

The Vineyard's South Sudan Mission Trip

Saturday's Update

South Sudan Missions Update

[Friday Update](#)



Rodger Parfitt treating a child.



Denise Pope and Sarah Nimmo praying with the children.



Hugh Johnson teaching at the Leadership Conference.



Sarah Nimmo playing games with the children.

Saturday, September 29, 2012

What an eventful and effective day in South Sudan! The torrential downpour at the end of the day pales in comparison! Today, as usual, the team split up to leverage our efforts in each ministry arena. Most of the ladies, Denise, Rose, Kathy and Sarah, invested their day at Dreamland. It was a heroic effort to complete all of the children's art projects, and not surprisingly, they were absolutely successful. Tonight, as I write, they are sorting project materials and organizing the hundreds of pictures Rose took today. They seemed both exhausted and delighted tonight during the debriefing, with hearts obviously permanently captured by 118 loveable children.

The med team, Dr. Doug and Roger, expertly executed another long day, doing general exams at Dreamland, prescribing medications, performing chiropractic adjustments, and treating wounds and injuries. One significant challenge is to reduce the incidence of colds and intestinal track ailments, caused by close living quarters and poor sanitary habits among the children. Today, Clint, Roger & Doug went shopping, though I don't believe that is their favorite assignment. They were able to purchase a large water tank to install outside the bathrooms. With an iodine treatment in the water, and a new rule that hands are washed after potty breaks and before eating, we may be successful in diminishing the spread of viral infections. Encouragingly, this is perhaps the primary health threat to the children. Otherwise, our med team's diagnosis - we have a pretty healthy group!

Dawn and I comprised the teaching team today. Today was the final day of the Leadership Conference at Mile 13 Church, a new church plant in the area. There were at least 150 people attending the conference. Our experience has been, that no matter what we plan to do, God steps in and adjusts the agenda. We started over an hour late, as people made their way to the front of the church (a bit of a misnomer, as it consists of a thatched roof with no sides,) and asked for prayer. One lady slipped up and knelt in front of me, taking my hands in hers. Dawn and I prayed for her, while another young woman with a small child waited for healing prayer. Next, an older man who had been a soldier in the Sudanese civil wars, wracked with arthritis pain, and troubling memories of war, sat between us as we prayed for physical, emotional and spiritual healing. This went on for some time before we were able to begin the teaching sessions - probably just as God planned it!

I taught sessions focused on the principles of Biblical leadership, while Dawn brought important messages concerning bitterness and forgiveness, the priesthood of believers, and the responsibility of each member of the Body to accept their important role. She ended her ministry time with a challenge for South Sudan - God wants to bless this new nation, but He needs to see sold-out believers with clean hearts, spreading the Good News. South Sudan can be a shining light, a precious gem on the African continent, if Godly leaders will emerge. Several times during the day, we were privileged to see God "break out" in individual lives releasing people from spiritual slavery to dark forces in their world.

Tomorrow, we will minister at Pastor Stanley's church right here on the campus, which will afford a much-needed opportunity to sleep in a little. That will be followed by a baptism service at the river, and finally a community outreach event in the evening. It's surprising how satisfying this ministry work is, for a team of exhausted but passionate believers!

Hugh Johnson