



Serving South Sudan

A Report from Chuck Dennis & Dennis Cady
May 2024



South Sudanese teaching at Leadership Training in Aweil

Spotlight: Aweil

Aweil is in extreme north South Sudan where current spiritual growth is beyond our dreams. When we began in 2012, our initial focus was limited to Jonglei state, the largest of the 10 states in South Sudan. In 2020, 4 evangelists were sent 600 miles north to teach World English Institute students who wanted to be baptized. During their 8 day visit, 13 were baptized and the ripest field yet for the gospel was found. Aweil is the name of both the province and the provincial capital. In the rural areas, roads quickly turn to paths which quickly turn to trails through the bush then disappear entirely. During the six month dry season, lack of water is a huge problem. Schools are few and most are taught by untrained volunteers. Medical clinics are non-existent. An effective method of evangelism is three day "seminars" taught several hours each day. In most cases, villagers never heard the gospel before the seminars began but on the 3rd day there are almost always baptisms and a new church begun; with new Christians in need of further teaching. During the December 2023 trip, Chuck and Dennis taught a five day Leadership Training effort. Twenty-nine men were invited from several

congregations. It was so successful another but larger event was held in March. South Sudanese preachers did the teaching. Forty-two attended. With such rapid growth, we know that many have been properly taught about Bible baptism and that Jesus established only one church but they have so much more to learn. And they are eager.



62 Baptized at Pagaak 3-24-2024

After both training sessions some who attended took the initiative to plant new churches. At the time of the December seminar there were 7 congregations in that region. At that time, they set the goal of 7 new congregations by the end of 2024. As of May 16th, TWENTY new congregations have already been established. They now predict by the end of 2024 there will be 35 - 50 congregations in the Aweil area alone. They are asking for funding for two more training efforts this year. Cost: \$13,000 each. Most churches start meeting under trees. Almost immediately they build church buildings out of poles and grass. These provide shade but do not turn water during rains. We provide plastic tarps to cover the roofs. \$100 each. Do you recognize they do what they can (poles and grass from the bush and

labor). They do not have money. That is where we help.



Adierchien members made bricks

As congregations grow and leadership is stable, we try to provide sheet iron buildings, commonly 6m x 16m. In two locations, brick buildings have been built. In those places members made thousands of bricks from mud and cow manure. Land is usually donated by someone in the village.



When we can, we provide stackable plastic chairs \$15 each. We could use 500 chairs now and the number increases weekly. Can you be part of this?

Multipurpose Building at Mangala NSPS

Enrollment at the two primary schools we are directly involved with continues to grow. The main campus in Bor has over 1000 students; preschool through 8th grade. The Mangala campus had just over 200 students last year and were at capacity. This year it has

502. We have recently been able to build a sheet iron multipurpose building on the Mangala campus.



Mangala Multi-Purpose Bldg.

It is a classroom but serves other purposes, too, including a place for the church to meet on Sundays. Both are regarded as excellent schools by government authorities. They are in the top 10% of the schools of the nation, though they have dirt floors and no electricity. At one time every student had a desk. We can no longer say that. Teachers are dedicated. The average teacher's salary is \$48-\$50 monthly.



Jonglei Kher Dawech
(Pictured-Far Right)

An introduction to Jonglei Kher Dawech is in order. The vocational boarding school is not a Bible school. It is a vocational/trade school teaching electrical, tailoring and computers to adults. Each student selects one of the three trades but all must also study Bible. During the last term 69% were baptized. We offered scholarships to a few church members from distant congregations, knowing they will be a help to their home churches after the five month course. We want them to have an investment

so they must get to the campus on their own. We will train, feed and house them and provide a way for them to return home. One man was late at the beginning of the current term. It was assumed he wasn't coming. When he showed up, HE HAD WALKED TWELVE DAYS, 200 MILES in the African heat to get to Bor. Motivated? Yes! He is making good student, learning electrical and will be a better church leader when he goes home.

Who Are Our Donors

People without who this could not happen. Both congregations which recognize this as one of the most fruitful works on a foreign field and individuals who give above and beyond what they put in the plate on Sunday are partners and heroes. Individuals vary from some with deep pockets to a 93 year old widow who lives in low income government housing and sends \$50 monthly. Some send monthly. Some periodically. Some make irregular donations for some project they want to make happen. Some send donations in memory of someone who passes away and we notify the family. There are families with "coin cans" or jars on their kitchen cabinets and Sunday School classes who pass a basket so their members, often children, can help kids and adults in the newest nation on earth.



It takes a lot to do what is being done. As the work grows it takes more and more. The monthly budget for the vocational boarding school alone is \$26,838. This year we stretched to accept 75 students a term. If we are able to continue

with that number next year depends on donors. We have capacity for 100. There are three supported evangelists in Aweil. Combined, they hold 6 seminars each month at an average cost of \$600. Others which are more remote cost more. Printing correspondence courses, an occasional women's or children's seminar, unbudgeted but for-sure maintenance needs at JCVBS all add up.

Go Ye Meant Go Us

It is difficult to write a book about an unfinished work but we have co-authored "Go Ye Meant Go Us", the story of this effort through late 2023. The 111 page book is free for the asking. Send us your snail mail address. Ask for more than one copy if you want to place it in the hands of friends, mission committee members or elders. Unfortunately, the explosion of the work in Aweil province is taking place after the book was sent to the printer, but those who have read it have found it enjoyable and inspiring.

PLEASE DONATE



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