**Mission in South Sudan**

**November 26, 2013**

Dear friends and supporters of the Mission in South Sudan,

I pray you are rejoicing in the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The October and November mission trip to Gambella, Ethiopia and Juba, South Sudan was very eventful and successful. Upon arrival at Gambella October 18th, Brother James Puot, the local preacher and director of the School of Biblical Studies, met me at the airport with good news regarding several additions to the Body. Among those added were two women, wives of men we baptized into Christ during our July and August mission.

This is critical to the mission in Gambella. In addition to the sisters being united with Christ, they were also united as Christian families. Additionally both have children. I approached them about helping teach the children in Bible Class and both excitedly responded, “Yes, we would like to learn to teach so we can teach our own children.”

I met with the new sisters and Chan, the Sudanese Brother that works with the children, Saturday and taught them several songs and gave them some points about teaching. Chan said they did a great job Sunday Morning working with the children. They have continued helping every week since.

I was surprised to see so many of the VBS children (35-40) at each Sunday morning assembly. They were really excited when they saw me. They all questioned me about the American women teachers, wanting to know when

they were going to return. I told them they were planning to return in July of 2014. They all clapped their hands with excitement.

Brother Puot was also excited about the addition of another staff member, Roger Talanyi. Roger was converted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1992 and began evangelizing among the Sudanese living in Ethiopian Refugee Camps. James was among those taught and baptized by Roger. Roger and his family were privileged to move to the states in 2007. He attended and graduated from Sunset International Bible Institute in 2010 and worked on a secular job trying to raise support to return to Ethiopia and work with the Sudanese.

A dear Brother and Sister in Christ committed to financially support Roger to work full time with the Sudan Mission in Gambella. Since his arrival, Roger has been teaching two, three hour Bible Studies daily at the compound in Gambella. Additionally, he, James and Chan are contacting every VBS student’s family (100 plus), attempting to set up Bible studies. To date, 15 have obeyed the gospel.

While in Gambella we were privileged to add water and electricity to the compound. We also dug a hole and built a structure around it to enclose a sit down outdoor toilet. This may sound a little crude, but we have the only toilet of this nature in the area. We also cleared a large area of land where we plan to construct additional facilities: Add classrooms to the existing church building, build student dorms, and build a kitchen to accommodate the School of Biblical Studies. We also plan to build a guest house for the instructors. The guest house will be the last structure built; however, it is critical to attract instructors as the temperature varies from 80-120 degrees.

REGARDING THE STUCTURES. If you recall from a previous writing, the cost of the materials for the proposed structures is $100,000.00 and the brethren will furnish the labor free. Additionally an anonymous Foundation has given the School of Biblical Studies in Gambella a grant of $25,000.00. The grant is conditional in that we must raise the first $75,000.00 to receive the grant of $25,000.00. WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP. First the grant will terminate if we do not raise the first $75,000.00 or get cash contributions and/or pledges (not to exceed 12 months) before December 2014. Second we desperately need to raise the first $75,000.00 before March 15th in order to complete the structures before the June 23, 2014 class begins.

I also traveled to Juba, South Sudan desiring to fly to Nisar, located in the Upper Nile Region of South Sudan. The goal was to encourage the brethren and visit government officials seeking a land grant for a compound to build a Place of Prayer (church building), School of Biblical Studies, a guest house and hopefully a clinic.

Unfortunately I was unable to get the proposed humanitarian flight to Nisar due to the weather; however while visiting with officials regarding the flight, I met the individual over scheduling flights, and he is an American. After a lengthy discussion he gave me his contact information and told me to contact him personally before my next trip and he would help me get a fight. This is important because it is the only means of transportation for me into this area. Please keep this opportunity in your prayers.

Regarding the congregation, in Nisar, there are 100 plus adults and children. They presently meet in a temporary facility. There are two graduates working full time with this congregation. They also work in the area villages striving to seed congregations.

While in Juba I also met with brethren about the Malakal, South Sudan opportunity. The brethren have contacted the Malakal Government Officials requesting a land grant for a compound to duplicate the compound previously discussed regarding Nisar. The governing officials are very favorable of the request and are doing preparatory work to present a proposal to the brethren in the near future.

There is a congregation in Malakal of approximately 60 brethren including children. They built a straw building to meet in, but the church does not have legal papers to the land at this time. There are also two graduates of the school working with the Congregation. Please keep this opportunity in your prayers.

The Nisar and Malakal Congregations are very important as we strive to take the gospel into the Upper Nile Region of South Sudan for several reasons including: The only translation of the Old and New Testament is in the Neur Language. Although English is considered the national language only 25-27% of the populous speak English; however the Nuer Language is the oldest and most widely spoken language in South Sudan. The Nuer Tribe is the oldest ethnic group in South Africa. Most of our graduates (250 plus) are Nuer Tribesman from this region. The Upper Nile Region encompasses more than one half of South Sudan Nation.

Upon returning to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, I visited with the Sudanese Church there. Brother James Muoch, one of the preachers (graduate of the school) informed me, several people have obeyed the gospel in the past few months.

Many graduates of the school live in the Addis Ababa area and attend one of the universities located there. Every weekend they do evangelistic outreach near the compound. After obtaining their degree they will work for the Ethiopian Government for three years to pay for their education. Most are assigned employment near a Sudanese Refugee Camp; therefore they evangelize in the area and work with the congregations in the refugee camps on Sundays. After fulfilling their commitment to the Ethiopian Government they will move to South Sudan to work and preach the gospel.

God is certainly blessing the South Sudan work. All the existing congregations in the Ethiopian Refugee Camps and in different places in South Sudan are doing well. The Gambella Congregation, which is vital to the South Sudanese Mission, is really growing spiritually and numerically. There have been 70 plus additions to the body this year and as mentioned there are 30-40 children from VBS attending every Sunday. Unfortunately we are unable to get updated information from South Sudan due to lack of communications as the infrastructure was destroyed during the civil war.

ADDITIONAL GOOD NEWS: After a lengthy conversation with Truitt Adair, Director of the Sunset International Bible Institute, we have agreed to partner with Sunset International Bible Institute as an extension school.

We feel the partnership is advantageous for several reasons including: It assures the work will continue with great leadership in my absence and it lends international credibility to the certificates of the graduates.

In addition to your prayers and encouragement we have several urgent financial needs to continue these great works, including preacher salaries, facility rentals, quarterly continuing education classes, travel and operational funds, etc. If you can help with this area of our work, please make your tax deductible contributions to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ, ear-marked South Sudan Mission. PLEASE FORWARD THE SAME TO: Tyrone Mynhier, for posting and delivery to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ.

Alma and I want to thank all of you for your prayers, love, trust, partnership and financial support of this great English speaking opportunity.

We also pray you will have a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year to the praise and glory of the Lord!

Because of Calvary,

Tyrone & Alma Mynhier