

Serving in Africa

FALL 2009

And the Winds Blew...

In May 2009, the main Servant's Heart health facility in Chotbora, Upper Nile State of South Sudan, was destroyed by a whirlwind during the rains, ripping off the entire roof. Medicines, supplies and years of health and medicine records were all destroyed. What could be salvaged was moved into the main compound where health services continued in make shift facilities.

Rebuilding proved to be quite a challenge. Unexpectedly, timber and trusses were hard to acquire.

Chotbora is in an area of savannah climate, where no large trees for lumber grow. When Servant's Heart looked to import timbers from outside Sudan, there were unexpected barriers: Ethiopia, to the east, grows trees that are big enough to be for lumber, but has banned export-



The medical clinic in Chotbora after the roof was

ing it; Kenya has recently imposed a similar ban.

The timber was finally sourced from Juba, South Sudan, and air lifted in just be-

fore the heavy rains of the summer months. 40 sheets of metal roofing and 100kgs of roofing nails were also flown from Kenya. By early June all of the tools for rebuilding the clinic had been assembled at the compound. Local volunteers immediately began rebuilding the clinic, as the temporary compound proved incapable of handling the full patient load. By early August the clinic was completed and full health services were resumed.

Through your continued support, funds were available through this emergency to purchase the needed lumber, roofing and supplies. Without these supplies in a timely manner, the health services would have been greatly limited.

Thank you for your continued support to provide basic health service to the people of Longochok county, South Sudan.

Welcome to Steve Nugent as Executive Director

It is with grateful hearts that the Servant's Heart board of directors announces that Steve Nugent is the new Executive Director effective 1 September 2009. "We are glad to have Steve Nugent join us in our work to help the Sudanese and Kenyans in their efforts to survive and thrive. He comes with a depth of experience in running other organizations and has embraced the needs of Servant's Heart," said Diane Bennett, former Executive Director and co-founder.

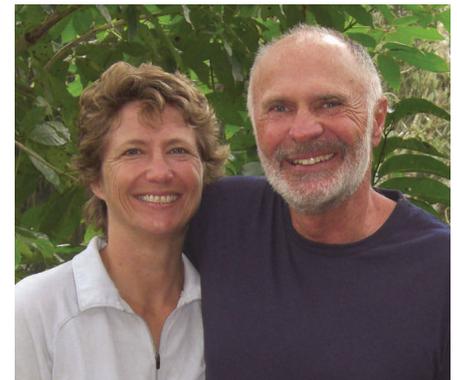
Steve and his wife Mollie Nugent live in California. They have four grown children. Steve and Mollie have lived a life of service and have served in various ways through their careers, including working at an orphanage in Mexico, directing a home for unwed mothers in Nevada, and partnering in jail and prison ministries. Steve has also, held the position of pastor and elder at their church, Grace Community Church, in Minden, Nevada.

Steve says, "Having grown up spending my life in a small town of 800 people, the thought of serving as executive director to a Southern Sudan ministry was quite daunting. However, Mollie and I have often prayed a simple prayer, "Lord please

don't let us waste our lives." That prayer has led us over the years to many different service ministries, and now it seems to be Servant's Heart. As I consider the foundation that has been laid by Dennis and Diane and the many others I am humbled to be given the opportunity to share in this ministry. I am glad to be working closely with Anna, Gideon and Samuel.

Our connection with Servant's Heart began a few years ago when our close friend Anna Strachan began to explore serving in South Sudan. And now after getting to go and see Anna and the people of the eastern Upper Nile region, I am excited to see opportunities for us, you and me, as we have been given this small piece of God's creation in which to minister. Together, with blessings from on high we have been given the ability to be used to accomplish good for the people of Longochok County. My prayer is that we will be of service, equipping the Sudanese people of the region to advance His kingdom.

It is my desire that we would be the best of stewards with the gifts that you entrust us with. I will be working with the board of Servant's Heart to develop clear



Steve and Mollie Nugent

objectives, the action plans to accomplish those objectives and the measures to evaluate our effectiveness in accomplishing them."

Diane and Dennis Bennett have both assumed positions as voting members of the Servant's Heart board of directors. They look forward to working together to address problems in the South Sudan communities and work towards cost-effective solutions that work for everyone. They join with Steve and Mollie in this prayer:

Oh Lord, please don't let us waste our lives.

Team Travels to Oversee Work in the South Sudan

In May 2009, four men found themselves meeting up, luggage and supplies in hand, immunizations up to date, using "vacation time" to spend a week in the upper Nile, South Sudan. Their goal was to evaluate the work of Servant's Heart first hand and give support to the Servant's Heart staff in the church, schools and medical clinics.

The team included: Dennis Bennett, former director and founder of Servant's Heart; Donald Strachan, a geologist, and father of Anna Strachan, a registered nurse serving in Sudan with Servant's Heart; Matt Barulich, MD, in obstetrics and gynecology and sits on the Servant's Heart board of directors; and Steve Nugent, joined the team to evaluate the Servant's Heart field operations. Together they wanted to become acquainted with the dedicated Servant's Heart staff that provide education, health care and pastoral care under difficult and trying circumstances. In Nairobi the team was joined by Gideon Sawe, the Servant's Heart Nairobi office manager.

With changes in Servant's Heart leadership in the past year and changes in the American economy, a close-up review of field operations and expenses seemed timely.

The visiting team was in Sudan approximately a week, meeting with various Servant's Heart staff groups, the leadership of several communities, and local civil administrators. Everyone wanted to feel important to this visiting team!

Dr. Matt Barulich spent a good part of his time with Anna and the clinic medical director, Samuel Ador, training the traditional birthing assistants (TBAs). Samuel interpreted into local languages for Dr. Barulich as he taught. "They were more open to new ideas than I expected," said Matt.

The goal of the training was targeted to decreasing mother/infant mortality through new birthing techniques, helping the birthing attendants understand how they can minimize bleeding and infection, treat high blood pressure and stop seizures in the birthing process.

Blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes were provided for each of the TBAs, and training was given on their use. Medicines were provided for the clinic along with directions for dosing and distribution to treat high blood pressure, seizures and pain relief during labor and delivery.

Matt was encouraged that follow up will be provided by Anna and Samuel as



From l to r, Donald Strachan, Dennis Bennett, Gideon Sawe, Steve Nugent, Dr. Matt Barulich

the TBAs apply the newly learned techniques and use the medications.

Matt also reviewed the general medical procedures of the clinic and their facilities.

Steve Nugent worked with the teachers, medical staff and community leaders in Chotboro and the surrounding villages. He also met with John Wigal Thoal, the lead pastor and some of the evangelists from churches in several communities. Originally from this area, Pastor John returned from studying in Kenya a few years ago to assume pastoral leadership in a handful of churches. This group has grown to approximately 25 churches, some of which are new church fellowships (church plants) and some that were under another pastor's leadership, who was overloaded.

The farthest destination in his service area requires a four-day walk. "We were able to provide a donkey to carry many of the supplies he takes with him on his pastoral journeys," said Steve. Pastor John was grateful for this ability to travel with less wear and tear on his feet and legs, a common cause of problems for pastors who walk between villages every day to oversee congregations. With only foot paths and poor shoes to wear, their feet, knees and backs often experience signs of wear after only a few years of pastoring. Pastor John is grateful for this transportation!

You might wonder how Pastor John can oversee so many churches. In Sudan, lay leaders serve in the local churches when the pastor is not available, providing church leadership under his guidance. Church leaders are often eager to serve but Pastor John is keenly aware that he needs to spend more time with them to provide spiritual leadership. With no other trained pastor this area, his pres-

ence and teaching are essential right now in numerous villages. He feels stretched very thin, so the donkey will help him cover more ground and spend more time with his flocks.

Pastor John and church leaders were thrilled as they welcomed the gift of new Bibles and hymn books in the Nuer language, as well as chairs and tables for the churches provided by Servant's Heart. (See below)

Steve was able to meet the people that inspired the Bennetts to start and run Servant's Heart 11 years ago and see Dennis in action. On this trip, Dennis spent countless hours meeting community and tribal leaders, listening to lots of problems and providing guidance for solutions. The people were so glad that God has gifted him with wisdom and a passion as large as Sudan itself. He traveled to several different locations so that no one felt neglected even though he was there only a short time.

Donald Strachan, spent his time with his daughter, encouraging Anna after 18 months in the field. As a geologist, he looked at the physical conditions (altitude, soil quality and water purity) where various tribes live to investigate the cause of some of the disease that's prevalent in some tribes and not others.

Gideon supported the team's various day trips and community meetings, providing logistical support and joining the Servant's



Sudanese pastor and evangelists look on with grateful hearts at Bibles and hymnals

Heart staff meetings. Gideon provided follow up quickly before the rainy season.

The team felt renewed in their personal determination to help Servant's Heart make an impact in this area. Dennis and Matt both sit on the board and Steve agreed to become the next Executive Director. Just as important, the local community and church leaders and Servant's Heart staff were encouraged by the needed supplies and resources that make their jobs easier and the care they received.

Open Letter to our Supporters



Executive Director

My prayer and heartfelt desire is that I come not only to serve the people of South Sudan, but also our supporters. We are one out of thousands of non-profits doing good work throughout the world. Your choices of where to give your time and talents are many. For some reason, you have been moved at some point to connect with Servant's Heart. We are grateful for this and want to be good stewards of the gifts you bestow on us.

For over a year now Servant's Heart has been in transition in our U.S.-based leadership. Dennis and Diane Bennett have, due to heavy competing demands for their time, chosen to take a less active role in the day-to-day operations. They have carried the lion's share of the burden for over ten years. Members of the Board of Directors volunteered to share the various duties and fulfill them on an interim basis through the latter part of 2008 and into 2009, but this was not a long-term solution.

I accepted the role of Executive Director as of September 1 understanding that I

would require continued help and support from the Bennetts and other members of the Board of Directors.

We all offer our sincere apologies for any inconvenience and/or lack of prompt communication you have experienced through our transitions. It is my personal goal to rectify that as quickly as we can.

I am glad to report that while we have been transitioning leadership roles here in the U.S., the work in Sudan has continued to expand. The churches are growing. The clinics are seeing record numbers of patients who walk for days to our clinics because they get good care and the schools are providing an education and meals to thousands of children. The leprosy treatment program continues to expand and currently serves over 100 Sudanese suffering from this disfiguring disease. Our partnership with Save the Children is also running smoothly, subsidizing some of our operations. We have lots to tell you!!

I am committed to serving you by keeping you informed of the work and promptly corresponding when we hear from you. If you are currently supporting Servant's Heart, whether financially or in prayer, I implore you to continue! If our work has fallen off your "radar", I

ask you to take another look, and consider resuming your support. We have experienced a decline in donations over the recent months and are in need of assistance to fund the programs, meeting vital needs in eastern Upper Nile. Servant's Heart remains the only ministry providing many services in this region. I have seen for myself the integrity and hard work of the field staff and the operations in Kenya, and can speak to the needs with my own observations.

I am available to speak with you at all times. Please contact me with any questions or concerns and know that I am here to serve you as your Executive Director.

Sincerely,
Steve Nugent

To Contact Steve Nugent

Servant's Heart

PO Box 716

Bridgeport, CA 93517

www.servantsheartrelief.org

Toll Free: 877-932-7213

760-932-7417

s.nugent@servantsheartrelief.org

Save the Children Expands Partnership

When Save the Children (US) was looking for organizations that were doing effective work in South Sudan that could be more effective if they had additional resources, they chose Servant's Heart as one of their partners. We had already demonstrated a track record of hiring and training local people to teach and run schools and were trying to address medical needs with insufficient resources.

With the assistance of Save the Children, Servant's Heart has run the medical clinics in Chotboro since 2001 and expanded to Pamach, maintained midwifery teams since 2005, and more recently initiated a leprosy treatment program.

Based on our demonstrated responsible use of funds and insight into the local communities' needs, Save the Children has recently expanded their support to further improve the health care that Servant's Heart provides and expand our reach.

The program currently provides

medicines and treatment and patients are walking up to five days to come to a clinic for treatment. Fully one fourth of the population in the region are returnees from the result of decades of civil war, many of whom have neglected medical conditions, so the trips are often difficult. Save the Children is working with us to increase the capacity of the medical clinics to meet these needs and anticipate additional ones.

Expanded services are planned, such as creating mobile clinics, increasing systematic immunization programs, and distribution centers for long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed-nets to prevent malaria. Servant's Heart is currently treating over 25,000 patients per year in this region. With additional support, we are hoping to yearly increase the number of people we provide services to.

Since 2001, Servant's Heart has run the only schools in the region. We started with the school in Daga Post,

then Wudeir, then expanded to Chotbora, partnering with the local communities in each village. The schools have now expanded to educate close to 3,000 children up to grade 6. Save the Children intends to help us provide medical services to the school children to teach them good hygiene and improve their knowledge of health. We continue to work at integrating education, health and spiritual life.

We have also worked with Save the Children to educate women on issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Servant's Heart staff, community and church leaders were taught the importance of caring for abuse victims.

Save the Children has also helped to coordinate medicines donated by UNICEF and the Government of South Sudan Ministry of Health. Servant's Heart has coordinated with The Leprosy Mission and the Ministry of Health to provide the leprosy medicines. Together, we are working to improve the health of the people in this remote area.



Mission Statement

As a responsible Christian organization, Servant's Heart seeks to honor God by serving the Christina 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)

Servant's Heart

PO Box 716

Bridgeport, CA 93517

www.servantsheartrelief.org

Toll Free: 877-932-7213

760-932-7417

Servant's Heart is a 501(c)#

non-profit corporation,

EIN #91-2138423.

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Servant's Heart Expands into Kenya



The students and staff at Ravine Bible College in Kenya

A few years ago, we learned of a college in the Kenyan Rift Valley that was struggling to get established. It was operating totally without computers and the roof of their main building was caving in!

The Edama Ravine Bible College trains pastors in Kenya and was restricted by their lack of infrastructure, only able to graduate a few students per year. We were touched by the college's mission and courage that operates in similar ways to our work in Sudan.

Over the past few years, the school leadership has been transitioning from foreign missionaries to indigenous Kenyan leadership and received virtually no financial assistance from outside the community. The new school principal,

the Reverend Joseph K Kendagor, embraced this fledgling school and has a vision for the school's growth in depth and breadth.

With over 20 years pastoral experience, as well as biblical scholarship, Rev Kendagor has taken on growing the school to its potential and Servant's Heart has committed to walking alongside through this process.

In 2008, Servant's Heart established a relationship with the college by agreeing with Rev Kendagor to help automate the school's bookkeeping and student record

keeping. Gideon Sawe from the Nairobi office has been working with the Bible college staff to install new computers, donated by Servant's Heart. As a gifted administrator, Gideon understands the importance of automating various office functions. He has been conducting office automation classes and working with the school leadership to assist in this process.

The college facilities are sufficient but the library is lacking and there is no IT infrastructure. Most students have never done any work on a computer and have no idea where to start.

Servant's Heart is committed to helping this fledgling Bible school increase its quality of education.

Thanks, Anna!



Anna Strachan RN, serving in Sudan, snuggling a Sudanese infant.

At Servant's Heart, we attempt to describe the difficult conditions in the South Sudan in terms that you can comprehend. But it is impossible to convey the extent or severity of many problems without sounding melodramatic.

So it is with the utmost respect that we celebrate Anna Strachan's two years serving in South Sudan with Servant's Heart. Having gone in with a team in January 2007, she served alone for about five months after they returned home. This "trial period" gave her confidence that she could handle a longer commitment. She returned to the States determined to return for two years.

And we are proud to say that Anna has done what she set off to do! Having completed two years in the field, she is the first non-African to serve with Servant's Heart in the field for so long. During that time she has learned the local Nuer dialect and can work alongside our staff who don't understand English at all.

Please celebrate with us some of the accomplishments of the health treatment team during Anna's service:

- The leprosy treatment program was established, with training, medications, and a treatment timetable;
- Continuous leadership of the medical team, as Anna serves as chief medical officer when the doctor is away;
- Increased training of the traditional birthing assistants (midwives), to continue to reduce maternal and infant mortality; and
- Improved evacuation procedures when serious injuries or birthing complications occur.

Anna will be taking an extended rest and relaxation break, including monitoring of her own health. The leadership of Servant's Heart and the people of South Sudan are grateful for her dedication and service! Thanks, Anna!