

Serving in Sudan

Church Leadership Training Held

Servant's Heart, in partnership with The Voice of the Martyrs, Canada, conducted 4 days of intensive church leadership training in late January, 2003.

The classes were taught by Bishop Robert Mercer and Reverend Glenn Penner from The Voice of the Martyrs, Canada. Servant's Heart provided the logistical support and the liaison with the local pastors and Christian community.

The attendees were primarily from the Mabaan or Uduk tribes, and represented more than 40 SIC (Sudan Interior Church) Congregations throughout the Mabaan and Uduk lands of the region.

Feeding the more than 36 church leaders proved to be quite a challenge. A few months ago the marketplace where the seminar was held suffered direct hits by Government of Sudan 500 pound shrapnel-laden bombs. The bombs killed a number of civilians and substantially reduced the willingness of locals to sell their produce in such a danger-



Graduates of Church Leadership Training, January, 2003

ous place. There was also a drought in the immediate region, making food for so many visitors hard to find. Nevertheless, God was faithful and provided food for the hungry attendees.

The program was quite a success! Based upon joint decisions by the local SIC church leadership, The Voice of the Martyrs Canada and Servant's Heart, this seminar will give birth to the "Mabaan Memorial Bible College" seminary extension program.

During the seminar, most leaders requested we help



Seminar Classroom

start schools for the children of their church.

After the seminar, we worked with the church leadership to distribute more than 600 Mabaan language Bibles throughout the region.

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Atrocities Against Christians Confirmed

Liang, Eastern Upper Nile -- In late January, 2003, an international team of US and Canadian experts traveled to Liang, Upper Nile Province, where they discovered fields littered with human remains, many of them from young children. Interviews with local survivors confirmed that the

remains were those of victims of an unprovoked attack upon the unarmed civilian villages of Liang, Dengaji, Kawaji and Yawaji in late April 2002. It is estimated that between 1/3 to 1/2 of the original 6,000 civilians living in the region were killed in the attack.

The attackers were re-

ported by the survivors to be Sudan regular army from the Boing Garrison, commanded by Brigadier General Ibrahim Saleh.

Striking in the early morning while the villagers slept, the heavily armed Government of Sudan (GOS) soldiers began killing the unarmed residents



Human Remains from Liang Killing Fields

Jesus Film Shown

Imagine trying to show a videotape or DVD in Eastern Upper Nile or Southern Blue Nile. There is no electricity, no projectors or televisions, and no screens.

So...Servant's Heart brought a small Honda generator, projector, DVD player and related electronics. Oh, and don't forget the "screen" built of a white bed sheet, bamboo poles and duct tape.

Showing the Jesus Film for the people of Yabus, Southern Blue Nile province, was one of the highlights of our time there.

We also showed them the Servant's Heart-produced film "Ashes & Hope in Sudan's Blue Nile" and the Award-winning King5 Evening Magazine video.



Part of the crowd gathered to watch the Jesus Film

Both of these films are available free of charge to Servant's Heart subscrib-

ers, and may be ordered on-line or toll-free at 1-888-222-0793.

School Expansion

Can you imagine growing up in a village where there has been no school for the past 15 years. Can you imagine living in a village where there has never been a school in all of human history. If so, you can imagine what it's been like to grow up in Eastern Upper Nile.

Last fall, you may remember we experienced a "sit in" in Daga, as the students insisted they were not leaving until we started teaching.

Having weathered that storm, we now have over 185 students attending



One of several classes with their school building in background

school in Daga, divided into 3 classes, with more wanting to attend. Local villagers (parents of the children) built the school buildings. We are now ask-

ing them to help dig wells and latrines, so we teach the children the importance of personal hygiene and demonstrate it by our actions.

Atrocities Confirmed

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and burning their houses. The attackers were reportedly armed with 60 mm mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, 12.7mm heavy machine guns and AK-47 assault rifles.

In a videotaped interview, Mr. Tunya Jok described the horrors as he witnessed his 4-year-old daughter shot and killed as she fled from the GOS soldiers. Then his 6-year-old son was captured and beheaded by the soldiers. His body was thrown into a burning hut and his head planted upright facing away from the hut.

Servant's Heart, Freedom Quest International and The Voice of the Martyrs (Canada) called for an investigation by the international Civilian Protection and Monitoring Team assigned to report on violations of the March, 2002 agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. Among other things, both sides agreed not to attack civilian targets. We also called on the US State Department to include this incident in their Sudan Peace Act-mandated report to Congress on atrocities and war criminals in Southern Sudan.



Tunya Jok, whose boy was beheaded & the head placed outside his house

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The challenges we face in helping provide education are myriad. Yet God is proving faithful as we build the infrastructure necessary to maintain this growing school system, acquire the needed textbooks, exercise books and supplies, and teach the teachers. In fact, Dick Steuart from Florida will be conducting 3 month training and hands-on consulting for the teachers who will be running schools for us in this region.

Our success has already been noted by nearby towns and churches. There are newly formed schools in several other Eastern Upper Nile towns that want to join the Servant's Heart "school district", for example. There are also churches requesting we help them start and oversee schools in their towns throughout the region.



Joe Dyer with Teachers

Agriculture: Eat Your Vegetables !?

Sorghum is the basic food of the Eastern Upper Nile diet. In fact, it seems that sorghum is often the only food in the Eastern Upper Nile diet. It is a grain, similar to wheat, which is used in the US as a cattle feed additive. In Sudan, it is the basic grain served in some form at almost every meal.

It is important that we teach local vil-

lagers what it means to have a well-balanced diet. It is also important that we train the local villagers in technologically compatible farming methods—which means using 1850's solutions to farming. (Think "Amish" farming).

Our own vegetable garden is now producing such exotica as carrots, tomatoes and eggplant. Watch for more info about this important program in upcoming issues.

Carrots & Tomatoes & Eggplant, "Oh My!"



Sorghum fields ripe for harvest

Servant's Heart Growth

The infrastructure of Servant's Heart provides the foundation for ministry in Southern Sudan. Without this foundation, we are building on "sandy soil" which will not withstand the frequent storms of Sudan or elsewhere.

The foundation for all our work in Sudan is our Lord Jesus Christ and you, our prayer, ministry & financial partner.

The second layer of foundation is our office and operation in the US. This is our board of directors, staff and office, web sites, email servers and computers.

The third layer of foundation is our office in Nairobi, Kenya. Headed by

Joe Dyer, with Gideon and Fikre as support staff, this office is critical for our logistics, operations and support "in country". Deng also operates from this office when he's not "in country".

Recently Josh Jaros joined the team of Servant's Heart on a short-term (dry season) basis, with potential for long-term ministry. He's become our "youth minister", as he has been spontaneously adopted by the youth of whatever village he visits.

You'll be hearing more about our staff and infrastructure in the coming months.



Josh Jaros greeting church at Sunday morning service



The mission of Servant's Heart is to serve the Church and its neighbors in restricted access regions of the world by:

- 1) Providing means of equipping local churches to fulfill the Great Commission;
- 2) Establishing educational opportunities;
- 3) Facilitating primary medical care;
- 4) Assisting health and physical needs through agriculture, water & sanitation and infrastructure development programs;
- 5) Speaking on their behalf worldwide.

We're on the Web!
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Dear Friends:

I trust you will like the new format of our monthly newsletters and prayer guide. This is just one of many efforts underway to better communicate with you, our partners in ministry. We will also be improving our web sites over time, to make them more inter-active; the better to communicate with you.

The current dry season will see many improvements in our work in Sudan, God-willing and so long as the Government of Sudan refrains from violating the spirit and letter of the Agreements it has signed with Southern Sudan. From work with the churches to education to health & medical to agriculture, water/sanitation and infrastructure, we expect to be quite busy.

I want to thank all of you who have joined with us to minister to our long-suffering and forgotten brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

May God richly bless you!

Dennis Bennett



Child Vaccination Program

One of our medical goals for 2003 is to provide as many basic vaccines, for as many children as possible, in Eastern Upper Nile province of Southern Sudan. Specifically in this region where there have been no vaccination programs for at least the past 15 years.

Here are some disturbing facts:

June, 2002— **Whooping Cough** breaks out in Eastern Upper Nile. Over 1500 children are infected within a two week period of time. More than 150 die of this deadly childhood disease. More children would have died but for the intervention of Servant's Heart in partnership with Baroness Caroline Cox and Medical Teams Worldwide. Together we provided enough antibiotics to save more than 1,350 children.

May-June, 2001— **Measles** breaks out in Eastern Upper Nile; an un-

known number of children die.

November, 2001 thru May, 2002—SH Community Health Workers conduct the first-ever **polio vaccination** program in Udeir, Eastern Upper Nile in partnership with UNICEF. But the remainder of Eastern Upper Nile sector is unreachable by vaccination programs because the vaccinations must be kept cold—and there are no refrigeration facilities in the region, and no suitable vehicles to transport the vaccines overland while being kept in cold storage.

In light of these challenges, we are working to provide not only polio vaccines to the rest of Eastern Upper Nile, but we are also searching for ways to provide other basic childhood vaccinations (e.g. DPT, aka Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis and MMR, aka Measles, Mumps and Rubella).

It is very frustrating for us

to watch so many children get sick and die from preventable childhood diseases.

Towards this end, Servant's Heart has met with that portion of UNICEF in Nairobi responsible for administering the EPI (Extended Program of Immunizations) in Southern Sudan. We are working with them to bring that program into this region.

The two biggest challenges will be for SH to develop and protect the "cold chain" for the vaccines and to secure a second reliable vehicle for transporting the vaccines overland (so they can be taken to more remote locations). Stay tuned for further news!

Footnote: Please pray for the short-term medical team that will be going in to help us train our Community Health Workers and to treat as many of the seriously ill villagers as they can see.