

HEART FOR AFRICA

"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

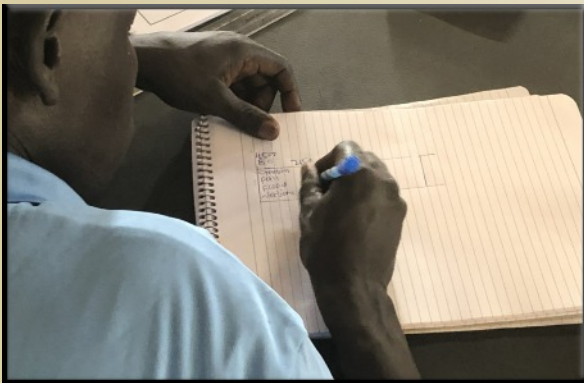
GOD'S PROVISION (JUNE 2022)

For the last 3 years, a ministry in South Sudan has been praying and fasting, asking God to provide a way for them to have access to good Bible training for their pastors and evangelists. This ministry is planting indigenous churches faithfully, and God is really moving in the hearts of the Dinka people to turn them from witchcraft and animism to worshipping the One True God, and the churches are filling rapidly. In 2021, the ministry leader became aware of some pastoral training in Uganda, so they sent their lead pastor to see what it was like. He came back very excited about what he had learned, but told them the trainers were based in another country (Tanzania) and he didn't know how they would bring it to South Sudan.

Then the missionary went to the US on furlough and again prayed fervently for the Lord to reveal a way for them to access training. While in California in January of this year, they attended a missions conference and participated in a panel discussion of other ministries working in Africa. It just so happened that the ICM Executive Director, Pastor Dan Finrock, was on that panel and heard the cry for pastoral training. He quickly said, "I have a team in Tanzania who can meet your need." Arrangements were quickly made for ICM-Africa to bring training in May 2022, and it was at that time that the Dinka pastor who had attended training in Uganda realized this



Pastor Dan (2nd from right) on panel with
IDAT Director (2nd from left)



was the very team he learned from and had prayed there would be a way for them to bring training to South Sudan. God hears all our cries!

We've just now returned from Tonj, South Sudan, where we delivered 6 days of inductive Bible study (IBS) and a basic preaching seminar to 30 pastors. All the pastors are from this one ministry, and there are at least another 10-15 who still need training. They have been so receptive to the material—enthusiastic and working very hard on all the exercises. It is clear that they are hungering and thirsting for more, so for the next 2.5 years (beginning later this year), we will conduct at least one full diploma class to equip their most senior pastors.

This was our first venture into South Sudan, which is not open to visitors. There are no tourist visas, so only those who have very specific purposes are allowed in. There is still civil unrest in many areas, and safety is certainly a concern. We've heard several stories while here about the missionaries and their people being protected by God through many dangerous situations, yet prayer and dependence on Him were the foundation of their rescue. It reminds me of an Oswald Chambers statement: "Never *choose* to be a worker for God, but once God has placed His call on you, woe be to you if you ***turn aside to the right hand or to the left***" (Deuteronomy 5:32). We are not here to work for God because we have *chosen* to do so, but because God has "laid hold of" us. And once He has done so, we never have this thought, "Well, I'm really not suited for this." The Lord has called each of us to our specific paths and roles to build His kingdom, and it is awe-inspiring to see how He coordinates everyone.



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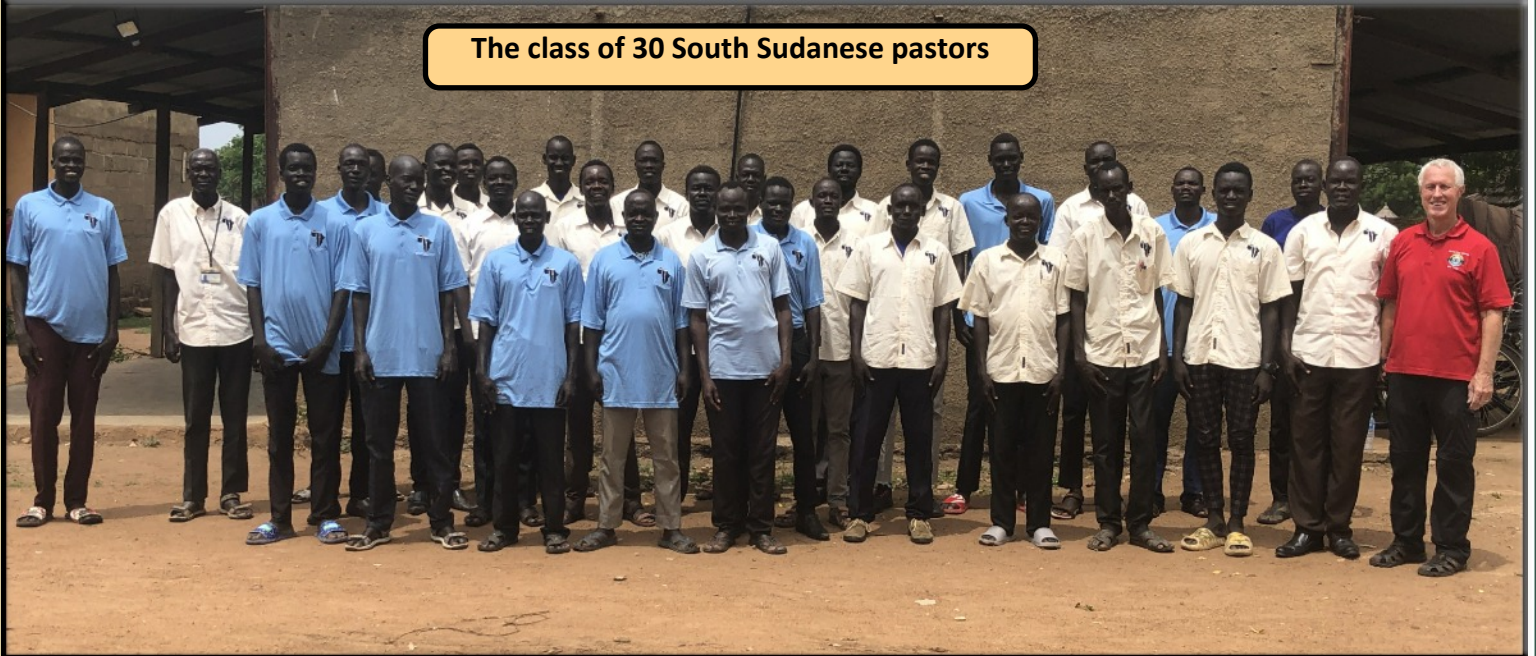


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We will continue to come and function here under "In Deed and Truth" (IDAT) Ministries which has been active here for the last 20 years. Tonj is located about 460 miles north of the South Sudan/Uganda border, deep in the interior. It is a challenge to get there because road travel is not safe; therefore, you must fly in on a once-a-week Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) shuttle. There is no electricity, gas station, store or any other facility within a 4-hour drive. This is definitely front-line ministry work!

We will provide the instructors (Jim and 1 Tanzanian) and the curriculum, and they will provide the facility and students. We will begin with one diploma class, but the need is great here, so be in prayer with us about how we can meet other needs. As always, ***the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few*** (Luke 10:2). One thing we have been convicted of while being here and listening to the many testimonies of the pastors...the Lord is truly working miracles to draw these people away from Satan—unto Himself—and we are called to be part of that!

The class of 30 South Sudanese pastors



CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

On-line giving available through our website



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PRAYER REQUESTS

- 4 June is the final day of a team from the US who will have been teaching some of our instructors how to teach English to others. This is important because there is only one Bible commentary written in Swahili, so the Tanzanian pastors feel it is important to incorporate English teaching into the program. Pray for the Lord to bless these efforts to open more doors of learning for the pastors.
- Pray for a team we have coming from the US 15-24 June who will be teaching in one of the Bible college sessions, participating in a graduation, and being keynote speakers at a pastors conference. Pray for their travel and all the preparations.
- Praise that our church co-pastor returns in mid-June after a year-long furlough to resume leadership of the church.
- We will be flying back to the US on June 28th, so please keep us in prayer as we prepare for that.