



Southern Sudan,
Jordan & Turkey
Spring 2015

A Letter from Fran Boyle

Dear Friends,

It was a great joy to be in Aquak Rak, South Sudan, where Scott Thompson and I witnessed the graduation of our first class of eighth graders. We were witnessing something that had only seemed like a dream when I decided to round up the 62 orphan redeemed slaves in the immediate area back in 2007. I agreed that we would find a way to support these 62. The number quickly grew to 135 orphans. Today there are 215 orphans in the school. The children are being taught using the Kenyan form of education and in English. We hoped to hear more from the children themselves at the graduation, but in the true cultural fashion of the area, we heard mostly from the local officials, as they all gave speeches about the importance of education, much like our graduation ceremonies here in the States. I was able to pray over these children as they headed out the next day for their interviews at the secondary school in Marial Bai. I felt like a proud Mom.



Fran with the graduating class and their teachers



A group of Darfurian tribal leaders made the hour and a half trek by donkey to attend the graduation ceremony on Sunday. The leaders promised to return on Monday for the beginning of the Trauma Healing workshop.



Fran and Scott praying with the Darfurians the night before the workshop

We met under the magnificent sycamore tree for which Aquak Rak draws its name. It is the reason for the location of the community. We led a Trauma Healing workshop which began on Monday. With temperatures well over 100 degrees, the shade of the sycamore tree was a welcome relief.

The Darfurian leaders did return as promised to join the fifty or so local church leaders. The workshop was well received by all. We had translators, translating into both Arabic and Dinka. We were blessed by the enthusiastic participation, especially by the Darfurians as well as fifteen or so South Sudan soldiers. They had remained behind after the large graduation meeting on Sunday to guard us during the following week while we were there. We had noticed how attentive the soldiers were. They tried to move closer and closer to hear the teachings. We asked them to join in, which they readily did. Scott and I also had the privilege of praying individually for each of the soldiers at the conclusion of the workshop. They are a sad neglected group who are far from home, some for as long as two years, and they miss their families terribly.



The Darfurian leaders seemed blessed by the workshop which was completely biblically based. They heard how Jesus came to comfort all who mourn, and take our pain upon Himself. They heard a clear explanation of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. Along with the Christians, these Muslim leaders readily took their pain, which they had asked the interpreter to help them write on a piece of paper, and placed it in a bucket at the base of the large wooden cross erected on a tree. They broke into dance with the locals at the conclusion of the workshop.



Reunion with Mary Akot, one of our first students, an orphan and a former slave in the north



Trauma healing workshop under the landmark sycamore tree

After the conclusion of our time in South Sudan, Scott and I flew back to the capitol, Juba, and then to Nairobi. Scott flew back to the States and I continued on to Jordan and Turkey. I had been invited to lead a trauma healing workshop in Jordan for workers who are working with Iraqi and Syrian refugees there. It was a blessing to work with these dedicated servants who were open and eager for new tools in their work with an endless influx of refugees who have suffered enormous loss. We traveled north in Jordan to the border with Syria, where we led another workshop for a group of workers from South Africa and the US.



Taking their pain to the cross

My friends Dale and Bassam participated and helped with the workshops. While we were there, ISIS was attacking the Christian area of Syria in Northeastern Syria. Bassam, who is very involved as a spokesman for the Syrian Christians, flew to Europe to be available to speak to the media outlets there.



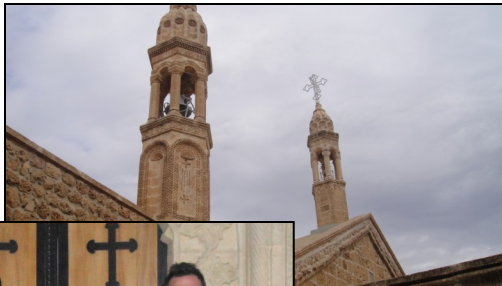
Michael, an eighth grade graduate and former redeemed slave, beside a hand cut dug out canoe which is used to cross the river



With Syrian refugees in Jordan

I traveled on to Southern Turkey where I visited a longtime friend and met with Syrian Christian refugees in a town near the border with Syria. I heard stories of years of oppression under the current regime and of the recent attacks by ISIS, which has made it impossible to stay in the Hassakeh area of Syria. I prayed with refugees who were so discouraged, feeling that Turkey is a dead end for them. They are not wanted there, and are not allowed to work there. Some have taken risky boat rides operated by smugglers to cross over to Greece, and many have lost their lives in the water on the way.

I prayed with two brothers who are very concerned about their parents left back in Hassakeh. They wonder if they should take such a risk, hoping to reach a country that would be helpful in getting them relocated to America, Canada or a European country. These gifted young men have no future in Turkey.



Fran with
Syrian
refugee
brothers in
Turkey

I was so aware of the Lord's protection, provision and leading the entire trip. I am so grateful to all who prayed and contributed to make it all possible.

May the Lord continue to nurture the things that were begun here in His kingdom work. May He continue to bless and bring healing to those who were ministered to and may He use those who received Trauma Healing training to bring healing into the lives of those that they are able to reach.

Please join us in continuing to pray for those whom we touched. Christians all over the Middle East are suffering immensely. Please remember to pray for them. Your prayers do make a difference.

Love and Every Blessing, Fran

Funds are needed to provide:

\$550 a year will put one of our students in Boarding Secondary School (High School) in South Sudan. We have sent 11 students but there are seven students who qualify to go but we do not have funding.

The soldiers were asking for Bibles. This is true all over South Sudan. We can buy bibles in South Sudan for \$5 each.

The Darfurians are asking for medicines for their cattle which are dying of disease. Their livelihood depends on their cattle. They also need canvas sheets to protect themselves from the elements in the bush. The rainy season is beginning now. Each sheet is \$42 and they need hundreds of them.

We want to be able to continue to give Trauma Healing Workshops wherever we are asked to go. The world is in need of healing!

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 **"YES"** (Yielded Evangelical Servants). **DO NOT** put Fran's name on the check! Please send checks to Fran, rather than YES, 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.

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Questions? Call Fran at 703-642-5135 or email her (fran@connectinglivesintl.org)

If you would like to receive newsletters via email, contact Wendy Habicht at wendy@connectinglivesintl.org to be added to our email list. Thank you!