



## Kenya & South Sudan / Spring 2020

What an unusual time for the world! What are we to learn from this?

As the Pandemic coincides with Easter and Passover, we remember that the Jews were awaiting deliverance from slavery in Egypt while on lockdown, fearful and waiting for the plague of death to pass over. May the blood of the Lamb be on our lamp posts and may this plague pass over us.

I pray that each of you are safe, healthy and with loved ones during this Easter and lockdown. I have my son and one granddaughter staying with me right now, so we are supporting each other. May we each grow closer to the risen Lord who defeated death on the cross during this time.

South Sudan has only a few known cases of the virus, however testing is scarce, so it is difficult to know. There are many cases in Kenya however and Kenya is on lockdown. It is difficult to imagine this virus spreading across South Sudan which has so few medical resources.

Our children are safe. We continually pray protection over them. We are sending up medicines and vitamin C to help boost their immune systems. Pastor Santino was in Kenya with his family when the lockdown came in mid-March, so he has been confined there and unable to get back to South Sudan. I know that Santino's family is happy to have him at home during this time.

I visited with Pastor Santino's family on my recent trip to Kenya. His children are growing up and they have a new baby as well. While there, I also visited the families of Pastor Philip Ajing and Pastor Joseph Makauch. Abraham and Beck have recently graduated from high school. Both were top in their classes and are hoping for scholarship help to go on for further studies. We have supported these young men since they began elementary school. I am so proud of them and so happy that we could invest in their lives while their fathers work for the church in South Sudan.

Prior to visiting Santino in Nakuru, I had been trying to reach Sammy, the driver I have used in the 15 years I have been going there. After arriving by bus, I walked to the taxi stop where Sammy was based. I wanted to ask the other drivers about him. To my shock, the driver I spoke with there told me that Sammy had been hijacked and brutally murdered last year. I couldn't imagine such a horrible thing. I could only think of Sammy's big smile and laugh as we drove down the roads with Christian music blasting from his CD player. I thought of his wife and children. I thought of how much he had meant to Longar and to me during Longar's time in elementary school in Nakuru. Sammy loved Longar and was always ready to take supplies to him at school, help him with a missing piece of his uniform, or drive him home from school if he was sick. After I composed myself, I asked the taxi driver to take me to Sammy's home to see his wife. We stopped and picked up fruits and vegetables on the way. I waited as the driver went to the door. Sammy's wife came out. We had a sweet time together as she told me of the difficult year it has been. She is not able to get work and does not see how she can pay the rent on their small place. She was very appreciative for the visit and the food. She asked if I would visit the children at school which I did the next day. I left funds behind to pay her rent for a couple of months. A friend of mine has now offered to add to that and pay the rent for the remainder of the year.



## Longar

Longar was devastated at the news of Sammy's death. We had a great visit however. He and I stayed at the Anglican Guest house where everyone enjoyed seeing him again.

While in Nairobi we attended Holy Trinity Anglican Church where my friend Bill Omongu is rector. It was a challenge to navigate around flooded streets from the heavy downpours. Such rains are very rare for this time of the year but had been nonstop for days. I spoke at three services and shared at a women's meeting. One of the services was a service for South Sudanese. It was wonderful to share with them and hear their feedback. Some were from an area of Western Equatoria where I visited on my first trip to South Sudan. It was a typical "all day" African church meeting!

Longar has been out of school for a month due to the virus. Not unlike teenagers in the States, he is totally bored during the lockdown.



Remember Psalm 91. "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord," My Refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings you may seek refuge, His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark."

Love and Blessings,

Fran

## Akuak Rak

Answering the Call sent a team into our Compound in Akuak Rak right before I arrived in Kenya. I did not go into South Sudan. The ATC team took in sewing machines and trained members of our community to sew. The locals are especially interested in sewing uniforms for the school children and perhaps some things that can be sold in the market.



We continue to need scholarships for students that have graduated eighth grade along with scholarships for the few high school graduates that we have. Several young men, that were the first orphans that we took in, graduated last summer. They have been volunteering at the orphanage to give back some of what they have received. They have high aspirations for further education. One wants to be a doctor and come back to our region to help. Another wants to be an engineer and another a journalist.

Around \$550 per year supports a student in high school. It costs around \$2500 a year for higher education.

We are always in need of more medicines for the clinic. As the only clinic in the region, it quickly goes through medicines, especially malarial medications. We need to be well stocked with antibiotics if this virus comes through. May it Passover Lord.

We are forever grateful for all that you have done over the years to sustain the ministry in Akuak Rak. It is nothing short of a miracle. I know that the Lord will provide even during these times of financial shortages and illness.

## We thank you for your continued prayers and caring!

Because of God working through you, we are making a difference!

Tax deductible checks for any of the projects and for Fran's ministry support may be made out to "GNS" (Gospel Network Support). DO NOT put Fran's name on the check! Please send checks to Fran, rather than GNS, so that she can make sure that donations are properly credited to her account.

You can also make a donation via credit card by going to our website: [www.connectinglivesintl.org](http://www.connectinglivesintl.org).

In addition, donations of stock are also accepted. Contact Fran for more information.

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