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THE WALK OF FAITH IN SUDAN

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SIM has been blessed with the progress and changes experienced over the past four years in the initiative in "Rebuilding Southern Sudan: Church and Nation" program. This report is to mobilize you to pray for Sudan. The window of peace between North and South Sudan is at risk as the referendum between north and south Sudan is only 15 months away. **Pray** for the Sudanese, the government and us as we are called to represent Jesus.

This is an overview of how the Lord has truly guided, provided and shown us undreamed of things in the process. The glory belongs to God because everything starts with obedience to the Lord as He keeps showing us the plans He has already laid out for us (Ephesians 2:10).

SIM, along with our supporting partners, stuck our necks out in obedience when the peace agreement was being signed, ending decades of blood-shed in Southern Sudan. Our involvement began back in 2004 and 2005 when some missionaries obeyed the Lord's guidance to bring SIM back into south Sudan with a clear vision to rebuild Southern Sudan, church and nation. [SIM has been there as early as the 1930s.] The Lord has now blessed us with dozens of missionaries from 13 nations to join hands to serve the Sudanese.

BUT we had lots of creative adjustments! We went to Sudan to train primary school teachers, but we couldn't find enough young adults to train. Plan B was to set up Basic Education Learning Centers to get them up to standard so they could take teacher training. Since then, 133 students have graduated from the government-approved Accelerated Learning Program in four centers and another center is progressing in training adults who never had a chance to go to school because of the war. In the process of this training, about 2/3 of the students came into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We plan to initiate more centers as the Lord provides.

The new "Fast Track Teacher Training" has been going for over a month. Our vision is for Sudanese teachers to finish with a portable skill and a heart for serving the Lord when they finish. Because of the educational entry strategy, about 400 Sudanese have made decisions to follow the Lord, been baptized, and 10 churches have been started. Some have built little meeting places; others just meet under trees.

Over the last four years we've been involved in intentional discipleship of about 600 individuals in Abwong, Atar, Malakal, Thiangrial, Doro, Meiut and Yabus areas from seven denominational backgrounds (including Catholic). A clinic was started to address the health needs and between 50-100 people are treated each day. Our doctor has just gotten Ministry of Health permission this month to receive the medications and treat endemic leprosy in the area. The second class of Community Health Workers will graduate soon to serve their people; a nutrition village for rehabilitating children has brought help to over 250 kids.

The HIV/AIDS project fulfilled our donors' expectations, but for a number of reasons it didn't work very well from our perspective. . . . We have moved to grass-roots and a more integrated approach. Our

new effort is starting with the mothers of the malnourished kids who stay with their little ones while the children recover.

We never anticipated how complex it is to work in Sudan. Just to implement the initial ideas was tough, but we continued to expand and respond to our challenges on the ground:

- God blessed us with an experienced missionary who responded to the Sudanese request for a secondary school. The Sudanese church-owned school has been up and going is ready to admit 9th grade students next month while the present class will start 10th grade in January.
- Clean water filtration and chlorination have blessed people. More wells are in the planning stage. The Lord has blessed SIM with a number of missionary specialists to address this.
- God blessed us with a missionary who envisioned a suspension bridge to address one isolated location (due to 6 months of a flooded rainy season river). Now five ethnic groups can travel back and forth on a [foot] bridge they helped to build. <http://yabusbridge.blogspot.com/>
- God blessed with medical missionaries who initiated a Ministry of Health approved community health worker training and the community health care center.
- God brought an evangelist who is traveling side-by-side with Sudanese pastors using village evangelistic meetings, reaching out often door-to-door AND inspiring the Sudanese to follow his example even though it's not a high-finance initiative.
- The Jesus film is wonderful for this oral culture.
- The Lord has mobilized Ethiopian missionaries working cross-culturally to disciple and bring life-related mentoring to little groups of seekers and Christians.
- God's answer to the challenges of travel was the provision of an airplane and a pilot.
- The nutrition village is a ministry of mercy and the new Language Recordings MP-3 music, messages and Scriptures are shared as mothers and families sometimes stay for weeks with the ill child. Some of these children are malnourished not only because because of food shortages, but because of the cultural belief that you don't feed or hydrate ill children. <http://gwnafrica.blogspot.com>
- We had no idea of the way the Sudanese and the churches would push forward, but we're blessed to see them build their own churches, start their own primary schools as an outreach of the church, step forward in peace and reconciliation gatherings, bringing health care to the community, and run their own theological college.
- A recent ministry is involvement with four of the "lost boys," kids who fled Sudan without parents during the war and were airlifted to USA. These four are now seminary students and doing an internship with us in Sudan serving their own people. After they graduate, they plan to return. What a fabulous opportunity to enable Sudanese to come back and rebuild their own country.