

## UPDATE SOUTH SUDAN Summer 2015

Fran Boyle - Connecting Lives International Mission

### ATC TRIP INTO SOUTH SUDAN

A team from Pensacola, Florida, led by David Fuller of Answering the Call (ATC), recently returned from a trip to our compound in Akuak Rak. What a wonderful and dedicated group this team is. Several of the team members, including a doctor, have been in three or four times.



The situation in the South has deteriorated since Scott and I were there in February and I was concerned for the team's safety. The Southern Army dedicated a protective force of around 15 soldiers to stay with the team day and night. Of course their greatest protective force was the angel army unleashed through the prayers of the saints.

The team was able to give Bibles to the soldiers that served them so well!



The team spent two days in the town of Aweil, which is several hours away and closer to the border with the North, to purchase supplies for projects. We are in agreement with the team in the belief that the best way we can help the community and our orphanage is to equip the community to eventually have a self-sustaining source of food production through locally grown crops. The team purchased plows, seeds and donkeys to pull the plows. They also purchased irrigation equipment to utilize the water from the river nearby during the rainy season. By the time the team left, ten acres had been plowed.



They put a roof on the teachers' building which has been awaiting a roof for several years. The community made the bricks and put up the walls in faith that a roof would eventually be provided.



The bicycles are for the teachers and workers at the school so they can have transportation home on school breaks.



The team found that supplies were becoming scarce and that the local currency is plummeting in value. South Sudan needs a lot of prayer, wise counsel and determination in order to bring about peace and pull out of this crisis. Riak Machar, who is leading the opposition force, does not seem to plan on giving up any time soon, dashing the hopes of those who want to see this end and get back to rebuilding the country.

### **OUR CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Praise God, we were able to put the remaining seven eighth grade graduates in secondary school! This is such a relief. Of course in just six months we will have more graduates, but as I become more Sudanese in my outlook, I take one day at a time. We are told that our students who had started earlier are doing very well at the Marial Bai Secondary School. The school has higher standards than the few government secondary schools in the South and many cannot make it.

### **UPDATE ON LONGAR**

Longar is now 13 and has adjusted well to the boarding school in Kenya. He has made friends easily and has been elected to school wide office. Longar has come a long way since I found him at the age of six (shown in picture below) struggling to care for himself and several other orphans. On school breaks, Bishop Joseph Maker and his family have welcomed Longar to stay with his family.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH SUDAN INDEPENDENCE

July 9 was the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of the South from the North.

Faith McDonnell and I attended a celebration sponsored by the South Sudan Embassy on the 9<sup>th</sup> and attended two Independence Celebration picnics on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Southern Sudanese were both celebratory and sober at the same time and they realize the many challenges ahead.



## MERIAM IBRAHIM

Faith and I met with Meriam Ibrahim, the woman that was imprisoned and sentenced to death in Khartoum for converting to Christianity. Meriam was released after pressure from the West and the Vatican. She was flown to Rome upon her release where she met with the Pope. She is shown below along with her husband, Daniel Wani. The little girl in her husband's lap is her daughter Maya who was born in prison.



## THANKS AND SUMMER NEEDS

Thanks for the help that so many of you have given. Summer giving is notoriously slow, yet the monthly expenses we have don't slow down. The support we give for pastors and their families in Kenya continues and in August a new term begins and tuitions are due for the Sudanese students that we support in Kenya. We also have several more orphans who were brought to Kenya for school by a pastor who can no longer help them and we would like to pick up the tuition payments and keep them in school.

We are continuing to support Pastor Matthew in Juba who is doing an extraordinary job of ministering and training others. He recently received the gift of a building in Juba for use as a Bible School. This is unheard of in Juba, but the result of weeks of prayer and fasting.

Have a wonderful summer and may the pace of life slow a bit for you. My daughter Risa and I are going to Maine soon for a getaway together at Acadia National Park. I am so looking forward to it.

Love and Blessings,

Fran

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](http://www.connectinglivesintl.org).

Mail to: **Fran Boyle, 4103 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003**