



Sudan News

THE GOSPEL SPREADS IN NORTHEAST AFRICA!

JOHN L. KACHELMAN, JR.

JUDSONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST, JUDSONIA, ARKANSAS

Greetings from your brother in Juba, Sudan

Peter Ladu is a gospel evangelist in Sudan. He has been a great help in our efforts of sowing the gospel seed in Sudan. Here is part of an email that I am using to introduce this newsletter concerning the Lord's work in Sudan...

Dear John,
Greetings to you in the name of the Lord. I came to Juba yesterday to do some work for two weeks, there after I will go to Yei...My family is scattered both in Kenya and in Sudan therefore I cannot send to you a group photo of my family that you requested to share with brethren. My first son is in Khartoum at the University, the second born is in Yei and he is a student in a high school, my daughter

and her mother are in Nairobi... Please find the greeting to my brethren in USA and the attached photos taken recently in my mission work in Sudan...What we have been praying for all this time is space for congregation...It is not easy to get a place for hire in Juba and if you get, it is very expensive to pay the rent. God has answered our prayer this morning when we got a room of 5x4m square...This is an opportunity for the presence of Church of Christ to be felt in Juba because we are going to use the facility for our prayers, workshops, trainings and worshipping...there is hope in Jesus name. I sincerely need your help at this point in time.

Best regards, Peter

Understanding the urgency of Sudan

Located in eastern Africa lies a nation has the potential of emerging as a strong anchor in the plan for the heralding of the gospel message throughout Africa's most troubled regions. In order to frame the possibilities that are opened for us consider first some of the relevant facts about Sudan's present circumstances and then read of efforts within the nation.

Sudan's land mass is the largest in Africa (it is roughly one-fourth of the size of the United States). Sudan is

strategically located in northeast Africa bordering nine countries and a sea coast (Egypt to the north, Libya to the northwest, Chad to the west, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest, Uganda and Kenya to the southeast, Ethiopia and Eritrea to the east, and the Red Sea).

Ever since its independence from the United Kingdom in 1956 the strategic position of Sudan has fomented turmoil as internal forces have bitterly battled for governing leverage. The constant conflicts have been fought



"Most of the rural youths in Southern Sudan are orphans"





on ethnic grounds as the Arabs of the north sought to vanquish the non-Arabs in the south and on religious pretenses as the Muslims of the north sought to exterminate any vestige of Christianity in the south. The economic, political, and social superiority of the non-Muslim, non-Arab south was sought by the north and subsequent history records how covetousness created a horrible turmoil. Following are the briefest of historical points that need to be known.

The violence of Islam has dominated this nation. Military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since independence in 1956. Sudan was embroiled in two prolonged civil wars during most of the remainder of the 20th century. The first civil war ended in 1972 but broke out again in 1983. The second war and famine-related effects resulted in more than four million people displaced and, according to rebel estimates, more than two million deaths over a period of two decades. Peace talks gained momentum in 2002-04 with the signing of several accords. The final North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in January 2005, granted the south autonomy for six years. A separate conflict broke out in the western region of Darfur in 2003 and has displaced nearly two million people and caused an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 deaths. The UN took command of the Darfur peacekeeping operation from the African Union on 31 December 2007 and the efforts of the UN have proven ineffective and rife with corruption so the situation has not been stabilized and has actually been encouraged!

Sudan's strategic position is highlighted by the effects of the almost constant ethnic and rebel militia fighting since the mid-20th century such has penetrated all of the neighboring states (Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda). The Darfur genocide continues unabated as residents are driven from their homes and murdered by Janjawid armed militia and the Sudanese military forces.

Even though peace accords have been reached anarchy's terror reigns with brutal cruelty in many parts of Sudan. Especially is this evidenced in the value that is accorded human life. The nation of Sudan is known as a source country for men, women, and children trafficked internally for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Sudan is also a transit and destination country for Ethiopian women trafficked abroad for domestic servitude. Sudanese women and girls are trafficked within the country, as well as possibly to Middle Eastern countries for domestic servitude. The terrorist rebel organization, *Lord's Resistance Army*, continues to harbor small numbers of Sudanese and Ugandan children in the southern part of the country for use as cooks, porters, and combatants and some of these children are also trafficked across borders into Uganda or the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Militia groups in Darfur, some are linked to the government, abduct women for short periods of forced labor and to perpetrate sexual violence.

The health concerns of Sudan are intimidating. The CIA lists the degree of risk in Sudan as "very high" for food or waterborne diseases (bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, dengue fever, African

trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), water contact diseases, and meningitis. The greatest health risks to the general population are the result of unsanitary water supply.

Religiously the nation of Sudan is divided into these groups: Sunni Muslim 70% (in north), Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum), and indigenous beliefs 25%.

Into this troubled nation comes the gospel's message of perfect peace, the treasured value and dignity of human life, and a security that is absolute!

Through our efforts three containers were collected and shipped into Sudan in 2007. The political difficulties have been constantly encountered in this project. Two of the containers were collected by the Cloverdale Church of Christ in Searcy, Arkansas and the third container was donated by MedShare International in Atlanta, Georgia. These were destined for the three major cities in South Sudan: Juba, Bor, and Waw.

Working close with us has been our brother Peter Ladu. Peter is Sudanese but because of the conflicts has been living in Kenya and making extended trips into south Sudan to preach and teach.

We are working with Peter and want to help him in his labors in Sudan. The opportunity is right and the future prospect for establishing a strong foundation of New Testament Christians in the south is more promising at this time than at any other time in decades.

Seizing the opportunities of Sudan

These email exchanges from Peter provides you information on events for January 2009. Understanding the circumstances of Sudan you will appreciate Peter's efforts. Please read his reports and consider what you and your congregation can do to help support his work.

Dear John,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord. I came to Juba yesterday to do some work for two weeks, there after I will go to Yei. My family is scattered both in Kenya and in Sudan therefore I cannot send to you a group photo of my family that you requested to share with brethren. My first son is in Khartoum at the University, the second born is in Yei and he is a student in a high school, my daughter and her mother are in Nairobi.

Please find the following greeting to my brethren in USA and the attached photos taken recently in my mission work in Sudan. The photos are large and it will take time for you to download. Peter

Dear Brethren in USA!

Greetings to you in the name of the Living Almighty God Creator of Heaven and Earth. May His holy name be glorified and adored in all the nations.



The health concerns of Sudan are intimidating



Praise God for the help, gifts, money, some materials for preaching that my brethren accorded to me during my visit to the US which has made it possible for me to travel to Southern Sudan to engage in preaching the Gospel to the Sudanese communities, the largest country in Africa.

My nation Sudan has been at war with itself for 30 of its 40 years of independence, that is, 17 years of the Anyanya war (1955-1972) and 13 years of the subsequent war waged by the SPLA. This is too much suffering and misery for any country and for any people to go through. The conflicts have had devastating implications for the Sudanese people. Human capital has been squandered, depreciated and dislodged, as productive young men and women have been killed, incapacitated and made to become refugees through wars. Obviously something must be very wrong for a human community to subject itself to generations of war!

Delivery of basic social services such as health, clean safe water for drinking, religious institutions, education, agriculture, was disrupted during the war thus increased cases of water borne diseases (WBD) such as cholera, kalazar, bilharzia, guinea worm.

The insufficient educational class blocks in rural communities has faced such disaster that education has resulted to the under tree classrooms which are out of bound to pupils during harsh weather conditions such as heavy rains and strong summer sun shine.

Infant mortality is always high due to insufficient medical equipments and medical facilities such as drugs, beds, x-rays, etc. People are malnourished due to insufficient food coupled with this is the lack of funds for capacity building in improved agricultural services, use of modern farming implements such as tractors, ox-traction and adoption of improved crop varieties that has also contributed to the increase of death rate in the poorest rural communities of Southern Sudan.

I am therefore appealing for urgent help from the Lord's church to rescue the lives of the poorest of Southern Sudan both spiritually and materially.
Peter

Dear John, Greetings to you in Jesus name!

I hope your ministry is doing well as planned by the living God. God is good all the time. What we have been praying for all this time is space for prayers and office for our congregation. It is not easy to get a place for hire in Juba and if you get, it is very expensive to pay the rent. God has answered our prayer this morning when we got a room of 5x4m square. It has electricity, water and good security. The place has a hall that can accommodate four hundred people for any kind of training. The rental for the hall is \$100 per day and we are planning to negotiate with the manager for us to use it on Sundays for lesser amount.

The rent for the office space is \$200 per month. It could have been at the rate of \$1,500-\$2,000 per month. The owners have giving us up to next week to come up with a rental of six months to secure the place and this can cost \$1,200 inclusive is the electric, security and water bill. This is an opportunity for the presence of church of Christ to be felt in Juba.



Peter meets with brethren in Nairobi to discuss church plantings in Sudan



Peter in a civic education workshop



Peter presented a workshop in Nairobi on church leadership training. Over 200 attended the series



Peter prepares for preaching in a funeral rite



We are going to use the facility for our prayers, workshops, training and worshipping. I therefore appeal to you and other brothers for recognition of help for church of Christ in Juba and Southern Sudan in general. I will be sending to you the snaps of the place by the end of the week. I know that the economy in the USA is bad but at least there is hope in Jesus name. I sincerely need your help at this point in time.

Thank you very much for your usual cooperation. May God bless your effort in building his Kingdom.

Sudan Mission Work Report (10 November 2008—07 January 2009)

Peter gives the following points in his report of evangelistic activities—As the above mentioned period some of the activities implemented are as follows;

- Leadership training in Nairobi on the 10th of November 2008
- Preaching points in Juba and Yei at various points
- Preaching over the radio in Yei
- Training on church leadership in Juba and Yei
- Training youths on spiritual development in Yei
- Workshop on civic voter education in Juba
- Training youths in income generating activities (IGA) such as brick laying

Achievements:

- Leadership training in Nairobi was attended by 200 students
- Formal launch of Churches of Christ took place in South Sudan and the process of registering GOSS (Government of South Sudan) Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs and Ministry of Gender and Social services
- Word of God on spiritual and social issues disseminated over the media targeting the youths who are vulnerable to non-religion, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, etc.
- Christians equipped with knowledge on how to manage internal and external conflicts in the Church and amongst themselves
- Youths acquired knowledge on the importance of their relationship to God and on how to build their faith
- Youth have come to know that their future lies on their hands and they have promised to put in to practice the knowledge of brick laying and burning it for in order to obtain case to afford their education and basic needs in their families

Sudan's Challenges for Christians:

- Sudanese Christians in Nairobi and Kampala who attended the leadership training were faced with many problems of returning to help evangelize:
- Transport to Sudan in order execute their services, documentation, and securing jobs in Southern Sudan
- Resettlement, reintegration and reconciliation of Christian refugees
- Land and premises of meeting places for the registered Church for Church activities is very expensive and hinders our assembling together for worship, prayers and training
- Money for radio airtime is not enough and transportation to and from one preaching point to the other (used car will be highly appreciated).

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- Insufficient manpower to facilitate various teaching in Southern Sudan, training materials such as projectors, slides, big screens, books with knowledge on adolescence mental health (criticizing drug abuse, alcohol) and issues related HIV/AIDS risks are not possible to find here.
- Most of the rural youths in Southern Sudan are orphans and do not have any initial capital to start up a small brick laying project

Sudan's Challenges for its society:

- Water borne diseases (WBD) cholera, kalazar, gernea worm, typhoid Most of the rural communities in Southern Sudan lack sufficient safe and clean water for drinking which is a health hazard and the evidence is the above diseases.
- Disruption of Primary and Nursery schools in rural areas. Pupils in rural communities are often disturbed in their studies since most of them study under trees and during the onset of the dry season which is characterized by strong sunshine and dusty winds that result to some diseases (trachoma and respiratory diseases). While on the onset of the heavy rains, they end up being washed under their tree kind of classrooms culminating to the increase in diseases such as malaria, fever, etc.
- Government hospitals and health centres do not have sufficient medical equipments and drugs.
- Lack of capacity on improved agricultural practices, modern farming methods, adoption of new technologies and farming equipments such as tractors and ox-traction, growing of hybrids as a result people are relying on basic food supplies from foreign countries leading to malnutrition of children, women, youths and the elderly due to insufficient food.

Responding to the pleas from Sudan

An Appeal to My Brethren in the Lord's Church:

My brethren, please realize the great crises that have struck Sudan—my country has nothing and needs everything, especially the Gospel and Christ's Church. We look to you for help and give you our plea to help your brethren in Sudan so we can make the Lord's Church strong and be as God planned.

- Urgent need for funds to construction of church premises
- Need for support to the transportation of the skilled trained Sudanese Christians from Nairobi and Kampala to Southern Sudan so they can assist in rebuilding and evangelizing
- Urgent need of money for radio air time to conduct preaching on weekly basis
- Need for training of water, sanitation and hygiene technicians, and a drilling ridge is highly appreciated to facilitate drilling of more boreholes
- Urgent need for construction of youth's vocational training centre (YVTC) in which they will exploit their talents both spiritually and socially

Please, your contribution, materials, gifts and money should be sent to the below address and marked for Sudan's evangelization:

**Judsonia Church of Christ
P.O. Box 422
Judsonia, Arkansas 72081**