

Serving South Sudan

A Report from Chuck Dennis & Dennis Cady
November 2022



Going to South Sudan

Dennis and Dan Copeland plan to go to South Sudan in November. Dennis and Dan were classmates at York College, graduating in 1966. The Copelands have been generous supporters of this work for a long time. While Dennis and Chuck are in daily communication with several who are boots on the ground members of our team, after 15 trips starting in 2012, Dennis was last in South Sudan in March 2017 when both kidneys failed. That was followed by 18 months on dialysis, a very successful kidney transplant and covid. He is so eager to go again.



**Leap of Faith
Annual \$100,000 Matching
Challenge Launch**

For the past few years we have been blessed with a matching challenge that begins November

1st and ends January 31st. Anything given to Starfish Foundation during that period will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000. Generous donors giving from \$10 up have made this goal attainable every year. It is now time to do this again.

We cannot emphasize how critical this \$200,000 is to what we do. Once reached that does not eliminate the need for other donations the balance of the year but it goes a long way.

We would like to devote the space in this report to telling some of the ways these gifts and their match will be used. Additionally, experience tells us there will be doors open during 2023 that we don't even know about now, but you can count on dollars going to the following:



Sewing Class

**Jonglei Christian Vocational
Boarding School**

Financially this is the elephant in the room. It is also the most effective in both helping others to help themselves almost immediately and as an evangelistic tool. Adults are taught computers (IT), sewing,

electrical, agriculture (gardening) and Bible. Ninety one are expected to graduate November 17th with Dennis and Dan in attendance. Our goal is to accept 100 students for each of the 5 month terms in 2023. In addition to teaching practical skills, a good number of students are baptized each term. During the last 4 terms 63%, 48%, 63%, and 57% have obeyed the gospel. Some of the strongest Christians in the eleven congregations with which we work are former JCVBS students. While students pay tuition that covers only a small part of the JCVBS budget. Facilities are superior and complete. Financially the major costs are 3 meals a day, teacher's salaries and supplies, especially for the sewing and electrical classes.



New Sudan Primary School

We choose to help others in a lasting way through education. JCVBS does this. There are also two primary school campuses of New Sudan Primary School which do as well. The Bor campus has about 1285 students preschool through 8th grade. The Mangala campus which is in a refugee camp has about 200. Tuition is charged which pays the day to day expenses. From time to time we have to help with facilities and special needs. Both schools are under the direction of a three

member board of faithful South Sudanese Christian men.



Padiet Congregational Seminars

Initiated by local evangelists, three to four day seminars at the congregational level have caught on and become an effective method of evangelism and maturing members. Seminars cost from \$450 to \$750. This is money well spent. We want to encourage more of these.



New Works: Aweil & Lankien

Until recently, we have restricted our efforts to Jonglei State with the exception of one work in the national capital of Juba, where a number of members from Bor moved and needed help in starting a congregation. Travel within the state is from ok to difficult to impossible—especially in the rainy season. Two works which we did not initiate have recently been put before us. We couldn't say no. In fact, we would love to see the gospel be taken to other new areas. Everything takes money. Over two years ago we were made aware of some World English Institute students in Aweil, in extreme north South Sudan near the border with Sudan who had learned the gospel and wanted to be baptized. Four evangelists were sent there for about a week. During that visit 13 were baptized. No one from outside Aweil has been there since. One of the first baptized was Bartholomayo Lang Akol; single, age 23 with no formal Bible training. Then the four evangelists left. He has a passion for souls that is rare. With no support

until recently, he has baptized over 120 others in 4 or 5 locations. The largest group is in Aweil East Adiercien, his home village. Sixty four have been baptized there. Recent Sunday worship attendances have been 90 104 and 128. They meet under trees. We have recently provided 60 stackable plastic chairs. They were taken as far as possible by a vehicle then on four motorcycles, each carrying a stack of fifteen. As soon as the rainy season ends later this month, they will begin making bricks. Once the bricks are fired, we need money to pay for construction of a church building, including rafters and sheet iron for the roof. Brethren in Tennessee have bought a motorcycle for the work. We hope to send an experienced evangelist there for two weeks soon. This is currently the brightest part of what we do and we think the best is yet to be. Barth will reach out to nearby villages. More churches will be planted.

Linkien is the second recent unsought opportunity. David Luk Jok Rian is from this area. He was converted in a refugee camp in Ethiopia and was trained there in clinical medicine. He was sent to JCVBS where he graduated in 2021 then returned to Ethiopia. In July he decided to move himself, age twenty five and his wife back to his home area in South Sudan and share the gospel. Again, with no support until recently, he began knocking doors and teaching in late July. We have sent an experienced evangelist there for a seminar. Eight have now been baptized. Recent Sunday church attendance was 17.

We are providing part time support for these two men as well as literature. We hope to have 5-10 from the two places enroll at JCVBS when the next term starts in January. We may need to provide transportation money for them. Their training and especially their Bible instruction will make them great assets to these new congregations. We are searching similar places, through people who

know people and through WEI and WBS teachers in the U.S. How many of these can we take on our plate? Donors have the answer.



Steel Container

A unique, perhaps once in a life time, opportunity is on its way to South Sudan. Initiated by Missions Printing in Arlington, Texas, but participated in by World Bible School, Apologetics Press, Mission Seed Sowers and others, a 20 ft. steel container is currently enroute to Africa. It is loaded with Bibles, song books and a huge amount of literature. It will go to Kenya where the container and ½ the contents will remain. We must then have the other half reloaded and transported to Bor. There are 4000 Bibles in this shipment, plus so much more that will impact the work for a long time. We do not know the cost of getting our ½ from Kenya to Bor. We are investigating options, but we must have cash in hand when it gets to Kenya.

A lesser portion of the match will be used for support of the orphanages in Haiti, when income from sponsors there is not sufficient.

Your dollars will be spent wisely. They will be stretched. Every donor dollar goes all the way to the work. Not one cent of donor money goes to a U.S. salary, our trip, or to fund raising and reporting. Dimes make dollars so all amounts are appreciated but obviously to raise \$100,000 it takes some sizable checks. Thanks in advance!

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