

# Serving in Sudan

SUMMER, 2005

## New Testaments are Special Delivery!

When Pastor Andrew Neeta worked on updating the translation in his tribal language of Mabaan, he didn't know that he'd be overseeing the distribution of thousands of New Testaments to more than 40 churches in his homeland years later. The smile on his face might never wash off!

Years before, Pastor Andrew worked on the Mabaan translation when he lived in northern Sudan. He helped to modernize the translation and continue translation efforts on the Old Testament. While working on the scriptures, he was preparing to be a pastor, studying the Bible.

Servant's Heart took copies of this New Testament into Sudan previously in smaller deliveries, but in May we were able to take multiple shipments, thanks to your support.

This "special delivery" represents about one box of Bibles for every church in the region. Representatives from each church will walk up to 10 hours for a dedication and celebration. The Mabaan church has grown about 25% in the past year alone. Thanks in part to the increased safety in travel, there are now churches in most villages in the region and Pastor Andrew is able to travel from village to village to preach and visit with the people.

The church in South Sudan struggles with many of the same things that churches everywhere are challenged by, compounded by the difficult physical circumstances of South Sudan after the physical and spiritual persecution.

When Dennis Bennett first visited the region in 1998, there



*Servant's Heart was able to deliver close to 2,000 New Testaments in Mabaan language to Mabaan County, South Sudan in May, 2005. Pastor Andrew Neeta and Dennis Bennett are surrounded by helpers from the nearby village, ready to take them to where church leaders can distribute them.*

were very few copies of scriptures remaining from deliveries missionaries had made decades earlier. Servant's Heart reprinted the New Testament in the Uduk and Mabaan languages and distributed them throughout the area.

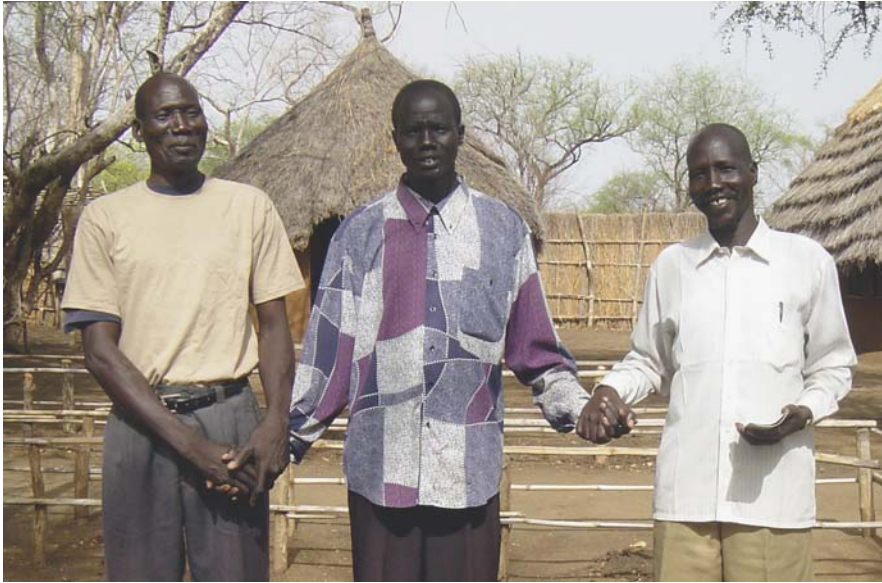
Servant's Heart has delivered scriptures in the past, but never this many at one time. Servant's Heart delivered these New Testaments that were created by SIM and printed by the Korean Bible Society. Servant's Heart shipped them from Korea to Mabaan County, South Sudan with the help of AIM AIR.

Servant's Heart has been the first and only Christian organization working with the Mabaan and Uduk tribes since 1998 in South Sudan. When we first went in, the area had been re-

cently freed from Islamic control and the Mabaan were suffering from starvation and disease. At one point, Servant's Heart equipment was bombed by the Government of Sudan while trying to help them. Our team could hear the sounds of battle just a few miles away. At times, bringing Bibles and other relief supplies has required Servant's Heart staff and volunteers to walk through mine fields designed to prevent travel for Christians.

Bibles are also available to Mabaan refugees in the U.S. from Servant's Heart. Thanks to your generosity, we ship them to refugees and churches all over the US at no cost to recipients. Please pray with us on the speedy completion of the Old Testament in the Mabaan language.

## Church Growth Exploding



Left to Right: *Pastor Andrew Neeta, Peter Gatwick and Evangelist John Akoch together oversee 95 churches in the region.*

With refugees and displaced people (IDPs) returning to South Sudan daily, these three men are very busy leaders in their communities. Each man has responsibility for one or more churches in their area.

Pastor Andrew Neeta oversees over 40 Mabaan churches in Mabaan county in the northern area. Pastor Peter Gatwick oversees over 50 primarily Nuer churches in Longochok county, to the west. He has requested

Bibles in Nuer for his area.

Both Pastors travel from village to village, conducting services and overseeing the life of each church and meeting with lay leaders from the congregation. Each church has appointed “evangelists,” elders and deacons who watch over the life of the local congregation. Each pastor usually stays two to four days in each village, meeting with the local church leadership.

Evangelist John Akoch is one of those leaders. He is a teacher in the Daga Post school, where he works for Servant’s Heart full-time. He also serves as interim pastor at the Daga Post church to provide church leadership, even though he is not from a local tribe.

All three men are working hard to encourage and teach the local churches that are growing in the villages throughout the region where Servant’s Heart is working. Please pray with us for their continued leadership and protection.

## Water Well Update

Servant’s Heart is committed to bringing clean water to villages through the Eastern Upper Nile region of South Sudan. With the lack of rains in 2004, the water table is very low and our first two wells are producing only a trickle of water daily. The women are digging down into the river bed to get river water for drinking, cooking and cleaning.

Servant’s Heart has purchased the hardware and supplies for ten more wells. This May we attempted to tap three wells, but were unsuccessful in finding water.

Our team has since met with a geologist and had further training in sandpoint well digging, hoping to be more successful following the rainy season, towards the end of 2005.

In addition, Servant’s Heart is working with Oxfam to dig a borehole within walking distance of the village of Chotboro. This village sits on more than 150’ of solid rock and Oxfam has already broken one digging rig trying to drill through the rock. People in this area are walking three hours per day in extreme heat to get water.

Returning refugees and Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) are numbering in the thousands in the area, adding pressure to the minimal resources available. We have seen the population of the area increase 300% since 2001, now over 600,000.

Please pray that we would find the locations and have the equipment to complete productive wells.



*Country Manager Deng Leek works with his assistant to dig another well in Daga Post. Servant’s Heart is working to bring clean water to ten villages in 2005. River water is full of silt and water-borne disease.*

## Extending Health Care within Eastern Upper Nile

The recently signed peace agreement allows for increased safety as people travel through the region, so returnees are coming back in big numbers. Many of them are malnourished and sick.

As a result, people are walking hours to come to seek medical treatment. Many patients have returned to the area so recently that they are ineligible for or don't know the location for the food drops that Servant's Heart has arranged. As a result, most have not eaten in days when they seek medical care.

Servant's Heart has established a medical clinic in Chotboro with the assistance of Save the Children. We are hiring and training local medical staff to treat diseases like malnutrition, dehydration, dysentery, malaria, parasites, nightblindness and measles. We are assessing the prevalence of other diseases in order to apply for medications, such as leprosy.

We took a medical clinic on the road in May, treating people in a village that has never seen medical care. Mothers with dying or sick children were encouraged to come to our clinic. In addition to the expected diseases, there was a high incidence of leprosy.

With temperatures averaging over 120°, most mothers were not getting sufficient hydration or nutrition to adequately feed their infant children. Daily, newborn infants were rescued from near death while their young mothers were taught the importance of drinking sufficient clean water and food to feed their suckling infants.

The combination of community health education, clean water, birthing assistance, good nutrition and medical care in combination is important to strengthen the health of this region of Sudan. Our goal is to bring these services to 15 population centers in the region, so that



*Servant's Heart Founder Dennis Bennett works to save a dying infant with our mobile medical clinic.*

suffering people don't have to walk up to eight hours for basic services, as they do now.

Please pray that God will provide the resources and medicines to enable us to help in this remote area.

## A Community Commits to Healthy Changes



*Completing the first session of Community Health Training, these community leaders from Daga Post are committed to teaching others about sanitation, hygiene and basic nutrition. They formed a Community Health Committee to monitor and report the on-going health behavior of the village.*

Thanks to two trainers from Kenya, the community of Daga Post is healthier. We are grateful to Medical Ambassadors International for partnering with us in to train community leaders in the basics of healthy community behavior.

Daga Post has seen 20% growth in the past six months and more returnees are expected. This team (left) is committed to teaching healthful behavior to the children in school, mothers in their homes and neighbors in their compounds. It was exciting to see their commitment to healthy changes.

Four days of training may not change everything, but Servant's Heart is committed to monitoring the effectiveness of the newly formed Community Health Committee, that we can coach and encourage the village of Daga Post.



## 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.

"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.  
Those who know your name will trust in you,  
for you, Lord, have never forsaken those  
who seek you."

Psalm 9: 9-10 (NIV)

**We're on the Web!**  
[servantsheartrelief.org](http://servantsheartrelief.org)

## Servant's Heart

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Servant's Heart is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, EIN #91-2138423.  
All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Dear Friends:

In 2001, listening to the village of Daga Post at night, we were overwhelmed by the sounds of crying, hungry babies and adults with endless, racking coughs. Four years later, the sounds are of children playing, people laughing and various farm animals. Even though hundreds of children have recently died of measles and life is hard, village life is better overall.

Walking for hours between villages in the heat left our team exhausted, but pleased by development that's starting to make a difference. Servant's Heart now has centers in five pivotal villages that touch tens of thousands of people in meaningful ways through the region. While it sometimes feels like "two steps forward and one step back," we know that together we are making progress. We continue to be thrilled at the sustainable progress in a neglected region.

May God richly bless you!

*Dennis and Diane Bennett*

## Deaths from Measles Underreported



*A cemetery in Wudeir, Eastern Upper Nile is filled with recent deaths from measles. Each pile of brush represents a child's grave. Over 600 deaths have been documented by local authorities between December 2004 and May 2005.*

This Spring, Servant's Heart reported at least 500 deaths from measles in Daga Post, Eastern Upper Nile. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to fly in a plane of medications to help sick children survive the disease and lessen the effects. We treated over 500 children within days.

We learned during our on-site visit in May that the village of Wudeir lost at least another 600 children from the disease. Without a medical doctor's diagnosis, the UN World Health Organization

(WHO) considers these deaths from measles a "rumor." A secular NGO is running a hospital in this village, but requiring payment, thus limiting the number of patients to those who can afford it.

Servant's Heart has now opened a medical clinic in the nearby village of Chotboro and is seeing a steady stream of active and recent cases of measles. Pray that the measles vaccine and qualified staff will enable Servant's Heart to vaccinate the children.