

"SON SHINE IN SOUTH SUDAN"

"In Him was the life, and that life was the light
of all men" John 1:4

Lori Ogle in Africa



Kenya • Sudan

June 2007

*Praise... Prayer Points
and Opportunities*

†Please pray that I will continue to be attentive to the Lord's leading in this new ministry direction.

†Please pray for additional supporters and prayer partners to come forward.

†Praise the Lord for His love endures through all seasons of our lives and forever!

If you would like to partner with Lori, please send your tax-deductible donations payable to:

SEED Ministries
PO Box 191
Waterford, PA 16441

Memo line: Lori Ogle
For more information
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Lori's NEW email:
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KENYA



Dry, desert climate of Thiangriël

It has been a busy couple of months and I have traveled twice to Sudan. I went to one of SIM Sudan's locations in Thiangriël and then later to an Across site in Yambio. Both places are quite beautiful though very hot and humid. Thiangriël is sandy, full of acacia trees and scrub brush, with sporadic greenery on the edges of the river Nile. There are no 'proper' buildings here, only mud huts with thatched roofs. Yambio resembles the jungle with a lot of vegetation like banana and mango trees, big palms, thick bush grass and many different trees. Yambio is more advanced in that there are buildings made from locally baked bricks, a few vehicles and shops to buy the basic supplies. I enjoyed my visit to both sites.

The purpose for the visits was to assess the progress that has been made for the first year and evaluate possibilities for Year 2 work. In both places, the local Sudanese that we trained had been delivering the Christ-centered HIV/AIDS prevention message, meeting their targeted goals. However, it was surprising to hear reports that several of our Sudanese Task Leaders were challenged by their own people with questions such as 'How do we

know you didn't make this up? Aren't you just from that village over there?' This demonstrates the need for HIV/AIDS awareness as they were quite skeptical of the facts. It also speaks to where their hearts are since they wanted to continue to live for themselves, engaging with prostitutes and/or multiple wives. In other regions, the villagers suggested that those found to be HIV+ be burned or shot. These are examples of very real challenges. On the other hand, many others embraced the message and some had even had HIV/AIDS teachings while in refugee camps in other countries.

In Year 1, the HOPE for Sudan project presented the Christ-centered HIV/AIDS Awareness & Prevention message to 4,897 Sudanese (3,179 adults and 1,718 youth). In Year 2 we had hoped to continue to work in those areas where suspicions and discrimination are very high. We had hoped to incorporate more Biblical principles with the Christ-centered HIV/AIDS teachings. However the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Cooperative Grant that we worked under for the first

year has now been absorbed into the office of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the President's Emergency Plan



Green lush jungle climate of Yambio

for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program, thereby radically changing the direction of the consortium's proposal. Unfortunately the new direction focuses primarily on the development of Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT) sites where people can be tested for HIV and the majority of these proposed sites did not coincide with the locations where we serve the Sudanese. In addition, the level of paperwork ("red tape"), the expected outputs (target numbers way too high), the lack of funds to do this type of work and the time frame in which to do the work were all more than we felt our consortium could do.

After many discussions and much prayer, as a consortium we unanimously agreed to terminate the HOPE for Sudan grant. The funds for Year 2 had been delayed, but this worked to our benefit as we were able to turn the grant back without needing to return any money. This was a 3 year grant and we successfully completed the first year – meeting our stated objectives and learning many lessons! It was a great experience and we are thankful for the opportunity we had to work with the

United States Government.

What is the future of HIV/AIDS work in South Sudan? Everyone in our consortium taught the Christ-centered HIV/AIDS message to the population they already had been serving. Each of the four partner organizations will continue to work in these areas teaching HIV/AIDS awareness and the Biblical approach to living a Godly life. In fact, they may be more effective in their teaching now. The consortium partners and SIM Sudan now have more time to build relationships instead of focusing on reaching unrealistic target numbers. In addition, as a result of our participation in this grant we have more resources (i.e. teaching materials, posters, videos) now to teach about HIV/AIDS!

As for me, I was to serve with the Sudan field specifically for this 3 year HIV/AIDS project and with its end I asked God what He'd like me to do. Any time there is a big change I tend to suspect that God is 'up to something' and this time is no different. It is hard to describe change in a few paragraphs for it does not bear witness to the countless hours of prayer, questions, uncertainty and even anxiety. However, I will try to summarize the process that has brought me to this change.

At the beginning of this year, along with two others from my church, we began the women's prison ministry here in Kenya. Interested volunteers meet for an hour on Tuesdays to discuss the ministry plan and pray. Each week we visit the prison on the remand side (like jail) from 1:30 – 3:30 pm on Thursday. One Saturday every month we visit with the women on the main side of the prison (like our prison). In five months we haven't missed one visit! The majority of the inmates have re-

sponded enthusiastically to our visits and several have asked us to pray with them to receive Christ as their Savior!

The prison ministry involves a time of worship (usually with Swahili songs), teaching the Word of God (English & Swahili) and then a time for small group prayer. We keep a log of those prayers to update and to share with others in my church so that many can be involved through prayer. I've often thought to myself, 'WOW! The Lord has really blessed this work!' Within the past two months the other two women who were co-leading with



Meeting with task leaders in Thiangriel

me have had life changing circumstances and were no longer available. At this time we have many Kenyan women and a few ex-pats volunteering their time, but no one who could commit to a leadership role. For the past few months I have been leading and it has been hectic along with the Sudan project; but God had a plan! With the Sudan project ending, I now have the time to devote to leading the prison ministry until He brings along a co-leader!

The prison ministry has shown me that I really enjoy teaching the Word of God to women. I haven't had such an opportunity before and I am surprised and delighted to learn of this passion! Previously, I had worked side by side with many Christian Kenyans de-

veloping Christian HIV/AIDS programs but those only incorporated God's Word. And in Sudan, I only worked with males because the females are the last ones to get educated, therefore almost none spoke English. So I was praying 'God what do you want me to do with this new found passion?' To make a long story short, I feel a calling to work alongside a ministry called Disciple Support Ministry (DSM).

Disciple Support Ministry is founded and led by Paul and Marcia Cowley from the Ft. Lauderdale Calvary Chapel. My sending church Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg also supports the Cowley's ministry. DSM is a discipleship ministry currently focused on training, equipping and encouraging pastors in the slums of Nairobi. There are two Bible Training Centers for pastors. I will be volunteering at these Centers for a 3 month period between September and December, learning about the ministry and assisting in any way I can. If the Lord opens a way, DSM is open to discuss the possibility of me joining them to minister and disciple the pastors' wives.

For more info about DSM visit www.disciplesupport.org.

In a nutshell, my position with the SIM Sudan team has become redundant. As



Most of the prison ministry team

such I am leaving SIM at the end of July '07. I am parting with them on good terms and will be available to SIM for any HIV/AIDS consultations. SIM is a great organization and it has a good vision for both Kenya and Sudan. For me, I am happy and privileged to have this new opportunity to teach God's Word and to directly disciple Kenyan women. I am now focusing all of my efforts in Kenya. I will be dividing my time between the Women's Prison Ministry and volunteering at Disciple Support Ministry.

ATTN Donors: Previously, all of my finances had to be routed through SIM. However beginning in August '07, please send any donations to:

**Seed Ministry,
PO Box 191,
Waterford Pa. 16441.**

Make the checks or money order out to Seed Ministry. Please write my

name on the memo line or include a short note. I've been a part of SEED Ministries since I first came to Africa. They are the group who puts together my fabulous looking newsletter!

Seed Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; for more information please visit their website www.seedministry.org at

As I step out in faith in this new season of ministry, I

want to thank for your prayers and financial support that have been such a blessing over the last 3+ years. It means the world to me! Please pray about your continued partnership with me in this ministry and for additional supporters to come forward. At this time I have about 85% of my ministry/support needs covered. I know that Jesus is leading and I am looking forward to His guidance!

*For His Glory,
Lori*

P.S. My supporting church Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg has generously gifted me with an airline ticket to come home for the month of August. If you would like to arrange a time to meet individually or as a small group please contact Amy in the CCSP Missions Office at 727-577-7705.