500 students, and 2016 – five hundred students have made a tremendous difference in the South Sudanese Refugee work. If you recall from former news-letters, when I arrived in Gambella in 2011 to start the mission there were about 20 Christians; James Puot, now the director of the work in my absence, his wife, his two children, and sixteen students. Basically no one in Gambella even knew the Church of Christ existed. To a great degree the Vacation Bible School exposure has resulted in practically everyone knowing and saying good things about the Lord’s Church. Every year we have given the VBS Children t-Shirts with Gambella Church of Christ inscribed on them. The children wear their shirt until it is completely worn to shreds. Additionally there are between 150-200 children at the Newland, Gambella (Nuer) congregation and the Pwoljay, Gambella (Anywaa) congregation every Sunday Morning. Leaders of both congregations also have weekly activates with the children encouraging them to be around both compounds as much as possible. Another blessing is that both congregations have many family units and many parents and grandparents attending the assemblies every Sunday.

Our VBS goal for 2017 is to teach one thousand children. We rent public school classrooms to accommodate as many children as we have teachers to teach. There are always more students than the teachers can teach and many students stand outside the classrooms listening to the lessons and songs. We need additional teachers for this year’s VBS. If you would like to help or know of another Christian that would like to help please contact Bryce Caldwell, Director, or Tyrone Mynhier. There is a possibility that we may have two weeks of VBS verses the one week of VBS. The date for the first VBS is Monday, July 3rd through Friday, July 7th. Most of the teachers will depart Houston on Friday approximately 3:50 PM June 30th and return to Houston arriving Sunday, July 9th @ 1:50PM. I will be in Gambella before and after those dates; therefore a teacher can go earlier and/or stay longer. If there is a second VBS the dates would be Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14th.

There are many other exciting plans for 2017 including the genesis of a Bible College, The Logos School of Biblical Studies and Sunset International Bible Institute, which will offer a Bachelor, Masters and PHD Degree in Bible. This is an exciting addition with the goal of encouraging local denominational preachers to enroll in the Bible College seeking a degree or an additional degree and learn the, “truth of the gospel,” Ephesians 1:13. There will also be two School of Preaching sessions: the first (15 students) will start January 11th and the second (25 students) will start June 26th. The government has given the Mission acreage to build compounds in a few different areas around Gambella and we have plans to plant corn and other vegetables as well as fruit trees to help feed the brethren; however, we will need a tractor to accomplish this dream. Thanks to the wishes of a young lady, Lainey Lee, there will be a water well drilled to supply clean drinking water on the Newland, Gambella Compound. We will discuss this further as it culminates.

Never forget each of you is as important to this Mission as I am. Without your prayers, encouragement, and financial support the Mission could not function. As the Mission grows the need for additional finances grow as well. If you would like to help financially you can make your tax deductible contributions payable to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ, ear-marked Southern Sudan Mission and mailed to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ.

Love in Him,

Tyrone Mynhier