

"Thank you for your financial support in 2015"

Paul Both <paulbth17@gmail.com>

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To: Beth McCaw <BMcCaw@dbq.edu>; Scott McCaw <SMcCaw@dbq.edu>;

Cc: Paul Both <paulbth17@gmail.com>;

Dear Mr. Scott and Rev. Dr. Beth,

May the grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you! On behalf of South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM), I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for your financial support of \$1,400.00 that you have been given to me and for our brothers and sisters in the new nation of South Sudan that you gave to us in 2015.

I am deeply appreciative about the support that you have been offering to my family throughout my seminary education at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. I am also grateful for your ongoing support that you have been giving to me while I was doing missionary work in South Sudan and Ethiopia.

As David puts it, "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts" (Ps.105: 1-3). With your financial support for us in 2015, I am pleased to inform you that I have ministered to our brothers and sisters faithfully in the both South Sudan and Ethiopia, and I did do the following things while I was on the mission field:

- ❖ We distributed over counter medicines that were donated by the area churches here in USA to 35 churches in South Sudan and Ethiopia.
- ❖ We distributed 10 Nuer Bibles that we bought to Pinythor Parish in Pinythor, South Sudan, 3 English and Amharic Bibles to three seminary students.
- ❖ We have held 8 Nuer Youth Conferences in Ethiopia and in side the refugee camp.
- ❖ We did provided scholarships to more 15 students in 2015
- ❖ We have regular daily devotions and we were in the word of God daily
- ❖ We counseled individuals and group.
- ❖ I had visited the sick people in local hospitals and in the refugee camps.
- ❖ I had the enormous opportunity to preach God's words in 6 different churches in both Ethiopia and South Sudan.
- ❖ I took part in the Pagak Peace Conference that tried to bring peace to our country in the national level.
- ❖ I had the opportunity to solve countless conflicts in the communities and in families level.
- ❖ I taught English Language in Pinythor Primary School

❖ I had a great privilege to teach at Jack Jordan Bible School in Western Gambella Bethel Synod for three months.

We did leaderships training in both countries, Ethiopia and South Sudan for church leaders and local community leaders in 6 presbyteries in 2015, as follows:

- ❖ Kuergeng Presbytery Leadership Training and worship in Ethiopia
- ❖ Thorow Presbytery Leadership Training and worship in Ethiopia
- ❖ Malow Presbytery Leadership Training and worship in Ethiopia
- ❖ Pagak Parish Leadership Training and worship in South Sudan
- ❖ Pinythor Parish Leadership Training and worship in South Sudan
- ❖ Thorow Presbytery Youth Leadership Training and worship in Ethiopia
- ❖ Malow Presbytery Youth Leadership Training and worship in Ethiopia

We have held Four Conferences in the following Places:

- ❖ Mekanesa Youth Conference at Newland Congregation Gambella, Ethiopia in August 2015.
- ❖ Nuer Youth Conference in Debree Ziet, Ethiopia in October 2015.
- ❖ Nuer Youth Conference in Kutebee, Ethiopia in November 2015.
- ❖ Malow Youth Conference in Malow Presbytery in Lare, Ethiopia

We distributed choir robes that were donated by Brainerd Presbyterian Church in Minnesota in 2015, to 7 different churches as follows:

- ❖ Pinythor Parish 16 robes in South Sudan
- ❖ Pagak Parish 12 robes in South Sudan
- ❖ Kuole One Refugee camp (Presbyterian Church of SS) in Ethiopia 15 robes
- ❖ Pinyudo refugee camp in Ethiopia (Victory Fellowship Church of South Sudan) 12 robes
- ❖ Malow Presbytery in Lare, Ethiopia 18 robes
- ❖ Kuerlang Presbyterian Church in Lare, Ethiopia 12 robes
- ❖ Gambella Newland Church in Gambella, Ethiopia 11 robes

South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM) Community Outreach Services in 2015:

- ❖ July: Preached God's word to over 800 youth, at the youth conference worship service on my arrival on July 9, 2015 in Gambella, Ethiopia.
- ❖ July: Attempted to visit Kuole Refugee camp in Ethiopia, but our teams were not allowed to enter

- ❖ July: Peace meetings with SPLM leaders (South Sudan People Liberation Movement).
- ❖ July: Appointed "Acting Secretary" for Nuer Christians Mission Net- work.
- ❖ July: Delegated to head teams of pastors to preach peace and reconciliation to refugee camps and the community of Pagak, South Sudan.
- ❖ July: Presented a paper, with 13 other Christian Mission Network leaders, to the head of Dr. Riek Machar Teny, the head of the SPLM/-IO stating their strong desire for a peaceful resolution to the civil war.
- ❖ August: Allowed to enter the Kuole Refugee camp in Ethiopia. Preached Colossians 3.
- ❖ August: Brought a team to Pagak, South Sudan. Continued peace work.
- ❖ August: Met again with SPLM leader Dr. Riek Machar, this time with South Sudanese pastors.
- ❖ August: Fasting and prayer in Gambella, Ethiopia. Preached and led worship.
- ❖ August 26/15: A peace agreement was signed between Juba government and opposition leadership.

Brothers and sisters, I would like you to know that I could not have done this without your prayers and your financial support. As the scripture reminds us that, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matt 25:40).

Likewise, I strongly believe that whatever you have done here you have done it indeed to our risen Christ!

Once again, thank you so much for your prayers and for your financial support. May God richly bless you and your church families!

Sincerely,

Paul Both

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Missionary to South Sudan, Ethiopia and USA