**Mission in South Sudan**



**October 8, 2014**

Greeting’s in the Lord. I pray God’s riches blessings upon you and yours.

Three Anywaa Men obeyed the gospel in 2012 and completed the level one class of the School of Biblical Studies. Two of the three were employed by the government and were part time denominational preachers. Both were transferred to a different region in Ethiopia in 2013. The third man, Achok Okoth is a veterinarian student. Although he has completed level two of the School of Biblical Studies in 2013, he said his study load is too great to preach at this time. He plans to practice vet medicine and preach after graduation.

When we planned the 2014 Sudanese Vacation School, James Puot, the director of the School of Biblical Studies, told me Brother Okoth asked if he could invite some children from his tribe to participate in the school. I told James we would let 50 attend.

Upon arriving in Gambella to make final preparations for the VBS, James told me due to the distance from the Anywaa community we would need to transport the children to and from class every day. While this doesn’t seem too bad to Americans, it is very difficult in Gambella. The only transportation for hire is a three wheel cycle with a small seat that holds two or three people at a time.

I told James to tell Achok the Anywaa Children could not attend the school this year because we did not want the responsibility of transporting the children, however next year we would try to have a school for them. Needless to say Achok was very upset and told the parents and the children they could not attend the VBS. The parents relied, “We will walk with our children to the school if they can attend.” I again agreed for the children to attend.

A week before the VBS James said we would need an Anywaa Interpreter. This was another problem because the Anywaa speak a different language than the Nuer and all our interpreters spoke the Nuer Language. To accommodate the Anywaa Children we would need additional classrooms and teachers.

I called Joanie, the VBS Coordinator, and asked her to talk to the teachers and see if they would be willing to teach an afternoon VBS for the Anywaa. After consulting the teachers, Joanie replied, “The teachers said yes.” Since the teachers were departing for Gambella a few days later they worked diligently to prepare extra materials for the Anywaa children.

The first day of VBS classes there was a lot of confusion. Some of the students could not understand English nor the Nuer translator. The Anywaa Parents had brought their children Monday morning instead of the afternoon. The teachers not knowing the difference in the children assigned them to their class rooms and there were Anywaa and Nuer children in each class.

I was at the compound teaching in the School of Biblical Studies and did not realize there was a problem. When contacted I went to the school and found 47 Anywaa children had been admitted to the morning classes. After talking with the teachers a decision was made to move the 47 Anywaa children into one classroom and Renee Cloud agreed to teach them using an Anywaa interpreter. That permitted us to add other Nuer students from the waiting list to the other classes, now 247 students.

The last day of the VBS we always give the students a Bible. With the additional students we did not have enough Bibles. I talked to Achok and Renee and explained since the Anywaa could not speak English and we did not have an Anywaa Church we would not give them Bibles. Needless to say Achok, Renee and the children were very disappointed.

As usual the Lord had it all worked out. Many of the students were returning students from last year and told us they had their Bibles from last year. When we told Achok, Renee and the children we had enough Bibles to give each student one they all clapped their hands and shouted with joy.

About 250 children and 75 adults, Nuer and Anywaa, attended the Friday Night celebration with great excitement and joy. Several parents spoke and complimented the teachers and asked them to return next year to teach their children. Little did I know, but the Anywaa and Nuer not only speak different languages, but the tribes have great distain for each other and frequently fight and kill one another. This night they were at peace with one another.

Is God Amazing or what?

Well that’s not all! When I arrived at Gambella in September, James said “I want to introduce you to a new Brother in Christ, Okello Obang. He has been waiting to meet you.”

As Okello and I visited, Okello told me he heard about the World Bible School Correspondence Course and wrote to America and requested the course. After completing the course he wrote his partner in America about a place to be baptized. He was told to go to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the Church of Christ Compound (who are the brethren I work with). He was baptized into Christ in 2010. He was a college student at the time and attended a university about 150 miles from Addis. He returned to the university and completed his education receiving a Bachelor of Business Management Degree in July of this year. While continuing his education at the university, Okello enrolled in the Church of Christ International Bible Correspondence School and completed an intense training in the Bible. After attaining his Business Degree Okello returned to Addis and told the brethren he was from Gambella, Ethiopia and was of the Anywaa Tribe and wanted to preach for the church in that area. The brethren in Addis told him he should contact me in Gambella.

I told Okello of our desires to start a new work with the Anywaa Tribe in Gambella. I also told him of the Anywaa children accompanied by their parents that attended the recent VBS in July. I further told him we had been praying that the Lord would send someone to work with the Anywaa people.

After further discussion we presented Okello a support proposal and asked him to consider accepting the work. He agreed to the proposal.

We have acquired a temporary meeting place among the Anywaa people, purchased benches, etc. and Okello and his family began working full time with the mission October 1, 2014. Brother Achok also made a commitment to work with Okello as much as possible.

Wonder why God worked out all the VBS problems? We now have 50 Anyuok families, with 50 children toting Bibles, that had exposure to the church and are appreciative for their children having the opportunity to learn about God from the work of the dedicated VBS teachers you help support. These 50 families will be the first Anywaa People Okello will contact for Bible Studies.

Additionally, the first Sunday I was back in Gambella in September, the workers in the new refugee camps baptized 50 additional brethren into Christ. The four week total of refugee baptisms from the new refugee camps since August 24th is 118.

We brought 20 selected new converts, 12 men and 8 women, to Gambella for a special week long new convert and outreach training. They received the training very well. At the conclusion of the class they all expressed their thanksgiving for the opportunity to learn more about the church and to grow in the Lord. They also expressed their desires to go back to the camp to teach their relatives and friends. Please keep all these brethren in your prayers.

It is important that everyone knows they are as much a part of this great work as we are through their continued prayers, encouragement and financial support. Only eternity will reveal the true results of the work.

I am very appreciative for your continued love and support. With the continued growth of the work and need for additional facilities, Bibles, song books, etc. we have continued need for additional support. Additionally the construction of the guest house has begun. Please consider helping us monthly or with a onetime contribution. If you know of a congregation or individual that might have interest in this great work, please tell them about us and us about them.

Tax deductible contributions may be made payable to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ, ear-marked South Sudan Mission and mailed to Tyrone Mynhier. After posting Tyrone will deliver your contributions to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ.

Thanks again for you partnership with us in the furtherance of the gospel.

Love in Him,

Tyrone Mynhier