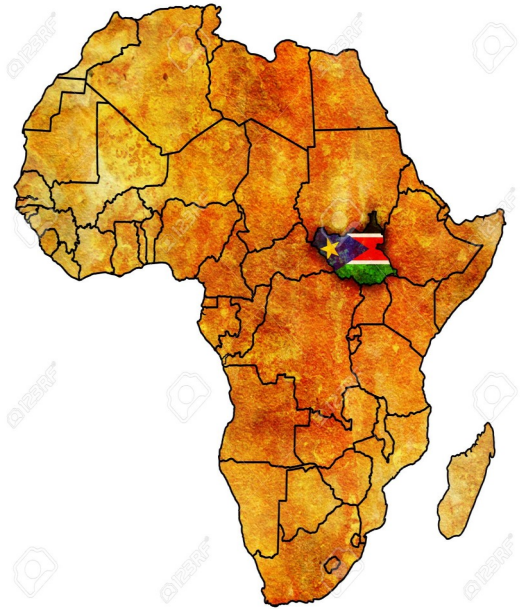


News updates from South Sudan



"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain & the snow come down from heaven
& do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth & sprout,
giving seed to the sower & bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty;
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
& shall succeed in the thing
for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55: 8-11



Dear praying Family & Friends,

November 2020

Chuck Swindoll has said, "God's heavenly plan doesn't always make earthly sense." This is true when we think of the Covid-19 pandemic that our world has been experiencing for this past year. And in this, our SIM missionaries leaving South Sudan with some of us returning to our home countries until things settled down. I've been pondering this for quite some time now, wondering what our Lord Jesus would do in & through this situation.

I returned to Doro on Saturday, October 3rd. I had a warm welcome from so many of my Mabaan & Sudanese friends. It was so sweet to see them all again. My dear Doro family!!! During that first 2 weeks of my arrival, I continually had pastors visiting me, welcoming me back & telling me of what was going on in their churches & communities. What I heard amazed me!

The Sudan Interior Church appointed a new executive council! With this, after much discussion, they made the decision to begin to ordain new pastors, appoint new church elders & evangelists from all tribal churches (within the SIC Church). I found out that all those ordained have been mentored for the past 3 years! The Mabaan Church ordained 32 new pastors,. The Uduk Church ordained 2 new pastors. And the Jumjum church (3-4 year old church & growing) ordained 2 pastors from their own people! The older & seasoned pastors will continue to follow & mentor these new pastors. God is building His Church.

Several Mabaan churches have started Bible studies during the week. There are Bible studies in Mabaan language & an English Bible study. There were young people who began attending who could not read either Mabaan or English, and so the church started up Mabaan & English language classes. Our church in Doro has a small language class as well. The Lord is doing amazing things here. I'm beginning to see that God had to get us out of the way long enough so that He could work. And now, our Mabaan pastors are testifying to us of what God is doing amongst them. Please continue to pray for our Sudanese & South Sudanese Churches, that God's Spirit will continue to give our pastors a vision of His plan. And pray for the hearts of the young people, that He would transform their lives for His glory. God is so good. God is continuing to build His Church!



Bounj Church Mabaan Language Class

For several years now, I have been managing our Deep Roots Bookstore. We sell mostly Bibles & songbooks in several languages. Sudanese & South Sudanese love to sing, and so I am always running out of songbooks! Our bookstore is a part of our Church Discipleship Project, and so the funds that we get allow us to provide these Bibles & songbooks at a low cost. What a blessing this is to all who come.

Since this is an "oral" society where story-telling is preferred, most people here are not really interested in reading. And this includes reading the Bible, as well. For quite sometime now, I have felt the Lord speaking to me about opening up a library. And so, in early March '20, I opened our Deep Roots Resource Centre. I managed to collect Bible study materials, commentaries, as well



as children's encyclopaedias, health books, science books, etc to spark curiosity in learning. However, as you know, Covid '19 pandemic entered South Sudan in mid-March, and all of us missionaries left & were away for 6 months.

In early October, I reopened the Bookstore & library. I am happy to say that many people have come by to either buy a Bible or Songbook, or to sit & read in our library! My heart is so full of joy in seeing this. The interest to learn beyond what they already know just thrills my heart.

In early October, I had 2 staff: Katrina & Eliya. Katrina works in the bookstore & Eliya is managing the library. We have been in need of a cleaning lady, as it is so dusty here in Mabaan county. And so, in mid-November, I hired Mary. She is my neighbor & is a delight! Mary is thrilled to join us & arrives 30 minutes early for work. :) Mary does not know how to read or write. I have encouraged her to take the opportunity to learn. Eliya is willing & available to teach her either in English or Arabic.

I am so happy to have these 3 people in my life. Pray that the Lord will give me many opportunities to encourage them in the Lord.



Sandy with Mary

Thank you all so very much for your faithful prayers for me, your encouraging letters & for your support. You are all such a blessing to me, as I live & shine for Jesus in this community. God's hand is moving & stirring their hearts towards Himself! And as Christmas is approaching, may God's Spirit engulf you in His presence & love, as you celebrate God's greatest gift to us, His Son, Jesus Christ!

In the Joy of Serving Jesus,

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