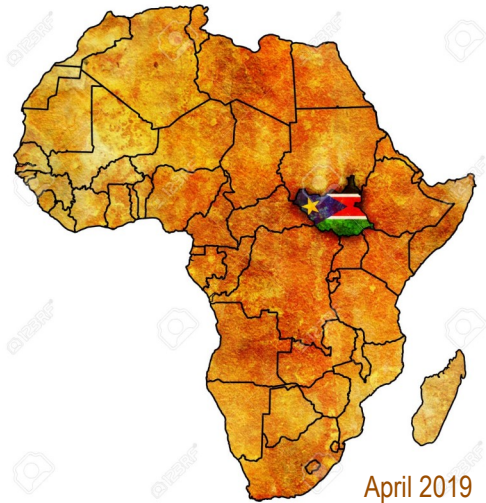


News Updates from South Sudan

“Jesus said to her,
'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him
Will never be thirsty again.
The water that I will give him
will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life'
John 4:13-14



Dear Praying Family & Friends,

Two weeks ago, 2 young Sudanese men came to meet with me. They were from an area called Pomkay, which is divided into east & west. These men were from East Pomkay, which is a group of 7-8 villages that border along a river. Several years ago, Oxfam offered to drill 4 wells in Pomkay. The Umda (area leader) was thrilled and had all 4 wells drilled in his own small village, in West Pomkay. East Pomkay is a 2 hour walk from West Pomkay, making it impossible for village ladies to walk that distance for clean water.

East Pomkay people have hand dug wells into the river bed during the non-rainy season. The people can only obtain a small amount of water at a time, as the water table is deep. Every night, the village ladies sleep in the river bed in a line, so that in the morning they can obtain enough water for their families. This has been going on for several years now. However, this year the amounts of water are so small that their cattle are now dying of thirst.

These young men knew that SIM has no water drilling rig, but they asked if I could speak to the UN or an NGO on their behalf. With my heart feeling their pain, I agreed to do what I could to find help. After doing some investigations, I heard that there was a water drilling team in Doro. The rig was owned by the UNHCR. The NGO water drilling team would be happy to drill several wells for these people, but they would need approval from the UNHCR and to know if the road was in good condition.

When these young men returned to our compound, the deputy Umda (who lives in East Pomkay), along with a local Sheik (village leader) came as well. I relayed this information to them, and they seemed hopeful. However, I told them that in order for me to help them, I would have to go to Pomkay first.

It was that very day, we got into our old green truck, & with all three men, along with Pastor Andrew & John Maruti (our Kenyan compound manager), we set off for East Pomkay. Little did I know that it was a 2 hour drive there! With the 4 big Sudanese men crammed into the back seat, John driving and me in the passenger seat, we drove to Pomkay, listening to a scratchy Steve Green CD blaring loudly with all 4 windows down.

My heart sunk when we finally arrived in east Pomkay. All the villages were empty. We drove past a church half constructed, as it looked like the people gave up due to the extreme heat (45c). We found small grass shacks and women in the dried up river bed lowering their dirty plastic containers into a deep hand dug well. When I climbed down the river bank to have a closer look, I saw very dirty putrid water. I couldn't imagine drinking it myself, never mind giving it to children. The 6 of us walked along in the riverbed & saw well after well, all producing the same terrible water.



I wrote a letter to both the UNHCR & the NGO (drilling team) describing our trip & what I had seen (including photos attached) & went to the UNHCR & met with the projects director & his assistant. They listened carefully and looked at my letter & photos. They said their mandate was to work with refugees & displaced people. I reminded them that these people have already left their homes in search of water. They said they would consider my request. The NGO drilling team manager received my letter and listened carefully to my request. I was told that the approval needed to come from the UN. I was encouraged to attend a UN Coordination meeting in 2 days to share with them about Pomkay's lack of water.

There were many people from many NGOs at this meeting. It was very intimidating. However, I found my hand going up, when the UN director asked if there was any business regarding water & sanitation. I shared about Pomkay's water situation. The place went quiet. The UN director's heart was moved & encouraged every NGO to help in this situation. But after the meeting, no one spoke to me, not even the UN projects director.

Since I was scheduled to leave Doro in 4 days, to travel to Juba to try to get a Work Permit, to ask our SIM director to follow up on this matter, to return to the UNHCR projects director's office to see what is being done! I have heard that this director will help in getting wells drilled in Pomkay.



Please pray that this actually happens. The wheels of work move slowly within the UNHCR. Please pray that the Projects director's heart will become burdened for Pomkay people, and that this drilling team will be able to drill 2-3 wells before the rains arrive....which is soon. Pray for the people of Pomkay that they will cry out to God for their water & other needs. Pray that they will become spiritually thirsty & come to know Jesus as their Saviour & Provider.

These past 3 months have been busy with added responsibilities while our director was on HA. I found my days filled with meeting with pastors & church leaders, as well as attending meetings with the UN & govt officials and giving assistance to my fellow missionaries in their ministries. I continue to be the Church Discipleship project manager & team leader. I am overseeing our small bookstore here in Doro which sells Bibles, songbooks, etc. Whenever people have enough money, they purchase a Bible or a songbook. Our Sudanese friends love to sing! Each Sunday, I visited remote village churches to encourage the Believers in the Lord, as well as going out on home visits. My days were full, and it was a joy to serve the Lord in all of this.

Thank you for your prayers for me. They are invaluable. These past months have been very hot, with temps up to 45c. By 2pm, everyone was always exhausted. Now, we are entering into the rainy season which brings many mosquitoes & malaria. Again, thank you for your prayers. Also, thank you for your letters of encouragement and your support for me. You are all a part of this ministry here in Doro, as the Lord uses me to reach out to people in His name. May the Lord continue to bless you in your life and walk with Him.

In the Joy of Serving Jesus,

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