

Serving in Sudan

SPRING, 2007

Leprosy Diagnosis Confirmed

When Servant's Heart entered Eastern Upper Nile in 2001, we were greeted by a man that had lost most of his fingers and toes to Leprosy (Hansen's Disease). Since there was no medical care in the area at the time, we were inspired to develop resources to diagnose and treat the people in this region.

Here are the stories of three patients visited recently as we are assessing the scope of the infection rate and develop the resources to treat them.

The hands of the woman to the right belong to Nyayien Biliw, a woman from the Nuer tribe with a bright smile. At 50 years old, she lives by herself in a village one hour's walk from the Servant's Heart clinic in Chotboro. Nyayien noticed symptoms five years ago, but she only had little patches of discoloration at first. Those patches have grown and some are open ulcers. The one on her ankle is the most obvious and bothersome as she walks through the brush, doing the things she needs to take care of herself.

About 60 miles to the east lives the seven-year-old boy pictured below, named



Only seven years old, Kase Wusay is very sick. He walked an entire day with his father to ask for life-saving medicines for his disease.



Nyayien has hands that don't have much feeling remaining as she cares for herself.

Kase Wusay. Kase was born in the village of Yunga, where he lives with his father and his siblings. Already malnourished, Kase struggles just to survive. He has shown symptoms since 2004, when he was only three years old, but there was no treatment available, so he is now covered with sores. He has lost feeling in all his extremities.

Kase and his father walked over eight hours in the heat to come to a place where he could be diagnosed. He wants desperately to receive medicines.

Kase's family is part of the Koma tribe. The Koma appear to have a high infection rate, but they live in hills that continue over the border into Ethiopia, making it difficult to reach them for diagnosis or treatment.

The man to the right is Torit Adigila, a 50-year old man from the Buldit tribe. He lives in the village of Pashime. Torit has seen symptoms over the last twenty years, but there has been no treatment available to him, so he has continued to lose functionality, which can never be regained. At this point, all his fingers and toes are deformed or missing and he has no feeling on the surface of most of his body.

Torit walked over eight hours to meet a diagnostic team. Torit's real concern is for his two adult daughters that live with him, as he believes also have the disease. He wants to be treated so that he won't further spread the disease within his extended family.

Servant's Heart has worked with several organizations to validate and document the problem, including the UK-based

HART and Save the Children (USA).

A successful leprosy treatment program involves diagnosis, treatment and public education. While we have identified partners who can help with each phase of this program, Servant's Heart leads the charge in developing the strategic plan, infrastructure and the cost to diagnose, treat and educate the people of Longochok county.

For example, based on our investigation, the UN World Health Organization and the International Leprosy Elimination Program have agreed to provide leprosy education and medication to our medical clinics. Other organizations have agreed to provide public education, to help the villagers identify symptoms and change behaviors that spread disease. Villages are already building centers with indigenous materials to distribute medications. Servant's Heart will staff these functions.

Your donations will fund diagnostic and treatment centers, helping us diagnose and treat those who are already sick and help prevent the further spread of this treatable disease.



Torit Adigila was the first patient in the region to be diagnosed with leprosy in 2001 when Servant's Heart entered Eastern Upper Nile.

What is an “African Roundtable?”

Diane Bennett recently represented Servant’s Heart to 140 Christian leaders from 32 countries in Johannesburg, South Africa. For five days, educators representing schools, churches, orphanages and teacher training and support organizations all came together. This was the first time that leaders from across the continent had assembled to consider issues of Christian schooling in Africa.

Diane painted a picture of the Servant’s Heart schools for the delegates as representing an “out-of-the-box” solution to numerous challenges. Many delegates were encouraged by the extreme conditions our schools face in such a remote and unstable place.

Diane worked with representatives from numerous countries for five days to develop the following declaration. Servant’s Heart signed this document with all the delegates in an impressive expression of unity. Servant’s Heart is committed to live out the following declaration through our schools:



We, the delegates to this first Africa Roundtable, came together to consider issues and strategies related to the conference theme: *God’s Redemptive Plan for Reaching the Lost and Future Generations of Africa*

First, we express our thanks to God for what has been accomplished. We have sought to use our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and our commitment to the authority of the Word of God, the Bible, to help us in our deliberations under the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit.

Second, we express our gratitude to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) for hosting this historic conference. The Roundtable was a gathering of 140 educators and other community leaders from thirty-two nations.

WHEREAS in His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus placed great value on children, we commit ourselves to follow His example by recognizing that every child is created in God’s image and is precious in His sight. We commit ourselves to ensure that children from all cultures and in every country of Africa are respected without discrimination, irrespective



Educators gathered from all over Africa to discuss what’s important in our schools. Diane Bennett presented the work of Servant’s Heart as part of the collaboration. Delegates were reminded that they were called to value the children of Africa, the future of the continent, and lay aside their differences.

of race, colour, gender, language, religion or social status and have the right to be nurtured to reach their full potential in Christ,

WHEREAS we believe sin entered the world through the fall, in man’s disobedience to God, all children have become the recipients of the fall. The majority of children live their lives marginalized by poverty, vulnerability, powerlessness, isolation, and physical weakness, which has led to a lack of education that will prepare them to be effective citizens,

WHEREAS we believe this will require of us a higher level of commitment, accountability, personal response, and involvement in our role of redeeming the lost and future generations of Africa’s children through Christ-centered schooling. We recognize that this will require mobilization of African church leaders, Christian educators, mission leaders and the Christian business community, to counter the aggressive education efforts of religious communities on the continent that are in conflict with Biblical Truth,

WHEREAS we believe it will require great effort to achieve the goals identified here, we resolve that we will lay aside our personal and corporate (church, denomination, and so on) agendas to embrace one another in unity under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

WHEREAS we are aware of the vast mineral and other natural resources of our African continent, we affirm enthusiastically the efforts to mobilize these resources for the benefit of the children of Africa, especially through our Christian schools.

Furthermore, we hereby declare that we commit to action involving all of the following:

1. We will establish and maintain high standards for intellectual, physical, emotional, social and spiritual development of our children, especially by making a Biblical worldview the focus of all areas of the

curriculum and school life. We believe that if we do this, children for whom we are responsible will be trained in citizenship and will take their rightful place as the next generation of leaders for Africa and the rest of the world.

2. We will model a Christ-like character to our students in integrity, trust, loyalty, humility and ethical behaviour in every aspect of our lives.
3. We will battle in prayer for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, evangelizing and discipline through Christian schooling throughout Africa and especially in our own communities.
4. We will champion the extensive planting of new, effective, sustainable Christian schools. We will also work for the improvement of existing Christian schools.
5. We will share responsibility for the education of the child among the family, church and school.
6. We will promote unity and communication in the body of Christ by supporting the establishment of educational associations that bring together Christians from diverse backgrounds at a local, national, regional and international level.
7. We will network and support strategies by which resources are shared accountably to provide more effective education, including professional development.
8. We will pro-actively represent the cause of Christian schooling through collaborative networks in all sectors of society.

We pledge, with the strength only God can provide, to uphold this declaration for the advancement of the Kingdom of God through Christian schooling to the glory of God.

The ABCs of Education in Longochok County



Servant's Heart works closely with the village leadership to give dignity and responsibility to the local community in running and maintaining school facilities. Pictured here are men and women from the Daga Post community maintaining a school classroom with indigenous materials.

A recent survey of the Servant's Heart schools in South Sudan showed we are making substantial progress. In a recent meeting with the Minister of Education for the Government of South Sudan, Dr. Michael Milly Hussein told Dennis Bennett, founder of Servant's Heart, that he was pleased at the progress of the Servant's Heart schools in Longochok county.

The Minister was pleased to learn that each school teaches the basic curriculum provided by the Government of South Sudan: English, Math, Science, Religious Education, and Agriculture.

A recent United Nations survey indicates that about 750,000 children are educated in "bush schools" across South Sudan, averaging 260 students. Our schools are two to four times that size!

The Minister was impressed by the successful approach of Servant's Heart. Here are things that got his attention:

A is for A New School. To give you the context, our first school started in 2003 in Daga Post. In 2004, we started a second school about 30 miles to the west in Wudeir. Servant's Heart has continuously operated these two schools, providing education through grade 5 for about a thousand children from five tribes.

In Chotboro, a third school has opened with the support of Servant's Heart. Mid-way between Daga Post and Wudeir, Chotboro is a village with a Ser-

vant's Heart medical clinic, a good airstrip and a church. We included potential teachers from Chotboro in our teacher training in 2006. Today, those teachers are teaching close to 1,000 students in a new school. Servant's Heart has begun to work with these teachers to train and equip them, supplying teaching materials, textbooks and supplies.

B is for Buildings. Often development functions are confused with buildings. Many organizations spend two to five years getting organized and erecting buildings before they open to educate about 200 children. Servant's Heart has focused on effective teaching as more important than brick and mortar.

In each community, Servant's Heart provides schooling free of charge to the students. The schools operate under shade trees in the hotter, drier weather and in large huts (classrooms) in the wet season, built by the local communities (see photo, above).

In the local culture, women carry over 50

pounds of material on their heads, often carrying an infant on their backs at the same time. It is their role to cut and gather the long grasses that make up the thatched roofs and bring them to the building site.

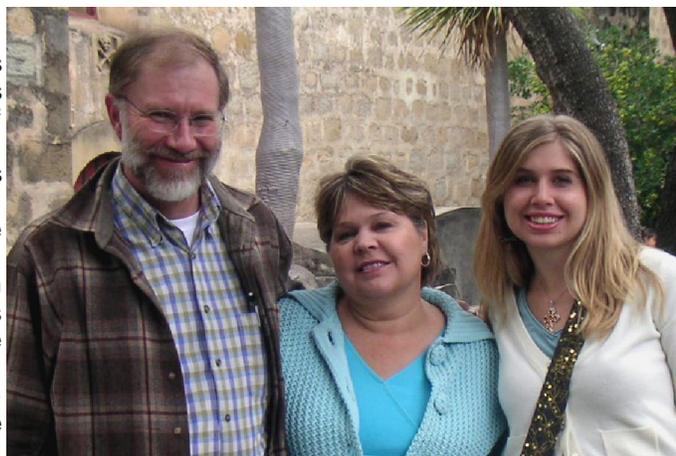
Men frame the buildings and secure the thatch, making the building watertight for the heavy rains that come in early July and stay through November. Together, the community builds and maintains their homes and communal buildings, such as the classrooms that make up our schools. While brick and mortar buildings may look like "progress," the contribution by the community is important and valuable.

C is for Continuous Improvement. Servant's Heart is grateful to have volunteer trainers from For the Children's Sake Foundation coming to Sudan to train our teachers. We are committed to continuous improvement of our teaching skills and resources to continue to improve the quality of the education we are providing and are glad for the role that these skillful trainers can make. For the Sake of the Children has made a long-term commitment to helping us train our teachers to be more effective.

According to The Minister of Education, our first schools are a success story that is atypical of schools across South Sudan.

Please mark your donation with "Education" to support these on-going schools using indigenous teachers trained by skillful volunteers like those pictured below.

Our schools are two to four times the size of the average "bush school" across South Sudan, according to the UN.



The Price family is serving together in May to train the teachers in three schools in Longochok county. William, Nancy and Elizabeth are helping the teachers learn how to be more effective.

SERVANT'S HEART

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"

Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV)

We're on the Web!
servantshearthrelief.org

Servant's Heart
PO Box 463
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
www.servantshearthrelief.org
Call us
Toll-Free at 888-222-0793
631-474-3258
Email: servantshearth@servantshearthrelief.org

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 South Sudan, peace is a wonderful and temporal thing. South Sudan is a rapidly changing place these days. The "capital" city of Juba is growing daily into a sprawling African city with very few paved streets. The optimism of 2005 has given to the reality of the challenge: real infrastructure development takes time.

Looming is the democratic vote of 2011 by the South Sudanese. The people of South Sudan are to be given a historic choice: whether to remain part of the country of Sudan or establish their own democracy as South Sudan. While we all hope this process is peaceful, chances are good that the process will be difficult and engender conflict. There is a sense of urgency to do as much as possible before conflict resumes.

As the fragile peace continues in this region, the Servant's Heart team is working hard to make a difference. We are doing all we can to train, educate and equip the people of Eastern Upper Nile (EUN) in the time we are given.

Thank you for all of your support in that process,
Dennis and Diane Bennett

Radio Network Needs Upgrade

Over the past seven years, Servant's Heart (formerly Blue Nile Project) installed radios in key locations in South Sudan and our administrative office in Kenya. It is a network of Ham-type radios powered by solar panels. We talk to everyone in our "network" daily.

We have a number of skillful Sudanese radio operators that have saved lives in numerous ways over the years. They communicate weather conditions to incoming pilots, our daily needs to our administrative office in Nairobi, Kenya, and medical emergencies to

our medical staff, and community issues from village to village. Since there is no telephone network, the region has come to rely on our effective network of communication.

Two radios need to be replaced and an additional village needs one. For the radio and solar panels set up, each location costs about \$5,000. If you are willing to contribute towards the purchase of this important infrastructure over and above your normal giving, please designate your donation to "Radios."

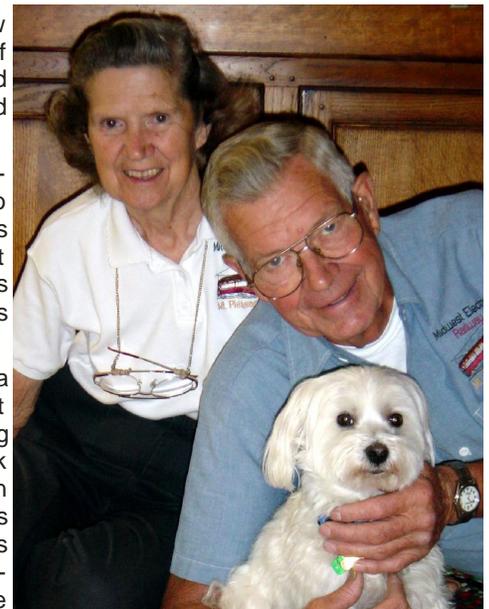
Tribute to Bob Bennett

Some knew him as "Mr. Bob." We knew him as "Dad." Robert W. Bennett was one of Servant's Heart's most active supporters and father of Dennis Bennett, keeping you informed of our work and helping in many ways.

When we were struggling to get out mailings to you, it was Bob who said, "we'll just do the mailings from our kitchen. The grandkids would be glad to help." Bob and Jessie Bennett (and various family members) stuffed envelopes for the next five years, sending you the news from Sudan whenever needed.

Raised in rural Illinois, Bob Bennett had a heart for people in need. Over the years, he built numerous wooden containers for families moving overseas to help people in other countries. Back home, he helped farmers who couldn't bring in their crops and widows who needed driveways shoveled on snowy days. He led numerous "Mission Impossible" with church youth, teaching them how to serve in needy areas around the US. A career carpenter, he never retired. In his mind, that was for "other people." Instead, he looked for ways to serve.

We miss the support and encouragement of Bob Bennett. He is survived by his wife Jessie Bennett, four siblings, three children and their spouses, and six grandchildren. We'll miss his "servant's heart."



Faithful volunteers Jessie and Robert "Mr. Bob" Bennett of Aurora, IL with their granddog