**SOUTHERN SUDAN MISSION**



**March 1, 2017**

Dear friends and supporters of the Southern Sudan Mission,

I am grateful for your continued love and support of the mission through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. I pray you are lavishing in the promised abundant life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In late November 2016, I received a call from our Sister Nikki Lee with an unbelievable question, “Would the Southern Sudan Mission benefit from a water well? Shocked, I responded, “We have been praying for funds to drill a water well in our compound in Newland, Gambella Region, Ethiopia.” Nikki explained, “Brian and I were showing Lainey, our five year old daughter, some pictures from a magazine of different opportunities to help underprivileged children in other countries with the thought of giving one as a special Christmas gift in behalf of Lainey. As we looked through the magazine something was mentioned of a water well. Lainey was inquisitive about the water-well and after further explanation she told us she wanted to give some children in a foreign county a water well so they could have fresh water to drink. We told Lainey water wells cost a lot of money and maybe we need to think about something else we can afford. When we tried to convince Lainey to give something else she confidently said ‘No Momma, God will give us the money for the well, I want to give a well.’ From that time forward Lainey insisted she wanted to give a water well to children so they can have fresh water to drink”

Nikki asked, “What do you think a water well would cost?” I responded, “Although we have been praying for a water-well, I don’t have any idea of the cost, but I would guess we could drill one for $10,000, but again, I am not sure.” I further told Nikki that I’m not sure the Ethiopian Government will let us drill a well or what the restrictions might be. I am going to Ethiopia in a few days and I will try to get that information and an accurate figure we can work with. Nikki said, “We will go with the $10,000 figure at present and see if we can raise the funds for the well.”

Within a few days Nikki called saying she had discussed the idea with several families and everyone was excited and wanted to help raise funds for the water well. Parents and their children made phone calls, had lemonade stands, sold cookies, cupcakes and a variety of other things to raise the funds. Several families heard of the wish and donated to the project. Before leaving for Ethiopia in early December, Nikki called saying she believed they would have the money for the well when I return in late December.

 Upon returning from Ethiopia I called Nikki and told her we got permission to drill the well, but the cost would be $15,000. Of course there was concern as everyone had worked so hard and so many people had donated money. The question was, can we get the difference. The following day Nikki called and said she had contacted someone that wanted to give the difference so the water well could be drilled.

I contacted the brethren in Ethiopia about a start date for the well and they contacted the drilling company and following one complication after another, on February 28, 2017, the well was flowing with pure water. As of this day, a submersible pump was donated by another Brother and will be installed soon. Upon installation, clean drinking water will flow from the well and many brethren as well as others living near our compound will benefit greatly. With God’s help we will use the physical water to tell others about “Living Water.”

In the context of a rich man entering the kingdom of God, Jesus said, “With God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:1-26. Wouldn’t it be great if we, as parents, believed and practiced what we teach our children about, “With God all things are possible?” Lainey believed it. Do you?

It’s that time again. We are culminating plans for our fifth annual South Sudanese Refugee Vacation Bible School in the Gambella Region of Ethiopia. We have expanded the opportunity from one week to two weeks. Brother Bryce Caldwell pictured on the left is the coordinator of the project and will direct the first week and Brother Nathan Lockwood will direct the second week. Sister Karisa Holland, who has taught in all four of the past VBS opportunities, will teach again this year. In addition, for the second year, she hopes to spend an additional two weeks teaching South Sudanese Refugee Women to read and speak English from the Bible.

Our plans are to teach a total of 1,000 children this year. The first week we will teach three hundred Nuer children in Newland, Ethiopia, and two hundred Anywaa children in Pwoljay, Ethiopia, and one hundred Anywaa children in Abol, Ethiopia. The second week we will teach four hundred Nuer children in Lare, Ethiopia. Both Abol and Lare are newly seeded congregations and are a few miles north of our compound in Newland, Ethiopia. All four are located in the Gambella Region.

The VBS classes are for children that have completed the first grade through the sixth grade. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, many refugee children, particularly girls, do not get to start school until they are eight to ten years old; therefore, many of the children in the fifth and sixth grade are early teenagers. Many students have attended every year. Last year several of the teenagers obeyed the gospel and a couple of them translated for our VBS Teachers.

Most of the children have become very familiar and comfortable with the native brethren and about 50-100 children attend Sunday Bible Classes and worship services at the Newland and Pwoljay congregations each Lord’s Day. They also attend the follow-up programs such as weekly Bible Studies, popcorn parties, Friday night movies and other fellowship activates which keep them coming to the different compounds several times weekly. Can you imagine the impact for Christ these children will have on their families and friends as they grow older, obey the gospel and mature in Christ? Only eternity will reveal the true results.

We plan to purchase t-shirts for the children again this year. The t-shirts are a tremendous blessing because most of the children only own one shirt at a time and they wear the shirts every day advertising the Lord’s Church. This year we will purchase approximately eleven hundred shirts, the extra shirts are for teachers and interpreters. The cost will be approximately $7,000. THIS AMOUNT IS NOT BUDGETED, therefore, we have to raise these funds separately. If you would like to help with the shirts please make your tax deductible checks to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ ear-marked Southern Sudan Mission t-shirts and mail the same to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ.

Thanks again for your partnership with me and the Southern Sudan Mission as we work together to take the gospel to South Sudan, the world’s newest nation.

Love in Him,

Tyrone Mynhier