

# Cush Vision

"Cush will stretch out her hands to God" (Psalm 68:31)

## SIM Sudan Newsletter

Jan—Mar 2012



Launching into a New Era:  
SIM Sudan navigates the rivers of change

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## ENCOUNTERING NEW REALITIES

I was trained that a good missionary should cultivate in himself a tolerance for ambiguity. As the "Two Sudans" sort out new realities, we are seeing daily changes. There are new situations with Southerners leaving the North by the thousands, new immigration points in the South, new government registrations and policies. Stir in the new conflict in Blue Nile state and you have a recipe of bewildering change.

I write to you against the backdrop of two base closures in the last four months. Yabus within Blue Nile state may be permanently closed due to direct military action. Doro (30km west of Yabus) was closed when aerial bombing shook the ground and rattled the roofs. Many of our ministry plans, it seems are not in our control. What a great reminder of WHO holds the knowledge of the future, and to WHOM we belong.

In order to respond to the bewildering array of changes we must go back to God's Word and remember that the battle is not ours but the Lord's. Allow me to write a prayer based on favorite scriptures...



Refugees from Blue Nile region have been streaming into Mabaan county



*"Father God, Proverbs 16:1 reminds me that SIM makes plans but you have the final say. James 4:13 reminds me that SIM should hold all plans loosely and avoid the trap of boasting about them when they succeed. Isaiah 9 reminds me that Jesus is the one who has decreed a never-ending peace that is coming on the earth. Jesus is establishing and upholding his Kingdom by his own power. Lord, it is exciting to see this new nation calling out to you in their national anthem and taking hold of their Kingdom purpose."*

-Chris Crowder, SIM Sudan Director

*"At that time gifts will be brought to the LORD Almighty from a people tall and smooth-skinned, from a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers—the gifts will be brought to Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the LORD Almighty."* **Isaiah 18:7**

## BEARING FRUIT

Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” (1 Cor. 3:7)

In eastern Upper Nile region, we are doing evangelism and discipleship. It has been a wonderful time of ministry, visiting families week after week, discipling new believers, serving God and the Sudanese people.

Abebech has regularly discipled three ladies, all of whom were new in their faith. When Abebech first began discipling this small group of women, ‘Ama’, a professing Muslim, decided to join them.



(left to right) Josphine, Rebecah, Abebech and ‘Ama’

Abebech shared the Gospel with this Muslim woman whose heart was ripe to receive the truth. At the following Bible study, ‘Ama’ made a decision to commit her life to Christ. Abebech has followed up with weekly visits which include prayer time, Bible study, and sharing each others’ burdens. Before their meetings, the ladies read their Arabic English Bible in preparation. What a tremendous time of healing and growth it has been for these new Christians!



What is equally exciting is to watch the Sudanese believers from our men’s Bible study go out on evangelistic outreach to neighboring villages. These men are church leaders with whom we’ve been meeting three times a week for Bible study. On a monthly basis, we had the opportunity to share the Good News to believers and non-believers in different villages. Our students went out two by two, spreading the gospel, while Abebech, myself, and our translator went as a group to evangelize. God has truly blessed our time, both in and out of class. In the past three months, through our united effort, God has enabled us to share the Truth with 281 people. Out of those who heard, 71 Sudanese committed their lives to Christ. We give God the glory for the great things He has done! ■

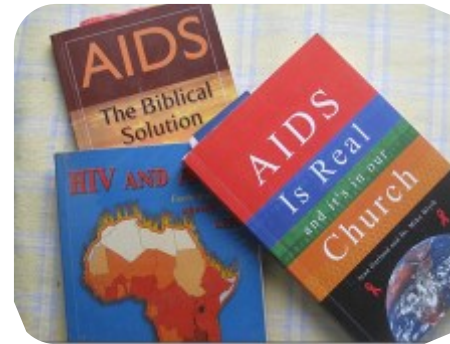
-Abebe Langena and Abebech Darsebo



Abebe’s discipleship class

## REACHING OUT WITH COMPASSION

Did you know that sub-Saharan Africa has 10% of the world’s population... but 75% of the HIV/AIDS cases globally?! Wow, what an obvious need to address certain prevailing beliefs and practices. Ignorance is NOT bliss! Lack of knowledge can have terrible consequences. Another statistic reported an estimated 20 million children worldwide have lost one or more parents to AIDS—with almost 90% of these orphans in Africa. I could list more overwhelming figures, but suffice it to say that HIV is taking a terrible toll as it infects and affects countless lives.



Resources for the HIV/AIDS training course at Gideon Theological Seminary

When I came to serve at Gideon Theological College in Melut, South Sudan, I was a bit surprised (but glad!) to see that a class on HIV/AIDS was in its curriculum. This is the perfect place to teach the responsibility of Christians to be involved in providing Biblical solutions to a global problem. “All sin comes with a price and many pay the bill who never did the sin.... If any epidemic ever spread because of disobedience to God’s Word, it is AIDS.

But millions are infected because of someone else’s disobedience, not their own.” (John Piper)



GTC students performing a skit

For this reason the church must play a vital role in reaching out with *compassion* to the afflicted. And even more importantly—church leaders need to spread the message of *prevention!* The course is raising student’s awareness of the facts of the disease, while at the same time we are examining Biblical principles relevant to the cultural and moral issues. Pray that there will be a ripple effect as Truth spreads... and Light is shed... that *information* on HIV will bring *transformation* of behavior by the *inspiration* of God’s Spirit. ■

-Claire Meckler



A group of college students from Scotland Navigators came together for the cause of Christ to serve in very practical ways at Gideon Theological College. (June 2011)

COLOSSAL CHALLENGES,  
HUGE POTENTIAL

The Metal Work Shed has been up and running under the supervision of Sudan Interior Aid since November 2010. After four weeks of training in the Work Shed at Thiangrial village, six students learned how to do welding and other forms of metal work. They are now producing different types of metallic products, as the people of Melut County are now calling upon students to make more varieties.

*The benefits and challenges of this project are huge, according to the local manager, Mr. Paul Ajak.*

Benefits

- Metallic doors on grass huts (tukuls) prevent dogs in the village from entering to steal milk and destroy food stuff. This problem is now a thing of the past because of the metallic doors made by the Work Shed.
- Bed frames, produced at the Work Shed, allow people to sleep on a raised bed instead of lying on the floor using an animal skin or a mat, in which case, you never know when crawling snakes and insects might strike.
- A sum of 3,000 rakes made in the Work Shed are being used locally by a few farmers who are trying to carry out small irrigation projects along the River Nile, with the help of the Fellowship for African Relief (FAR).
- There is the potential of market availability after trade separation of South Sudan from the North. Northern traders have been known for dominating the market.

*Testing out the new design for a canoe. ▶*



Challenges

- Buying of steel, fuel, and other supplies is a major problem, due to poor infrastructure.
- Modern business is still absent; people are bartering with each another as an easy way of trade.
- Lack of proper storage for the work shed's consumable goods.
- Lack of publicity of the facility to the larger community, to other developmental NGOs, and to Government agencies in the state, in order for them to be able to buy products from the Work Shed.
- Lack of resources needed for buying enough supplies.
- Lack of permanent international experts on site to train and continue advising students. ■

-Daniel Yhor, SIA Director



HOLDING ON LOOSELY

When we first came to Yabus (Blue Nile State) in 2007, a very experienced missionary who had spent some time in Sudan during the war, told us, "Be careful not to pour too much effort into buildings and stuff that can fall apart or be destroyed. Pour into people. If a building is toppled, a person still survives and what you've poured into them still survives wherever they go." Now that our compound in Yabus has been overtaken by military, and bombs have riddled the landscape, we are beginning to understand what he means. Eli spent many months building the secondary school, staff housing, a water system from the river, and the Unity Bridge. What will that all come to? We don't know. But we also poured even more into our dear Sudanese friends from 5 different tribes. We lived with them. We ate with them. We did "life on life." As we grieve this loss, we cling to God's promise not to forsake His children, most especially in their suffering and sorrow. Our prayer is that whatever hope He planted in their hearts will burn now more than ever, and grow their faith to get them through this season. Above all, my prayer is that God would teach us more about Himself and how He wants to use us in this torn up nation. ■

-Bethany Fader



*Isaac Fader with Sudanese friends*

**"Nothing I Have Done or Can Do"**

As violence falls upon dear friends  
My mind drifts and soon transcends  
To the day I left you all  
Memory to recall

Who am I? The chance to up and flee  
When bombs are dropped, yet you I see  
As I rise into the sky  
In comfort wonder why?

I was born in peace and affluence  
Yours poverty and violence  
My start I did not choose  
Somehow I won, somehow you lose

And this luxury I live in now  
Safe and secure yet wonder how  
I am oh so blessed  
And yet I passed no test

But you, you're stuck, left to decide  
To leave your land, or to reside  
and face death in this fight  
It's your never ending plight

I wish my heart could break for you  
But it's like I fake and force it to  
Compassion found in lack  
Heart tainted cold and black

And I've cried out,  
"God stretch out your hand"  
To give you peace and keep your land  
News worse from day to day  
Lord, should I even pray?

Nothing I've done to be me  
Wealth and comfort, peace and free  
My weak heart goes out to you  
But seems there's nothing I can do.

~by Ryan Weeks

# How to Give?

Are you called to help this growth? Praying, supporting and volunteering are needed. Your faith, language abilities and skills will be stretched but you can work alongside Sudanese mainly in rural locations. To give financially you can make cheques out to the project numbers associated to the project of your choice listed below. This allows us to issue a tax deductible receipt. Cheques can be sent to SIM offices worldwide. The memo line should contain the **PROJECT NUMBER**. For more information check out:

[www.sim.org/index.php/project](http://www.sim.org/index.php/project)

Project Name	Project #
Sudan Harvest Worker <b>NEW NUMBER</b>	98400
Safe Drinking Water	98021
Basic Education Learning Center (RSS:C&N)	98012
Yacob Aga Memorial <b>NEW</b>	98402
Hope for Sudan HIV/AIDS	98020
Memorial Health Center & CHW Training School	98018
War Widow Tailoring Training <b>NEW</b>	98827
Sudan Interior Church Secondary School	98019
Church Discipleship and Training	98103
Metal WORKSHED	98826

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