Notes for display (stream of consciousness!)

Three recent grads representing 3 cultures and churches:

Gilo Agwa – Anuak tribe from Ethiopia. Anuaks are subject to land grabs and even genocide in Ethiopia (see resources/history materials). His villages were subject to a massacre, he protected people in a church. He fled and came to Dubuque where he was granted asylum status. He family was at risk, daughter attacked and hospitalized. After two appeals they were granted asylum status and arrived at UD in winter 2014. Fall 2015 their final adopted child received a visa to join them. Gilo’s brother –in-law has been “disappeared” into the prison system and there is ongoing prayer for his release and even survival. Gilo received a PCUSA grant to develop materials to help Anuak families in the diaspora in the U.S. help their children keep the faith between cultures. He graduated from UDTS in 2014 and is ministering among Anuak congregations in Minnesota and beyond as he seeks ordination.

Ekram Kachu – Grew up in Sudan. After her father suffered due to lack of education, he determined to protect his bright daughter’s future and shield her from arranged marriage in order to pursue education. Ekram’s first short-term mission trip as an 18 year old grew from her desire to share Christ’s love with Muslims in the north of Sudan. So, she and a friend took a bus north and preached on street corners until they were thrown in prison. She started to cry but her friend said, “Remember Paul! He did not cry but sang songs.” So then she sang songs in prison. She did this mission twice. Educationally, she exhausted the options in Sudan and so went to Beruit where she worked as custodian while completing a bachelor’s degree. Upon return to Sudan there was no place for her (professionally, educationally) as a well educated woman with a ministerial call, so she went to Egypt. She was robbed of her papers and had to stay in country longer than expected. She met her husband there and they emigrated to the U.S. She started over professionally – cleaning homes, and then eventually in social work and providing Arabic translation. She could not shake her sense of call to ministry and enrolled at UDTS, now a mother of four. While at UDTS she moved into practically pastoring a Sudanese community in Des Moines. She graduated from UDTS in 2015 and was recently ordained to this ministry. She continues to have family and a heart in Sudan. After the new nation of South Sudan was formed the United Nations pulled out protection of Christians in the Nuba Mountain area. Many of her family members have been killed in the past several years, and most of those surviving are living in refugee camps or in caves. She has a dream of a mission trip to return to provide relief and hope to them.

Paul Both is from the newer nation of South Sudan. He has been in the United States for a number of years and sees his call as a bridge missionary between the American church and the church in South Sudan as they struggle with lack of infrastructure and violence in 2014-15 between political factions. He graduated from UDTS in 2014 and spends part of his time in the U.S. and part of his time in South Sudan, and among Sudanese refugees in Gambella, Ethiopia.

On artifacts:

The beaded bowl was presented to the Dean and the UDTS community at the 2014 Awards banquet. It is a symbol of hospitality and nourishment.