

Serving in Sudan

Worshipping with and without a Roof



Churches from across the county gathered for a four-day love fest for God. Pastors from five churches preached and choirs sang of their love for God.

It is exciting to share that the church in Eastern Upper Nile, South Sudan continues to increase in their understanding of God. The growth of church congregations in various villages led to a recent multi-church meeting in October that lasted almost a week. There was singing from church choirs and preaching from five pastors. Prayer requests were shared from all corners. Bringing people together from different villages, tribes, and languages in worship is a remarkable development.

Anna Strachan, RN from Nevada, has returned to Sudan! Initially spending 6 months, Anna came home to the States to rest and reflect. She prayerfully decided to return and is back in Africa serving again with Servant's Heart. Anna's cheerful spirit and compassion were greatly missed and her return was a joyful reunion.

In Chotboro, South Sudan, Anna lives just like the locals, in a tukel, (a mud and thatched hut) without electricity or running water. She serves in the medical clinic and attends the local church. Anna will eagerly walk for miles if there is a need at our other medical clinic or neighboring schools. She provides helpful updates to

leadership and bringing renewed energy to other pastors.

Church attendance is just one indicator of God's growing presence in the people. Women's fellowship groups have started up, where biblical discussions and prayer requests can be shared. Since some tribal groups travel with their cattle, these fellowships are following the "cattle camp" locations, helping them maintain Christian fellowship when they would otherwise lose touch with other believers.

One of these pastors was John Wiyuol, who recently returned to South Sudan after several years of Bible school in Kenya. He is pastoring nine churches in the Chotboro area. He recently baptized 230 people in the nearby river. His return is providing new, encouraging

Servant's Heart has been working with church leadership in the three largest villages in this area. Over the past few years, all three congregations have outgrown their buildings and have been struggling with what to do. With support from Maple Valley Christian School in WA and Servant's Heart, the church in Chotboro has recently completed reconstruction of their roof in preparation for the rainy season and we are working with the others to increase their capacity.

There is real development in the Christian community. We see growing leadership by the South Sudanese pastors and lay leaders, increasing church attendance and further commitment to working together. Please continue to pray with us that they will grow in depth and breadth.



The church buildings in three larger villages are in bad need of repair or expansion. The Chotboro church recently replaced the roof.

Anna in Action

Servant's Heart offices and is a loving addition to the community.

Anna's strong work ethic, creativity and gentle spirit are indispensable and sorely needed. The clinics have seen an increase already in the number of patients and Anna will be working extensively with leprosy treatment which will bring even more patients. All of the medical staff appreciate your prayers of encouragement and strength as they daily face many heart-wrenching medical needs.

Serving in Sudan is challenging. Anna's strong faith in Christ sustains and enables her to serve effectively and lovingly to thousands of God's children in Sudan.



Anna evaluates a pregnant woman while a midwife observes. Servant's Heart improves the infant survival rate by assisting in the births of close to 2,000 babies per year in Longochok county, South Sudan.

Flooding Doesn't Stop Schooling



Anna does substitute teaching when a teacher was unable to reach the school.

Heavy rains in the 2007 rainy season disrupted people and crops throughout Longochok county. Some families of our school children were displaced by flood waters. Other families lost all their crops due to the flooding. For close to three months, schooling continued in the Servant's Heart schools, but attendance was unpredictable as teachers and students had difficulty reaching school grounds. Many families relocated to higher ground, sometimes to other villages.

Through all this disruption, Servant's Heart continued to operate the only schools in Longochok county. All three schools saw student and teacher attendance drop through the rainy season, but thankfully it has now stabilized. Like a game of musical chairs, when the rains stopped, everyone grabbed a seat and classes resumed where they had left off.

The Servant's Heart teachers need more resources to do an effective job. Servant's Heart is preparing to bring in more teacher training and curriculum support materials. Please pray that these materials can be purchased and airlifted by May, when the schools go on recess and teachers prepare for the new school year, which starts in June.

In addition, Servant's Heart is seeking a qualified lead teacher/trainer that can work alongside our teachers for an extended period. They are in need of on-going coaching, training and mentoring to develop their academic skills and teaching credentials. Applications are available on www.servantsheartrelief.org under 'Get Involved.'

Students from five tribes across the county attend school together. Taught in English, the teachers present the most basic concepts of language, math, science, agriculture, and Christianity. Approximately 2,000 students go to grades 1-5.

As we close out this school year, we are excited that the community is constructing new buildings for all three schools. These improved structures will be more permanent and weather-proof. Teachers, students and materials will weather the rains better from now on.

East African Context

With nine countries surrounding Sudan, instability in one country creates problems throughout the region. Several have had recent political issues and blame the Government of Sudan (GOS) for direct or indirect support of insurgents. Here's a summary of events and their significance:

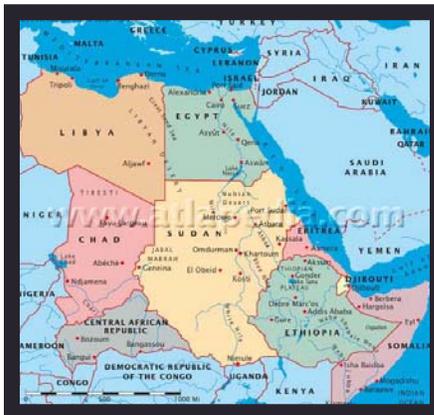
Sudan: Most stipulations of the 2005 peace agreement are being ignored to the detriment of South Sudan. An impending census will determine the criteria for a succession vote in the South by 2011.

Darfur: The western states of Sudan continue to be decimated by village destruction, human displacement and attempted genocide. The world seems unwilling to step in and fight the GOS. The GOS has been implicated by Darfuri rebel leaders, saying arms come from the GOS.

Egypt: Former colonial power of northern Sudan, has increasing Islamic control.

Egypt: does not want to share Nile River water with Sudan.

Kenya: Suspicious presidential vote of late 2007 created violent street fighting and thousands of deaths across country in early 2008.



Fast Facts

Sudan: largest country in Africa
Population: 37 million (UN,2006)
Capital: Khartoum in North, (Juba will be in South)
Religions: Islamic in North, Christian, Animist, and Islamic in South
Politics: Civil war for most of 50 years until Comprehensive Peace Agreement of January, 2005 stopped war in South.
War Tragedies: Est. 2 million killed, 4 million displaced from South during civil war. Additional 200,000-400,000 killed and millions displaced from Darfur since 2004.
Sudan Economy: subsistence-level farming
Oil: China, Malaysia, and India have been granted oil drilling rights. Oil fields are located in South Sudan.
2011 Referendum: Per peace agreement, Sudan will vote on the South's secession. An est. 90% of Southern Sudanese favor secession.
Darfur: Comprised of states in western Sudan, Darfurians are "folk" Islamic. Conflict between government-sponsored militias and local villages has forced millions to flee.

Chad: Chad has accused the GOS of being behind a recent coup attempt. Darfuri refugees are caught in the middle.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): Five years of civil war has left the country fragile and natural resources ravaged. Five other African countries joined the fight, creating regional complexity.

Uganda: Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was being pursued by the International Criminal Court. Government of Uganda assumed the fight and asked the ICC to back off. The LRA immediately changed venues and resumed fighting.

Ethiopia: Oromo Liberation Front is a terrorist group operating east of the border with Sudan.

Somalia: Anarchy continues as a weak central government, Islamists and regional warlords fight for control.

Leprosy Program Gets Into Action

Over the past few years, Servant's Heart has advocated on behalf of the lepers of Longochok County for a full-fledged Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) treatment program. The program is being implemented as we go to press.

The UN World Health Organization has designated The Leprosy Mission (International) (TLM) as our partner for training, medicine and program oversight. TLM is similar to Servant's Heart in philosophy and values, but their focus is on leprosy eradication. Based in the UK, they operate programs in countries around the world, providing leprosy expertise in every phase of diagnosis and treatment. TLM relies on local partners like Servant's Heart for understanding of the local language and culture and to provide general medical care.

Servant's Heart was one of three organizations chosen to kick off the South Sudan leprosy initiative with TLM. Three of our medical team (see photo below) attended training for three days in February to learn everything they could about leprosy diagnosis and treatment from these experts. They returned to



Relaxing after training is the Servant's Heart leprosy team, a trainer and another participant.

train the rest of our staff and set up tracking systems for patients and medicines.

To prepare for the program, Servant's Heart built a secure storage building to protect medicines from weather and theft. (see photo at right).

The treatment of Leprosy is lengthy. A combination of three drugs is taken daily for six or 12 months, depending on the diagnosis. Regular monitoring and continuous, uninterrupted dispensing of the medicine is critical for successful treatment. The side effects of the drugs can include pain, which sometimes causes patients to stop taking the drugs, making the disease more resistant to further treatment.

The medicines provided through TLM will help stop the spread of leprosy through the patient's body. The functions that have been lost will not return, but no further spread should happen. Leprosy patients often have gaping wounds that won't heal or heal very slowly. As a result, wound management is a significant part of leprosy treatment and is not supplied by the WHO or TLM. Consequently, Servant's Heart is increasing our supply of bandages and antibiotic ointments. If you



A ladder of 55-gallon drums and packing material provides sufficient height to put on the roof for this medical storage facility.

are interested in knitting leprosy specific bandages, please see the website or contact our office for how you can help.

We have already seen an increase in the number of patients coming to the Chotboro clinic in particular. Many of these patients are walking or being carried 20 miles to come to get medical attention. The amount of medicine we need for this clinic has doubled in the last few months.

In addition, the treatment will draw hundreds of caregivers who will carry or bring the patients to the clinics. As westerners, it is hard for us to imagine that family members often carry or help them walk eight to 12 hours to get to a medical facility. These caregivers also need to be trained in the care and treatment of the lepers so that they can aid in the healing process, even though many of them are in need of medical care as well.

More Patients Need Help

Servant's Heart operates two medical clinics in Longochok County with the assistance of private donors like you and a matching grant from Save the Children. These clinics have been serving about 700 patients per month over the past few years. We've recently seen that double in one clinic as patients travel farther for basic medical care. In addition, we provide midwifery services in four villages, providing birthing care to approximately 150 mothers and babies per month. Combined, Servant's Heart is currently serving over 25,000 patients per year through these medical services.

Over the past six months, as the number of patients has increased, our budget has stretched as far as we can make it. In addition, patients with leprosy will require extensive wound care as part of their treatment, challenging our ability to care for new patients. You can make a difference by contributing needed funds for medical resources.

Mission: Possible

Your Vacation Bible School, Sunday School or school group can make a difference in the treatment of leprosy by collecting medical supplies and shipping expenses to South Sudan:

- * Sterile bandages, all sizes
- * Medical Gauze and Tape
- * Latex-free gloves (large size preferred)
- * Antibiotic ointment (like Neosporin[®])
- * Travel size sewing kits
- * Sutures & suture remover kits

Pack donations in re-sealable quart or gallon plastic bags.

Donations can be sent to: **Servant's Heart**
P.O. Box 463, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776



Mission Statement

As a responsible Christian organization, Servant's Heart seeks to honor God by serving the Christian church in restricted-access regions of the world with the goal of self-sufficiency. Servant's Heart addresses the community's immediate relief and developmental needs of spiritual growth, educational programs, public health and primary medical care, and agricultural and economic infrastructure.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galations 6:9-10 (NIV)

Servant's Heart

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God Hears Our Prayers

We praise Him for

Protection & Safety - Kenya is recovering from tragic political upheaval. Our beloved staff, Gideon and Evangeline, and their families were caught in the middle of tribal conflict and violent riots. God protected them and our office from all violence. Samuel and Anna who came out of South Sudan for the Christmas holidays were able to return safely.

Leprosy Treatment - Our initial Leprosy training is complete and the first medicines have arrived to our clinics. Please pray for the patients as the treatment is sometimes painful.

Opportunity - Our relationship with The Leprosy Mission, the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, which has led to the initiation of the leprosy program.

We humbly ask for

Encouragement & Endurance - The Chot-boro medical clinic is seeing twice as many patients as 2007. Our medical staff work unbelievably hard in difficult circumstances.

Anna Strachan - pray for her continued safety, health and encouragement. Anna will be instrumental in Leprosy treatments and we pray for her steadfastness in treating this difficult disease.

Health - Diane Bennett's physical condition and healing from breast cancer. Her prognosis is good.

Funding - Collection of total funds necessary to equip our schools in Africa with necessary school supplies, before the rainy season in July.

Peace - the healing needed in Kenya and the on-going political concerns in South Sudan.

Making Your Donations Stretch

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have your donation dollars stretch without stretching your bank account? There is a way. Many employers will match donations made by their employees to non-profit organizations. Servant's Heart is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Check with your employer to see if they offer a Donation Matching Program. Some employers match dollar for dollar and others at a percentage; either way, this is a simple way to stretch your donation dollars.

Your employer will need to know Servant's Heart's EIN number to begin the process. It is EIN # 91-2138423.

A second way of donation giving is to

name "Servant's Heart" as a beneficiary in estate planning or investment management. These one-time gifts have significant impact and can be directed towards any program (such as church building, medical, education) of Servant's Heart that touches your heart most.

82% of Servant's Heart funding comes from individuals or mission-minded groups. The remaining funding comes from grants. Each donor, no matter what amount given, plays a critical role in the lives of thousands in Southern Sudan. Your partnership is essential and appreciated.

Through the grace of God, the work of Servant's Heart continues to be funded. Thank you! If you would like more information on either of these two donation methods please contact Jennifer Moreno at 888-222-0793.

Presenting Bouncing Baby Teloch

This happy family wants to share with you their deep joy on the birth of their son, Teloch, born in November. After the death of two newborns, Nyakaht and her husband, known as 'Charlie Charlie', asked for the help of Servant's Heart to ensure that her third pregnancy would lead to a healthy child. The second pregnancy had been very difficult, Nyakaht's life was in danger through the delivery, and the baby only survived a few days. They wanted it to be different this time.

'Charlie Charlie' is a valued member of the Servant's Heart team and lives in Chot-boro, where he works in our medical clinic as a Community Health Worker (similar to a nurse in a western hospital). He is active in the local church and is a respected member of the community.

During this pregnancy, he asked if Servant's Heart could help Nyakaht get to the Khartoum hospital, hundreds of miles away, for this high risk birth. We provided resources, time off with pay, and encourage-



Baby Teloch was born to Nyakaht and 'Charlie Charlie' in November, shown here at three months old.

ment for them. Hospital care made a difference.

'Charlie Charlie' and Nyakaht want to thank you for your support in helping them have a healthy, happy baby boy. He's been described as "quite the happy chum." They are grateful that God has provided this addition to their family through your support. Thank you from them!