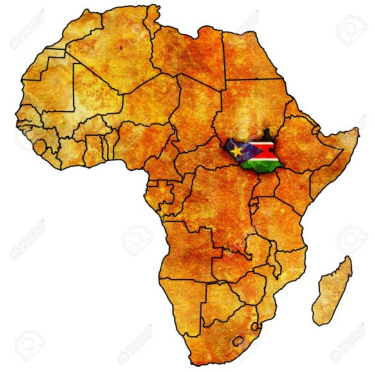


News Updates from South Sudan

“Therefore,
as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
so walk in Him,
rooted & built up in Him
and established in the faith
just as you were taught
abounding in thanksgiving.”
Colossians 2:6-7



Dear praying Family & Friends,

August 2023

A few weeks ago during a Sunday church service, a frail looking man got up out of his seat & walked to the front. He began by saying that his name was Stephen & that most people in the church knew him well, as he used to be an evangelist in this church. About 13 years ago, he said he had walked away from the Lord. And over those many years, he ruined he & his family's lives. He held a Bible in his hand & asked someone to read the passage of scripture in Luke 15:11-24 about the prodigal son. He said that this was about him! Now, he wants to stop going down this destructive path and to return to the Lord in repentance and to publicly (before the church) to say he is sorry. He wants to return to the Lord & to the church. As he was speaking he was crying, wiping tears from his eyes. After he had spoken, a church elder got up out of his seat & put his arm around him. John Loma, the church elder, knows what it is to repent & come back to the Lord & church in humility. John said he would pray. At that time, all the church ladies & choir came up to pray for Stephen. After that, John turned to the 3 pastors who were still seated, and asked them to come up to pray for Stephen. The pastors & church elders surrounded Stephen as he knelt on the floor and they prayed over him. Many had tears in their eyes. During all of this, Stephen was still crying.

What a testimony! Stephen's wife, Grace works for me. Each week she cleans my house & washes my clothes. When Stephen walked away from the Lord, this caused huge problems in his marriage &



Grace had really suffered. Due to depression, many times Grace accepted the invitation from her neighborhood ladies to come to drink their local wine. Grace's life began to spiral downwards as well. However, last year, Grace made the decision to stop drinking with her neighbor ladies. Grace said she was placing her trust & life in the Lord. Grace began to save her money, just small amounts at the time. She has managed to replace her grass roof with a tin roof, as well as she is able to purchase good food & household items. Grace's life is a testimony to all who know her, including her husband, Stephen. Please pray for Stephen & Grace as they grow in the Lord & in their marriage relationship. Also, their 8 year old grand-daughter has just passed away due to malaria. Pray that the Lord will bring comfort as well as bring them closer to the Lord.



SIM South Sudan is now partnering with The Timothy Initiative (TTI) that is a discipleship & church planting mission. TTI's program is very similar to Navigators in that they have a strong Believer who shares the Gospel to their local people & disciples these new believers. TTI teachers will come to Doro 3-4 times a year to teach these Disciples (who they call a "Paul") in Bible, how to lead people to Christ & to disciple them. These teaching sessions will be held in the Doro local Church. I am involved through our Church Discipleship Project, who will host these teachers (from Kenya), provide lunch for students during teaching sessions, as well as to encourage & pray for the Mabaan pastor who will be following these students during the 3 months between these teaching sessions. The program will begin this September. There are 5 tribal churches that will be sending their chosen students. They will be from the Mabaan, Uduk, Jumjum, Burun & Koma Churches. A total of 25 students.

To inform & encourage these churches, we held a "Vision Casting" Seminar on August 3. We had 50 pastors & church elders come to hear about discipleship & church planting. I managed all the preparations for this 1-day seminar. The Doro church was happy to host & I hired a lovely Christian lady to prepare a lunch for 60 people! Rhoda did a fantastic job with many young ladies helping her & serving the meal. The response from these pastors & elders was very positive & enthusiastic. Many pastors do not know how to disciple their own people (as they have shared with me privately). They said that this is the type of teaching that they have been wanting. I am so happy to have a small part in this for the next 2 years. Seeing the Sudanese churches having a vision to reach people for Christ & to disciple them just thrills my heart!



I'm continuing to disciple the 2 ladies who work in our Deep Roots Bookstore. It is a delight to read God's Word with them 4 days/week & to see them grasping spiritual truths & insights in the scripture passages that we are studying.

One of the other jobs that I have been doing for about 4 years is to pay the taxes for our SIM South Sudanese staff. This requires me to go to Juba every so often throughout the year. It has been quite straightforward as I would fill out a few forms from the Tax Office & then pay the taxes at our bank. However, this year the Ministry of Finance have developed an online program to pay staff taxes. Like anything new, it takes time to work out all the kinks & the process is quite slow. And so, during June & July, I was back & forth to Juba from Doro to get SIM established in online banking as well as the NRA online site. I think I was in Juba for a total of 5 weeks. I'm thankful for many people from the bank & the tax office who were kind & helped me a lot! Now, I can say that SIM is able to pay staff taxes online from Doro (& praying that the internet will work too). God is so good.

Thank you all so much for your faithful prayers, letters & texts messages of encouragement & support for me. I feel very blessed. Knowing that you are all praying for me is such an encouragement & keeps me going. I am seeing the Sudanese churches growing stronger in Him & moving towards teaching & discipling their own people. What a wonderful thing to see God's hand strengthening His Church. You are a part of this!

In the Joy of Serving Jesus,
Sandy Ewan

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