



# South Sudan African Mission

Over 25 Years of Service to the People of South Sudan

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SOUTH SUDAN AFRICAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2016

## ORDINARY PEOPLE

-Bev Campbell

I recently read a quote by Prakah Yer that said "Passion and teamwork can turn a bunch of ordinary folks into an unbeatable winning team". Everyone likes to be on the winning team and I am reminded often of the ordinary folks that have sacrificed to make the South Sudan African Mission a winning team.

I meet ordinary people just like myself at the Oregon Christian Convention, the North American Christian Convention, the Week of Missions on the Oregon Coast, and a group of ladies from around the panhandle of Wyoming and Nebraska or the International Conference on Missions. Ordinary people who are business men or women and ordinary people in churches across the United States who want to be a part of the winning team known as South Sudan African Mission.

There are ordinary people who provide meals, extend hospitality and welcome me into their homes and churches when I travel. Ordinary people who pray for me, the SSAM Board of Directors and the people of South Sudan. Ordinary people who drop me a note with a word of encouragement and ordinary people who often times gives sacrificially to SSAM.

The South Sudan African Mission is just a group of passionate, ordinary people working together to do an extraordinary work for God in South Sudan!



Medicine purchased from funds received from IDES

Thank you to IDES (International Disaster Emergency Service) of Noblesville, IN for partnering with SSAM to purchase medicine for the citizens of South Sudan.

## REPORT FROM PETER GATDET

In the last newsletter we reported that Peter Gatdet had not been heard from for quite some time and was in hiding. Peter is from the Bentiu area of South Sudan where most of the conflict is taking place over oil resources. Peter took his family to Juba so they would be in a secure place but returned to Bentiu and then had to flee. Many Christians were captured by rebel forces during the fighting. Following is a brief report from Peter.

Hello Steve and everybody there:

I am safe and fine here.

I witnessed terrible conditions the 7th to 10th of July when the incident occurred. Yournew and Luka kept in touch with me on the phone and directed me on how to get to safety. Individuals were targets, I had to flee to the late Paulino Matip's house where I am now. I have recovered my confidence.

I will be back to Bentiu within this month soon and will be in touch.

Pass my greetings to all Christians there, Paul's families and your children.

Thanks. Peter G



Peter and the rest of the evangelists in our prayer circle before we left Malek, February 2015.

To date \$2,630 has been received for Bibles for the people of South Sudan. That is 526 Bibles!

\$34,564.13 has been received for the hunger crisis. \$25,000 was sent on August 8th and the balance will be sent on September 1.

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### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Safety of Peter and the others in the Bentiu region of South Sudan.
- Well being of and health of Yournew and the SSAM evangelists and their families.
- Peace will find its way into the hearts of the leaders in South Sudan.
- Bev as she travels for SSAM.

### PRAISE

- Praise for the passionate, ordinary people who work together to do an extraordinary work for God in South Sudan.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### GRAND ISLAND'S MOSES BOL AKEN IS "LOST BOY OF SUDAN"

--Pete Letheby of the Grand Island Independent

*The following article is was first published in the Grand Island Independent newspaper in Grand Island, NE. Space does not allow us to print the entire article. Paul Douglass still keeps in contact with Moses and recently visited with him in Grand Island.*



Moses Bol Aken with his two children

"He has lost his parents and seven of his eight siblings. He has spent almost half of his 37-year life on the run from danger or in refugee camps in four different countries. He has encountered gun-wielding rebel militias, countless diseases, malnutrition, poisonous snakes (he lost a sister to a snake bite), poisonous scorpions and lions.

Aken is one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," about 26,000 boys who were orphaned or uprooted during the endless civil war in that country. The war began in 1983 and continued until 2011, when South Sudan voted for independence.

"There was no good life over there," Aken said. "Nobody could even understand what a good life could be. I've witnessed men, women and children dying every day."

He was one of the fortunate ones. He is alive today and has lived in Grand Island since 2007, and is studying at York (Christian) College. He hopes to return to his homeland as a Christian minister.

After a few years of relative stability, conflict recently broke out again in South Sudan. Most of Sudan's neighboring countries have experienced years of war, too, creating a turbulent and unstable part of the world.

Aken's unsettling journey began at age 5, when long walks through adversity and long months in refugee camps became the norm.

"The furnace-like heat of dry season compelled us walk at night, even though that was the best time for lions to hunt us." Aken said. "In the rainy season, solid ground turned to mud that made walking like wading through tar. And when the rains finally stopped, the grasses and spiny bushes grew taller than a man, blocking passage and harboring snakes and other predators.

"But our worst enemies were often not disease or the elements but other humans," Aken continued. We were taken for prey, good for robbing, killing or enslaving."

In all, he spent 15 years of his young, homeless life in refugee camps. Aken was fortunate to be reunited with is only remaining family, his mother and a sister. **At Kakuma, a provisional refugee camp with a population of 150,000, he met Paul and Marilyn Douglass, missionaries** and graduates of the University of Nebraska at Kearney. In the Douglasses, he found a powerful friendship, a conversion to Christianity and a new purpose.

It was at Kakuma I first heard rumors of resettlement of the "Lost Boys," kids like me," he said. "Two years later, I was flying to Nairobi, Kenya, and then onward to Amsterdam and New York. I stepped onto American soil on May 21, 2001.

Aken concludes the article by saying "How do you keep walking when your companions are dropping by the roadside, when malaria wracks you with chills and then burns you with fever., when you're pretty sure you're being sized up by predators?" Aken said, "You keep going because there are people you want to embrace again. The ones in Heaven are safe, and they will wait for you, but the ones still on Earth need you right now."

### WHERE WILL SSAM BE?

Sept. 28 - p.m. Monterey, LA Church of Christ  
Oct. 2 a.m. - Mandeville, LA Christian Church  
Oct. 2 p.m. - Forest Park Church of Christ, Cowley, LA  
Oct. 15 - Ladies Breakfast, Northland Christian Church, Kansas City, MO  
Oct. 16 - Northland Christian Church, Kansas City, MO  
Nov. 6 - a.m. - Centerville, IN Christian Church  
Nov. 11- 12 - IDES Board of Directors Meeting, Noblesville, IN  
Nov. 13- a.m. Medaryville, IN Christian Church  
Nov. 17-20 - International Conference on Missions, Lexington, KY  
Nov. 20 p.m. - Christview Christian Church, Winchester, KY