

Serving in Sudan

MAY, 2005

Hundreds of Children Die from Measles

It is really hot as I sit in the shade of our house in the village of Daga Post, Eastern Upper Nile (EUN) in South Sudan. It should be hot and dry this time of year, about 110°F in the shade, but it is hotter—more like 120°F. The heat never seems to end. Even at night, it's unbearably hot and dry.

The food that was in the field last season is already gone and no one knows where to get more — there's none in the area. Families come from other villages, looking for food in Daga, but there isn't any. Some leave as quietly as they came, moving on to where they hope there is food.

Recently, Servant's Heart helped to bring in grain for 10,000 people to last us for a few months. This provides enough food for one meal per day for the next three months, but it will be about eight months until there's a harvest. My mom hopes the food will last long enough to keep us going.

My brother and I just sit in the shade of our hut and are too tired to play. I don't have much energy to run around. My friends are not feeling good from something called the "measles." Many of them are sick or have died.

I can't count very high, but I hear the adults talking about the hundreds of children who have died in the past four months, in and around our village. Another 400 children in and near the village currently are sick with measles and secondary infections, like pneumonia and diarrhea, and the adults are scared, because most of the sick kids will likely die without help. My mom is afraid I



Children are sick and dying of measles daily in Daga Post, Eastern Upper Nile. This boy had malaria, was malnourished, and then caught the measles.

will get measles and die too, but she doesn't know what to do.

Since food has been scarce and it's so hot, lots of children have reddened hair, like my brother. The other children are mostly listless and tired. It's hard for my mom to take care of me and my small brothers and sisters.

Some of my mom's friends have lost all their children in this outbreak. None of us have had shots to keep us from having measles. In fact, no one in the area has.

I hope to grow big and healthy enough to attend the school here that is run by Servant's Heart, but it's closed now because of my friends who are sick. I have seen the children going to school and enjoying learning to read and write. I need food and health care so I can grow big and smart. I can't wait until school's open again and I can go too.

Measles kills nearly 1 million children around the world annually, and about half of them live in Africa. In fact, each year measles kills more children in Africa than AIDS, tuberculosis and malnutrition combined, according to the American Red Cross.

Servant's Heart is working to save sick children with food and nutritional supplements, to increase the food available to the families so other family members don't become ill, and to comfort the bereaved parents. Some parents have lost all their children in the past four months. **Your generous donation will:**

Provide Oral Rehydration Salts to combat diarrhea and dehydration caused by measles.

Provide Vitamin A to keep children from becoming blind from the measles.

Provide infant formula to help the infants and children too weak from measles to eat food.

Take a health training team to teach community health workers, teachers and village leaders how to stop the spread of disease.

Through a generous donation, we have a plane ready to fill with these resources.

Please help us stop this devastating measles outbreak and care for sick children with your generous donation. We can fill this plane with up to \$25,000 of nutritional supplements, medicines and health trainers willing to help. Can we count on you?

Focus on Health: Treating Causes, not Symptoms

Servant's Heart has worked to make a difference in South Sudan since 1998. We have worked to improve the human condition through health assistance, not strictly medicine. This is different from how most international organizations approach health issues.

In our society, we assume everyone has access to clean water to drink, soap for washing, and disease-free food. When we are sick, we seek medical care and medicines that make us feel better and communicable diseases outbreaks are addressed expeditiously by public health officials. We have public and private social programs that many of us support to ensure that all people have access to these basics of good health.

In South Sudan, people rarely have access to these resources. In EUN, most people have access to none: they use dirty water to wash, soap is rare and they have limited nutrition. The water they drink is usually full of infectious diseases which they are exposed to every time they drink to stay alive.



This girl is sick with the measles and suffering from malnutrition. Servant's Heart has brought supplements to help her survive the disease and return to school.

Our Health Plan

- ▶ Focuses on Health.
- ▶ Health workers and community leaders create a Community Health Plan for each village.
- ▶ Addresses the sources of disease transmission.
- ▶ Works toward a steady food supply.
- ▶ Educates community leaders who teach others.
- ▶ Reduces infant mortality with birthing assistance and training.
- ▶ Provides medical assistance and a plan for emergency treatment.
- ▶ Facilitates vaccinations against contagious diseases.

Furthermore, many villages have been concerned with survival and don't have a plan for creating a healthy village environment, such as sanitation. Servant's Heart is working with village leaders to create plans for healthier life habits. Each plan will encourage the village leadership to take responsibility for health as it does for other community functions.

Servant's Heart is working to provide sanitation and hygiene training that everyone in a village can implement. By training community health leaders and teachers, they can teach adults and children the things that everyone can do to stop disease transmission and improve health.

Servant's Heart is addressing health needs systemically. Our focus on clean water has produced two wells in the last two years. We are in the process of installing up to 10 more this year and are coordinating with other organizations to provide information and resources for more in the region.

In general, the people of EUN don't have access to the things that would help eliminate disease and its transmission, like soap. Without access to

clean water and soap, they usually wash their bodies, eating utensils and clothes with the same water, spreading disease with the very water that's meant to cleanse.

Rainfall in 2004 was only 40—70% of normal across all of South Sudan, yielding a very minimal crop, and in some areas, none at all. As a result, people are in need of food assistance, making everyone more susceptible to disease because their immune system is weak from the lack of good nutrition.

Servant's Heart continues to work toward a reduction in infant mortality. We are now birthing over 100 babies per month in four villages (see p.3). We are working to expand our facilities to provide medical assistance and emergency care in conjunction with other aid organizations without eroding our commitment to sustainable development.

Lastly, we are working toward providing vaccinations against contagious disease as vaccines become available to us. Please support us in this effort to help the children of EUN grow up strong.



Water from the river is full of silt and disease. Local people have been drinking this water their whole life and have a life expectancy of 35 years.

Oil Revenues Could Provide Needed Healthcare

The recently signed peace agreement created a framework for sharing oil revenues from oil development with South Sudan. At \$50 per barrel, the oil is worth at least \$150 Billion. Unfortunately, we expect it will be years before the people of South Sudan will see any benefit, if ever. It appears the arguments have only just begun.

The Government of South Sudan (GOSS) has not simplified the issue. Since the signing of the peace agreement in January, 2005, two "oil concession lease" deals have already been announced. There are reasons to suspect that these companies may not be what they seem.

One is "Planitis" out of Austin, TX and the other is by "White Nile", based in London, UK. Planitis and White Nile were awarded concessions already owned by Total/Fina, who was originally awarded drilling rights by the Government of Sudan. If the GOSS continues to pursue

this oil lease strategy unilaterally, the war is likely to restart over this issue.

Because of the disagreement over who holds the oil rights, both concessions appear likely to wind up in a legal dispute: in Khartoum, and possibly the World Court.

Oil industry observers have suggested that neither Planitis nor White Nile appear to have the expertise or wherewithal to actually explore and/or exploit their concessions. Planitis has reportedly already sold its concession through a partnership deal to a nominee company called Export Management Company (EMC) of Louisville, KY. EMC operates as "nominee" (a.k.a. front company) to Middle Eastern interests from Dubai and elsewhere.

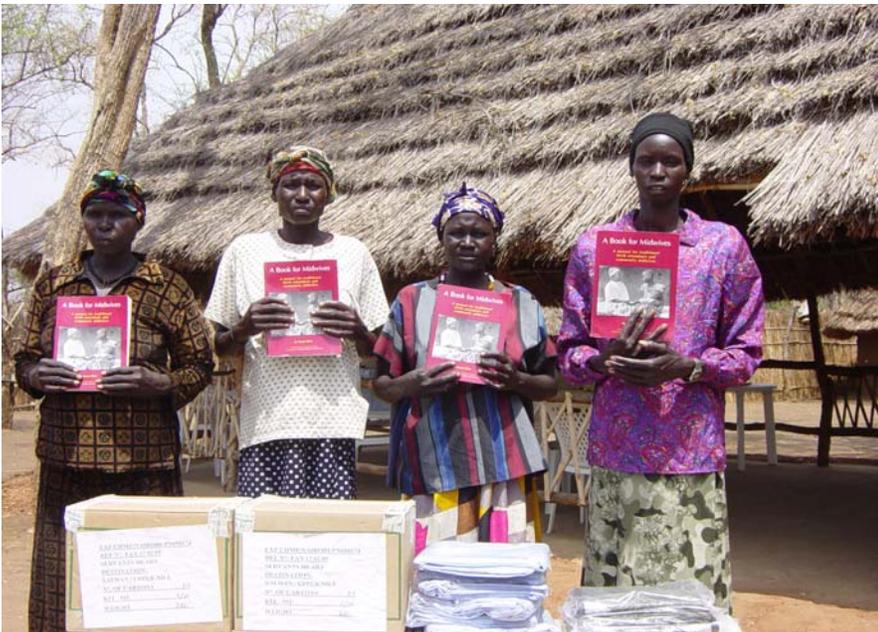
The primary reason for EMC to be in the deal is to shield the real name of the company supposedly buying and developing the oil rights.

It is unclear whether the GOSS realizes who they could be granting the oil rights to.

White Nile has raised regulatory flags in London. As they raised money on the penny stock exchange, British authorities halted trading in the stock. It has since agreed to sell the "oil concession rights" to Petroleum Corporation of Sudan (PCS). PCS is controlled by two Nuer leaders that have sometimes been part of the GOSS: Riak Machar and Taban Deng. For historical reasons, it is doubtful that they would be allowed to develop oil concession in Dinka territory, since these two leaders come from a subclan with a history of blood feuds against other clans and tribes, including the Dinka.

Until the situation sorts itself out, US investors should be aware that President Bush and the State Dept. has so far ruled that because of the continuing genocide in Darfur, the embargo against US investments in Sudan still stands.

Midwives Serve in Remote Villages to Birth Babies



Midwives receiving birthing supplies and resource materials in Daga Post, EUN in 2005.

In the Daga Post area, Servant's Heart was appalled to discover in 2001 that all of the trained midwives had been captured and tortured or killed by the GOS and its militias during the war. As a result, no one wanted to travel from house-to-house to help with birthing.

Today there are eight midwives trained by Servant's Heart who have been faithfully serving in four villages in the region for the past three years. They are trained to use sterile instruments, boiled water and clean sheets in the birthing process, reducing infant mortality by over 50% in their villages. They are "birthing" over 100 babies per month this year in four villages.

They are proud to receive these supplies we've provided. With your help, Servant's Heart is working to provide more resources in 2005 to the midwives of EUN.



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.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you.
Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the man who trusts in him."

Psalm 32: 8,10 (NIV)

We're on the Web!
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Dear Friends:

The past month has been heart-wrenching as we have discovered that measles has actively spread throughout this area of Eastern Upper Nile and at last count, 500 have died since December, 2004 in the Daga Post area alone. As we have worked to keep alive the 400 actively sick children, we have had to temporarily close the schools, as none of the children have been inoculated against this disease. Since these children are malnourished to begin with, many do not have the systemic resources to survive the virus. Some mothers have lost all their children in the past four months. We can only imagine what that is like.

Thanks to your support, we flew in supplements in late March to try to keep the sick children from dying and have provided food to 10,000 hungry people, trying to help stem the tide of the disease.. Please pray with us that we will be able to bring in more medicine and stop this outbreak that threatens thousands of children through the area.

May God richly bless you! *Dennis and Diane Bennett*

Did You Know?

- Servant's Heart was started as a ministry to the Christians in Southern Blue Nile (SBN), just north of Eastern Upper Nile (EUN) in 1998.
- Servant's Heart now supports pastors overseeing over 100 churches in SBN and EUN.
- Servant's Heart was called the "Blue Nile Project" when it started.
- Servant's Heart serves seven tribes in EUN and SBN, speaking seven tribal languages and two trade languages: English and Arabic.
- The Koma tribe has a written language since the 1950's, but only one person can read it.
- Servant's Heart focuses on an area of about 15,000 sq. miles, with a population of about 200,000 people.
- The literacy rate has been below 5% prior to Servant's Heart's work and some tribes cannot count past ten.
- Servant's Heart has started and operates two primary schools with over 1,000 students.
- The people in EUN are Christian, "folk" Muslim, or animist, with witchdoctors that use "black magic."
- The UN estimates that 17—25% of the population in EUN was starving ("food insecure") as of December 2004, due to the low rainfall, displacement from the war and lack of farming knowledge and equipment.
- Servant's Heart focuses on equipping people, giving them tools and skills to improve their lives, regardless of their beliefs.



- The Peace Protocols provide for a six-and-a-half year cooperation between North and South Sudan. After that, the South can stay with the Muslim North or form their own country. This would be the first country creation since colonial lines were drawn arbitrarily across the African map by the British.
- Recently, Muslims brought truckloads of food, medicine and clothing into EUN from the North for distribution. People could get what they needed if they converted to Islam.
- Many families have been living under trees in hiding, in fear for their lives for most of the last 20 years.
- South Sudan is more than 60% female and 80% of food production (farming) is done by women.