

Serving in Sudan

Missions Month @ Maple Valley

Polio, Whooping Cough, Measles—killer childhood diseases. Tetanus—killer of mothers and babies in childbirth, as well as those with cuts. All preventable if the medical people have the vaccines and properly administer them.

But what if there are no vaccines because there is no refrigeration to keep them below the critical temperature until the vaccine is administered? What if the local medical people have never been trained in how to administer vaccines requiring needles and cold storage? What if there is no electricity to power the refrigerator, because the area is so primitive?

What if a Christian school in the United States wanted to do something to stop those preventable deaths, as part of their missions month? What if they raised enough money to purchase a kerosene-powered refrigerator—the kind which UNICEF approves of for storing vaccines. What if UNICEF would provide vaccines if there was such a refrigerator?

1st New Mabaan Bibles Distributed

Yabus, Southern Blue Nile-- Thanks to a generous gift by an anonymous donor, Servant's Heart was able to fly the first 600 newly printed Mabaan Bibles to Yabus, Southern Blue Nile, and distribute those Bibles to the pastors from throughout Mabaan territory. These pastors &



4th Grade Classes poses with Mr. Bennett

tion unit in place and working?

Could the students do it? Here's a story of how a school of just over 200 Kindergartners through Sixth Graders made a huge difference in the life and health of children they may never see in this lifetime.

Maple Valley Christian Elementary School, a member of the Rainier Christian School District in the Seattle, Washington area, took

on the challenge to try to raise enough funds to purchase and ship a vaccination refrigerator to Eastern Upper Nile as their missions project for the month of February.

Every Wednesday at Chapel, the students heard messages from different missionaries. They learned about the needs for vac-

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Pastors with New Mabaan Bibles

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nations and diagnostic tools like microscopes in this remote part of Southern Sudan.

Each class set a goal to raise a certain amount for their missionary offering during the month. And then each class tracked their progress, as children brought in their pennies, quarters, and dollars for the offering.

The school also tracked their collective progress. As you can see from the photo's, the school "built" huts and started filling them with replica microscopes. Each microscope represented \$25 which the students raised towards the missions project. The students filled more than 4 huts during the month, representing over \$4000 which

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Photo's of all school classes

School Expansion

Every day school starts outside the school building with singing. The teacher sings and the students repeat the words, to the music. Phrases like "Good morning, Teacher, it's good to see you today"....."We are happy to be here".....echo throughout the village. Another school day has started.

English, you say? Yes. The school curriculum for New Sudan insists that students learn English as they learn to read. The students, teachers and parents all concur, saying that learning English gives them the best foundation for higher education, for business, and for

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Singing in English before classes begin



40 Bibles per large box

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revised translation of the New Testament which has been several years in process.

Servant's Heart is now raising funds

to pay for the cost of flying the remainder of the Bibles into Southern Blue Nile and Eastern Upper Nile, and to cover the unexpected cost of customs duty incurred while trans-shipping them through Kenya.

As you can see, the pastors were overjoyed at the newly arrived Bibles. Everyone wanted us to tell you "THANK YOU" for your partnership, for your prayers and for the gift of God's word.

Servant's Heart also has some Mabaan Bibles in its US offices, which we have set aside for the Mabaan refugees now living in the United States. Please call us for more information about how to help get these Bibles into the hands of Mabaan people in the US or Sudan.



Mabaan New Testament



Visualizing the destination of their offerings

they raised to help the children of (and be a Christian witness to) in Eastern Upper Nile of South Sudan.

The airplane you see “traveled” through the month from Maple Valley in the US toward Southern Sudan, so the students could know how much longer they had to meet their goal.

Praise God for the miracle of these Christian students, and what they were able to do for His Kingdom. They learned practical ways to show the love of Christ to “their neighbors” and to their brothers and sisters in Christ. They also learned that they could make a difference, even in a school their size. And they reached out beyond themselves, to help those whom the world seems to have forgotten. Those lessons will stay with them the rest of their lives.

LATE NEWS FLASH: We have just received word that the refrigerator has been delivered and is running. More on this next month!

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understanding and using computers (yes, we said computers!).

One of the hardest cultural adjustments visitors to Eastern Upper Nile must make is to separate the primitive conditions which the people live in from the awareness of the world at

English teaching gives students the best foundation to learn computers

large. Yes, most of the Buldeet had never seen a westerner, or a person with white skin until we first began working there in May, 2001. However many are very aware of what is going on in the larger world—through radio or word of mouth.

The first time we were asked to provide a computer (and generator, fuel, etc.) for one of the local chiefs, we did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Long term, our goal is to help the local children learn in school what has been denied them for at least 15 years of no schools (in Daga, there’s never been any schools in all of human history). Our goal is to also train the teachers and the local village chiefs and



Crowded School Classroom—notice the MRE bag as schoolbook holder

parents to a level where the school district is self-sufficient, or nearly so.

Our burden is also for God to raise up local people who desire to become Bible translators—so the people can have the Word of God in their own heart language. This has been done successfully in other parts of the world, and we are following their training models as much as local conditions will allow.

In future issues we will tell you more about the work of short-term missionaries who are helping “teach the teach-

ers” in this region. We will also tell you more about how local village jealousies are helping bring about an explosion of schools throughout the region—a very positive (yet immensely challenging) development.

Project Ideas Include:

Help a US church or school sponsor a South Sudan school. Just \$20 per day will operate an entire school. Commit to helping fund 1 day (or more) per month.



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.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me"... "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25: 35-6, 40

We're on the Web!
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Dear Friends:

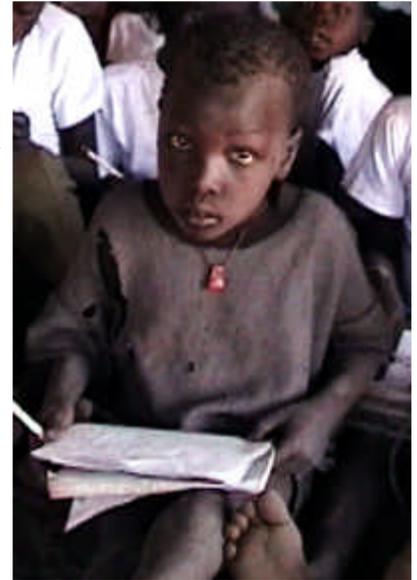
Thank you for the many positive comments about the new format of our monthly newsletters and prayer guide. It was encouraging to know you want to be better informed about what to pray for, and about all that God is doing through our partnership in ministry.

As expected, we are incredibly busy this dry season — from work with the churches to education to health & medical to agriculture, water/sanitation and infrastructure. It is stretching our faith, stretching our skills, and stretching our resources. Yet God has promised to be faithful, to never leave us nor forsake us. And He has promised that He will provide the resources to carry out the programs He's put before us. Please continue to pray for us and for all the saints in EUN & SBN.

Thanks to you who are co-ministers with us to our long-suffering brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

May God richly bless you!

Dennis Bennell



Water & Sanitation: Keys to Health

Many of the diseases faced by people living in Eastern Upper Nile and Southern Blue Nile are due to the lack of clean water. The Daga River, for example, runs year 'round. However, this picture shows the condition of the water which everyone along the river drinks (including the goats).

When villagers drink this water they are likely to catch dysentery, other diarrhea type diseases, some form of parasites (including river blindness), or possibly a combination of all of them. This situation is worsened by a general lack of knowledge of sanitation and disease vectors, and by their failure to build and use latrines.

The simplest solution to this problem is to hand-dig water wells and then install hand water pumps. We also need to change local behavior so that they want to dig and use latrines.

Where to start? With the next generation. Each



"Clean" Water

school sponsored or managed by Servant's Heart must have 2 latrines ("boys" and "girls") and a hand-dug water well. Part of the school "learning" will be to understand the importance of personal hygiene, sanitation, clean water and the causes of many common local diseases.

The biggest challenge is for Servant's Heart to pro-

vide the well casings, hand water pumps, cement and related gear to make the new wells long-lasting. We estimate that each well will cost approximately \$1,500 to install a heavy duty hand pump—effectively stopping many local diseases "dead in their tracks". Please pray with us as we ask God for sources of this life-saving equipment.