



Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society Newsletter

The Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society is a missional organization established by South Sudan, who came to U.S. for resettlement to take the Gospel back to refugee camps and to their home country of South Sudan. Now, South Sudan has been at war after its independence and the economy has tanked with an increase in inflation to 661.3%. Many families have suffered a lot and it is very difficult for them to support their own families. Many people are traumatized and also dying because of the war and diseases that take place in their country. They need the comfort of God's Word the most, which is rich in every human's life. They always need your prayers and support as brothers and sisters in Christ.

God's Word reminds us, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)*

Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society has been successful since it started, and many churches and lay leaders have been trained and ordained into the pastoral ministry.

SLMS has been raising funds to help build churches, train leaders, buy Bibles, song books and much more. This year, the SLMS Board of Directors and the Representatives decided that in order to help the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan and Sudan, we would like to set up a long term plan to send Pastors and Lay leaders to the Seminary for higher education so they will be the future teachers of the church. Through the leadership of Rev. Simon Gatluak Geng, Dean of the Greater Upper Nile; the Upper Nile Deanery request for help, the SLMS has raised funding to send four (4) students to Ethiopia Lutheran Church, **Maor Theological College** in Debre Zeit, in Ethiopia. Below is the picture of the four students at the Seminary.



They are: Rev's. Stephen Lam Gatnyoach, Peter Pal Bomach, James Gatluak Nyan and Peter Paleak Wuol. The two others standing with them are Rev. Dr. Kebede Getachew Yigezu: the Leading Founder, President, and Coordinator of the Educational Programs of the Lutheran Church of Ethiopia; and Colonel Berhanu Merka Bedecho: the Chairman of the General Assembly and Vice Chairman of the Executive Board the Lutheran Church Ethiopia.

The SLMS has raised \$6,500 toward the tuition, fees, food, dorm, stipend, medical saving, and transportation for three full time students who are living in the dormitory compound of the seminary. The cost for the three students per one year is \$9,435 (i.e., \$2,235 for tuition & fees, & \$7,200 for food, dorm, stipend, medical, & two rounds transportation). The fourth student is a part time student with the tuition and fees of \$760 a year which makes the total of the four to be \$10,195. For the already raised \$6,500 paid to the college, the remaining balance needed for the year is \$3,695. We thank all the supporters and the representatives of the SLMS who have helped make it possible for the ELCS/SS to raise future teachers for God's people in our sister church in South Sudan and Sudan. The Board of Directors ask for your prayers and support in whatever way the Lord leads you to help make these students complete their studies.

God's Word says:

¹⁷ *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*
¹⁸ *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* ¹⁹ *In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. ~ 1Timothy 6:17-19*

Besides sending students to the seminary, there are other ways God's work is being done. Thanks to Peace Lutheran Church, Hurst, Texas, for providing the funds for a church building in Jekou. Their mission minds and support along with SLMS has made it possible for the Jekou Parish to have a roof on their building, which the members of Jekou Parish call their church. Total cost of roof was \$7,000.

"Peace Lutheran Church" is honored to share pictures of their sister church below in South Sudan.

Paul's letter to the Hebrews says: "¹⁶ *and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*" ~ Hebrews 13:16



They praised God for the help they received and will continue to pray for the church members of Peace because of their continued help and support.

Below you see a three room guest house building. The guest house was funded by the SLMS to make it possible for the missionaries, or visitors to stay at the church compound to interact with the members and not having to spend money for a hotel. As soon as everything is done, it will be used on a regular basis, but for now some members are living in it.



SLMS also gave funding to help those unable to buy medicine who are living in the Refugee camps and those hospitalized in Gambella. These funds were given to the Deaconesses to carry out to the Stephen Ministry to pray for the sick as well as help the needy people who are traumatized by the war.

Apostle James says this: *"¹⁵ suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" ~ James 2:15-16.*



Other Funding areas that are needed for sharing God's Words are:

- Bibles: because without God's Words in the hands of the people, it is difficult to hear the message.
- Song Books: almost all of the members of ELCS in the greater Upper Nile areas are lacking song books. They sing songs by memorizing or sometime more than five people share one song book. Each song book or Bible cost **\$4.60**.



Apostle Paul says this: *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" ~ Romans 10:14.*



- In South Sudan, Deaconesses or Youth uniforms are needed for worship and the day of celebrations like Christmas or New Year. Having those uniforms is like honoring the Lord to them. Each uniform cost **\$20** or less.



- Solar Power System: this Solar Power system can be used for light as well as with the keyboard for worship. Since most churches are located in a remote area where there is no electricity, this one would be most helpful. This system cost only **\$700**. Many try to get their own but due to the war and lack of jobs this makes it difficult for them to do so.

- Benches: As of now, some people are sitting on the floor due to not enough seating. The benches on right would seat 5 with each costing 1,000 Birr which will be equal to **\$2,752**.



Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society has bought some needed equipment's for worships service as the church developing in worship service not only by using drums but slowly being modify with the use of keyboard. Below is some of the equipment pictures bought for the Gambella congregation by the SLMS.



\$1,000 for Keyboard



\$1,500 for Generator



\$350 for speaker & mics

As the youth have seen the equipment, they are asking for assistant to train ten of them and the cost for that training for three months is **\$1,200**. Those Youths are selected from their local Parishes to go and learn the keyboard so that they can go back to teach others. Please, consider supporting our sister church Youth.

The Board asks for your prayers and support and as they place these requests before you brothers and sisters in Christ, to fulfill the works God has called us to do. How wonderful would it be if someone would praise God with songbooks or uninforms. I believe even God can smile during the celebration as His name is praised and glorified.

SLMS also encourages anyone who would like to visit our sister church to ask and coordinate the next trip to visit the church in South Sudan, especially the greater Upper Nile Deanery and the Refugee camps to see how God's Word is being preached and the work the SLMS has done so far.

Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society is a non-profit organization. If you are so led, please make checks payable to the "Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS)."

If you have any question, do not hesitate to call or email me and I will be happy to talk to you. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Wichiang T. Wetnyangran
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