

# The Vineyard's South Sudan Mission Trip

## Wednesday Friday's Update

### South Sudan Missions Update

[Friday Update](#)



Clint Schwartz preparing a guitar that was donated by John Michael Schwartz for the Worship Team.



The boarding of the plane to Yei, South Sudan.

Friday, September 28, 2012

Dear Vineyard family,

Wow, what a great, great day we have had in South Sudan! Personally, this is my third trip to this part of the world and it's become a second home to me. Today, as we pulled into the Dreamland Children's Home in the back of a pickup truck and were greeted by children whose names I have come to know-and who now know me! (how cool is that)-my love for this place was confirmed yet again.



This is Rita, she is always has a smile on her face.

Our team went in two directions today. Six of us went to the Dreamland to work on art projects for our upcoming Art for the Heart of Africa Benefit Auction (on October 26; you don't miss it!), and to hold a medical outreach for the children of this orphanage. Doug Patterson & Rodger Partitt saw over 100 children today at the children's medical clinic we built with funds raised from the 2011 Art for the Heart benefit. Among lots of other things, Doug took temperatures, bandaged wounds and other hurts, adjusted backs (he's a chiropractor, if you don't know); Rodger, with the help of some Sudanese friends, met individually with each child to discuss ailments and prescribe medication (our resident pharmacist). He and Doug created index cards on each child, so that when a medical officer is hired for the clinic (maybe this week!) he or she will be better prepared to move forward. I love seeing plans come together!

Denise Pope, Sarah Nimmo, Rose Schwartz, and myself spent the day with the Dreamland children, though in a much different way! Our project for the day involved creating art with the kids-this is our fourth art project with these children, and I love seeing how they get more and more creative! These kids are fantastic! We worked with about 20-25 children at a time (we have 118 children at the Dreamland now). Denise shared a short teaching with the kids-really what she was doing was sharing her heart, her love for Jesus, and her love for these children!, and then we dove right into the art. We also started our "photo shoot" with the kids and, as Rose (our lead photographer) can attest, it is great fun to see the smiles on their faces as photos are taken, and more fun to try to get them to smile!

A personal highlight from me on today. . . at one point, we were working with younger kids who have trouble writing their names and understanding English. We recruited help from some of the older boys and girls, who jumped in and helped the kids to write and paint and communicate with us. It touched my heart deeply. . . last year, I left burdened, wanting the children to have role models; adults to look up to and who would care for them. I saw that God answered my prayer today. The older kids take such good care of the younger ones. They are becoming the role models for their younger "brothers and sisters." Wow, I was humbled and blessed. It was one of about 10 times I found tears in my eyes today.

While we are at the Dreamland, Clint Schwartz, Hugh Johnson, and Dawn Morehouse led a leadership conference at a new church plant at "Mile 13" (about 13 miles from downtown, Yei). About 100 church members attended and from the stories Hugh, Dawn, and Clint shared tonight at our team debrief, it was a remarkable day! Clint taught our Vineyard themes of "Loving Jesus, Growing Together, Giving Back"; Hugh taught about God's covenants delivered through His chosen leadership throughout the Bible leadership and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to effective leadership; and Dawn followed with a message on the power of the Holy Spirit! Dawn's message culminated in an amazing time of prayer and ministry. Each one of them came back bursting with how they had seen God work throughout the day!

And now. . . at about 10 pm, our team is winding down. Dawn & Hugh are discussing messages for tomorrow, Denise & Sarah are planning for more art projects; some are taking "bucket showers," and we are all anticipating another amazing time of ministry tomorrow.

Thanks to all of you who have prayed diligently for our team and for these children and great people of South Sudan. Your prayers are so necessary and lift us up in ways you can't imagine. So keep it up! J

With much love in my heart tonight,

Kathy Smarrella (for our team)