

Cush Vision

"Cush will stretch out her hands to God" (Psalm 68:31)

SIM Sudan Newsletter



Harvest Workers ...

From Everywhere to Sudan

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See updates of Sudan projects at:

www.sim.org

LISTENING TO THE SUDANESE

The program, Rebuilding Southern Sudan: Church and Nation, includes very practical health and clean water interventions. Our team has grown to 5, including 3 Sudanese workers, and a Christian Ethiopian water drilling partner.

After setting up an office/store room we then turned our attention to the water system for Doro clinic--building two brick chambers, making a reinforced concrete tank stand and installing all the HDPE pipework in trenches, together with gate valves. It was a great moment when we turned on the electric borehole pump and – after a short wait – water started to fill the two tanks! The next phase will include connecting the tanks directly to the plumbing in the new clinic building, and to complete the connection to the old water tower which we hope to bring back into use.

We visited the communities around Mabaan county. We sit with the leaders, discuss the help we can offer, we then organise a teaching morning for the whole community with Bible and basics in health and hygiene teaching. We have given out packages to each



Buffalo carrying drilling rig to Doro

household containing soap, settlement sachets and a filter cloth. We have completed this work in the villages of Nalgan and Lokaji. At Nalgan we followed up with a day making community sand filters out of 200 litre fuel drums. People can now collect filtered water!

In February the population of Doro was treated to an unusual sight: a buffalo airplane bringing 4 tons of drilling equipment for the borehole drilling programme. The goal: drill 4 wells before the onset of the rainy season. We are in partnership with a Christian Ethiopian borehole drilling company. At the time of writing 2 boreholes have been drilled successfully, the first one in Lokaji where about 300 people will soon have safe, clean water only a few minutes' walk away.

Pray that we might honour the Lord in the many contacts and that people will praise the Lord.

--Justin Agnes



Drilling rig emerging from plane

Praise for:

- The start of the exciting drilling work!
- New staff

Pray for:

- The drilling work ahead before the rains in May



Missionary from North East India

SUDAN HARVEST WORKERS

SIM is intentionally trying to model the body of Christ and show how we will live for all eternity! God is using Kenyans, Ethiopians, Nigerians and Indians to show the Sudanese that they are precious to the worldwide body of Christ. This makes the people notice when people come and STAY with them. But in a country troubled by ethnic conflicts a unified international and multicultural team of missionaries in Sudan gives a huge Christian message.

During the last four years they have identified with the Sudanese. They taught and mobilized their students to do mission outreach in surrounding areas, visited malnourished children and started some churches in villages. They have been evacuated to safety by Sudanese neighbours, three of these families were burnt out at the Atar Teacher Training Center during a pre-dawn raid

Praise for:

- The many countries that have sent missionaries and the churches that support them

Pray for:

- More to join the harvest field!

on December 31, 2009. Now one desires to bring the gospel to the tribal group who attacked them.

The Sudan Harvest Workers project needs funding to help cover these missionaries travel and housing/set-up costs. One trip in or out of Sudan costs one person \$700 and transportation of supplies is \$2.00/kilo.

SIM Sudan is blessed as a new Indian missionary, will soon arrive. Just like the others, his home churches are sending the daily living money and praying for him. But he, and the other 16 need funding with their high travel and involvement costs in Sudan. Please support Sudan Harvest Workers **SD 98200**

-JoAnn Brant



African missionaries in worship

HOW DO CHURCHES START?

God's work in Buma opened when two Christian soldiers who had been in Uganda went home to their village and wanted to start a church. The two invited the Sudan Interior Church pastor and SIM workers to share and teach. The result: people responded. Since Buma is only a 1 1/2 hour walk, many intentional visits,

language recordings on hand-wind machines, Jesus film and Bible distribution have been a huge blessing to this new church.



Man being baptised in the Nile river

The Lord answered our prayer and we have encountered Sudanese with prepared hearts. Even among SIM's Basic Education Learning Center students, some volunteered and often walked long distances to share Christ with their missionary teachers. Multiple visits resulted in people responding to the gospel.

Christian Sudanese are the key, providing invitations to many areas and giving their testimonies. They are the backbone of tomorrow's church. House-to-house visiting and sharing the gospel with small groups of people are the primary ways the Lord uses to call people to faith and how worshiping groups start. SIMers from Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Kenya, US, Canada, Germany, France, Switzerland, UK, and New Zealand over the last 4 years have found Sudanese curious about visitors, hospitable and often gather around a person carrying a Bible.

All has NOT gone smoothly though. There are places where leaders of the African traditional beliefs have refused

to shake hands, some even threatened witnessing Christians if they return. In some places there is no one who can read or share from the Bible while others showed no sustained interest. Some new believers have been killed in intertribal unrest, and one outreach was cut short when a passport and money were stolen at night—but the Lord continues to work. Here are some examples:

Along the Sobat river, volunteer students evangelized house by house, got the people to tithe and built a narrow, small, grass roofed church. Praise the Lord that now at Wunboot Christ's light shines.

At Abwong, the believers rallied to create a church and now recently people prepared bricks for their more permanent church structure.

Aba, located east of Atar now has a dedicated church because of testimonies of Sudanese believers as well as outreach of German, Nigerian and Ethiopian evangelists.

Near Wetkiech, an area where there only seem to be women and children because men continue to serve in the army, one woman became a believer. Her husband who returned came to ask how he too could be forgiven of the bad things he did as a soldier and wanted to become a Christian.

-Getachew Abo and Henrik Emlick

Praise for:

- The growth of the church and many new believers;

Pray for:

- The work of the Spirit in many more communities;
- The work of the Sudanese pastors



Missionary sharing with women

HIV/AIDS IN SUDAN

HIV/AIDS is a big problem in Africa. The tragedy of Sudan's war and population isolation have kept HIV/AIDS occurrence low in South Sudan, but now returning refugees and increased travel have changed the situation. Christian lifestyle practices are not the norm; transformation of the heart is needed. Since sexually transmitted illnesses are common, we have a ready opening to speak frankly.

This ministry has been embraced by Debbie with the Mabaan people. She says: "this past year I proposed serious, focused, sustained training of trainers, asked local Sudanese church leaders to recommend students, knocked on what I thought were new doors of opportunity—but was met with huge language and gender barriers.



This forced new questions on how Christ's real life change can be brought to the women of Mabaan. I noticed women don't know who they are in Christ. Women weren't taking communion yet they responded with great joy at the first women's conference two months ago."

"As I spent time with women in the Doro Nutrition Village, I learned how they love their people and their land. I witnessed their commitment to their malnourished children. The Lord revealed a highly relational approach rather than the stand up and hold a formal class strategy.

Now God has raised up Sani, a university educated Mabaan woman who is coming back to her home area and is interested in being my translator and co-worker. Praise the Lord that HIV/AIDS is not common in our area. Pray God's grace will impact lives, and keep it that way." Project **SD 98020**

- Debbie Sardo

Praise for:

- Sani whom the Lord has provided to help this vital ministry;

Pray for:

- The Lord to continue to open the doors in Mabaan;
- The Gospel to transform lives of those affected by HIV/AIDS;

GOD CHANGES PEOPLE

Sam" arrived at the Sudan Interior Church Secondary School in 2008 for our very first term – English, Bible and Agriculture preparing for full Kenyan curriculum the next term. Sam is about 30, single, though



Secondary school student in dictation

most of his classmates had married young in refugee camps. He was a bit gruff and stubborn. I had heard that Sam had an alcohol problem, even though he came to the school knowing our standards. He had been working for a government agency but he made a decision to move forward by setting education as a priority in his life.

The first assignment was for each student to tell the class about his journey to Yabus. Most shared how they arrived during rainy season when there are no passable roads so had to walk – through mud, sometimes for 2-3 days, carrying their belongings. Their stories spoke of great determination to get an education, even at the cost of leaving wives and children behind for 3 months at a time.

Sam, however, was from Yabus, so he got up and said, "The story of my trip is really short because I got here in five minutes. But what I want to say is that I am one of those people who have a problem with alcohol and drugs. So I am telling you all here, right now, that I want to follow Jesus and be done with these things." Wow! What a blessing to the heart of a teacher, and God!

As the school year continued, Sam studied, grumped some as was his nature, and did okay in his classes. During

third term, some dissension arose against me. Tuition was a problem because education in the refugee camps was free. The students went on strike. Sam was very threatening. I was concerned but happily, he backed off. I was subsequently pulled out of Yabus for several months, and our tender Bible teacher from India, began working with the class on Biblical standards, forgiveness, and becoming the people God intended them to be.

When I returned to Yabus, I found Sam happily working to make school fees and leading his class mates to do the same. He had a very different and friendly demeanor. Most recently, when a violent incident occurred, I found Sam rushing in to get me out to safety and then sitting outside the house where the missionaries sequestered for the night. God had been working in him and he had begun working in his church. His is now focused on becoming a Godly leader and helpful members of the community

Sam has grown much in the Lord and loves Him with his heart. He is developing spiritual, social and moral standards that honor God and is a joy to his friends and teachers. It will be exciting to see how God uses the strong personality Sam is now also mellowing with respect and love for his community. This is the kind of leadership development we pray for daily using the school as our tool.

- Phalice Vander Pol

Praise for:

- The miracle of change in people's lives;

Pray for:

- Continued growth of the students;

How to Give?

How can we give to the projects in Sudan? The process is quite simple. Each project in the SIM system is accompanied by a project number which has been posted next to the project name. These allow people to give to the project and also receive a tax deductible receipt. Cheques can be sent to SIM offices worldwide via the addresses on the right. The memo line would then contain the **PROJECT NUMBER**. For more information check out

www.sim.org/index.php/project

Project Name	Project Number
Sudan Harvest Worker (AASA)	98200
Safe Drinking Water	98021
Rebuilding Southern Sudan Church and Nation	98012
Gideon Theological College	98816
Hope for Sudan HIV/AIDS	98020
Memorial Health Center & CHW Training School	98018
Metal WorkSHED	98826
Sudan Interior Church Secondary School	98019
Church Discipleship and Training	98103
Church Planting	82077

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