



# The Bridge Report

## THE KUJ FAMILY IN SUDAN, AFRICA



Sabet and I began our individual missionary work in Tonj during the famine of 1998, when more than one million people throughout Sudan were suffering the effects of starvation caused by 20 years of civil war. Hundreds of thousands of them perished in the southern region alone.

We married in 2000. Despite war, disease and famine, we have, with our two children, Hannah 8, and Jedidiah 5, devoted our lives to serving our brothers and sisters in Sudan. We desire to live among the people of Sudan as a family so that we can minister to the spiritual needs of the community and bring awareness and healing to the physical, daily suffering.

Sabet is native to Sudan and speaks four languages. His desire is to preach the Word of God to his own people. He not only oversees the entire ministry but works with over 100 local pastors in training and discipleship programs.

I, Suzy, originally from England, want to be used by God not only to make an eternal difference in Sudan but to meet some of the people's immediate physical needs. I home-school our children, oversee the primary health care unit we started in 2006 and logistically organize flights and supplies for our compound.

Quality medical care is a very great need. Our free medical clinic and pharmacy serves over 30,000 people 24/7. A teenage mother on the brink of despair told me, "I knew my baby had malaria and would soon die. I can't thank you enough for the medicine which saved my baby's life."

Presently, there is peace in South Sudan. Many men are answering the call to become pastors and lead their community in this new season of freedom. These men need basic, solid Bible teaching. One pastor who had lost his whole family in the war, said, "I know now that God has not forgotten us, as He is sending Bible Teachers to show us how to understand the Scriptures."

## TONJ DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING CENTER FOR PASTORS



### Tonj Discipleship Training Center

Comments by R.K.

On July 13th, the long awaited opening of the Discipleship Training Center for Pastors was launched at the Kuj's compound. A few years ago, The Bridge sponsored John Riak, a Dinka pastor. John was blind from his youth, yet he walked thirty miles every week to visit close to twenty village churches he had helped start. He taught them well from the Word. Although he was physically blind, the eyes of his understanding were enlightened (Eph 1:18) — he knew the Bible by heart in the Dinka language! John died from a heart disease a couple of years ago. Since then, we have been sponsoring his widow, Christine and their five children. The Training Center is a fulfillment of John's vision and dream!

Over 30 of the 100 pastors registered are going through the foundation and BCTP (Bible Center for Training Pastors) courses translated into the Dinka language. English language tuition is provided in the afternoons. The pastors are very excited that a full time school has finally opened instead of the temporary workshops that were conducted, based on availability of teachers. It is very encouraging to see their hunger for God's Word and desire to learn.

FOLLOWING IS SABET'S UPDATE ON THE BIBLE SCHOOL AND PASTORS:

### I Was Blind But Now I See!

*In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight."* Luke 10:21

We are into our third month in our Bible School in Tonj. What a joy when we started ... to know that our prayers for the last four years have been answered and that many of these pastors are beginning to have a regular, steady and deep encounters with the Word. What a blessing to see the hunger and desire in these pastors to want to know more about God and His Son Jesus and the life He has promised us!



*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.* John 17:3 **M**any Christians today take for granted the spiritual food that their pastors teach them every week. The Disci-

## A STORY FROM THE WORK AT THE CLINIC IN TONJ

ship Training Center in Tonj is the only source of 'spiritual food' for these hungry pastors since the Gospel came to this place. Ooh, — I wish you were here to see their eyes opening wide as they receive the revelation of God's Word...the Truth.

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.* Psalm 1:2

I am blessed to see the convictions of these pastors — what a joy to see how they are coming to the Word and aligning their convictions with the teaching of the Word of Truth, especially those who used to be men living and teaching *not* according to the Bible. Many did not know biblical baptism. Many are reading the Old Testament and getting the chronological stories of Genesis cor-

rectly as we spend one hour daily in reading the book aloud and translating it into Dinka for the rest of them who do not know English. Some are amazed at how alive the Word of God is, even the Old Testament. God is doing something in the lives of these men. But we have never experienced so much warfare as we have since the opening of the school!

**Please** join us as I give our God all the Glory He deserves in the name of our Lord Jesus. We thank the Lord for what He is doing here, not just at the Bible school but at the medical clinic, via the Jesus film ministry, and in the fellowship (church) on Sunday morning which we started a few months ago. All of this is possible through the Holy Spirit Who works in and through us.

### A STORY BY SUZY KUJ FROM THE WORK AT THE CLINIC:

This is William. He's a very sick and frightened little five year old boy who knows he might soon die. His father came to us desperately in need of help. William started getting sick in February. In March, his mother left, and his father took him to a witch doctor. This is a common battle we face here, with people turning to witchcraft and only seeking modern medicine as a last resort. There was no other place for him to turn. This is the very reason we started our medical clinic ministry here in Tonj, Sudan. It is not just about healing people, but showing them that Jesus sees them, loves them and cares what happens to them. Though we don't have a lab to test William, we believe the Lord brought him to us for a purpose and we will love him, care for him, and help him any way we can, just as if it were our Lord Jesus himself asking.

We have discussed his condition with various doctors in Kenya to see the best way forward in assisting him. There are a number of possible causes of his condition and therefore proper testing and diagnosis is essential. This can be done either in Kenya or possibly somewhere else in Sudan.

### THE NEXT DAY SUZY REPORTET:

This afternoon, William died. We thank Jesus for the opportunity we had to spend time with this sweet child, to pray for him, and show him that Jesus loves him. Now he's with Jesus and experiencing that love first hand. We prayed for a clear path for us to take in best helping William, and God mercifully intervened!



## FROM R.K.'S CORNER

From focusing on Central Asia for several months, we are now turning to Africa for a while as we will give you an update on the ministry partners we help sponsor on that continent. They all have their own ministries, The Bridge comes alongside and helps them with finances and other resources. Each of them has a passionate call to fulfill the Great Commandment as they battle on the front lines in extending the love of Jesus on the African continent.

In this issue, we feature Sabet and Suzy Kuj who, with their two children, live and serve the Lord in Tonj, South Sudan. Steve and I have personally met Sabet and Suzy on several occasions. We have a great respect for who they are and admire their love, tender hearts, and their faithfulness and tenacity in serving the suffering people of South Sudan.

Instead of me writing about Sabet and Suzy, I have asked them to present in their own words who they are and what they do in one of the toughest places on earth. WOULD YOU SPONSOR ONE OR MORE PASTORS TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL IN TONJ FOR \$30.00 PER MONTH EACH? If so, mark your gift 8370 South Sudan.

**An excerpt from an article written by Brian Smith on June 29, 2009 serves as a backdrop to describe the daunting task facing those who endeavor to help South Sudan's peoples:**

South Sudan faces a massive humanitarian crisis in what the United Nation's humanitarian coordinator for Sudan, Lise Grande, describes as a "perfect storm". The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in January 2005 between the Sudanese government and the Southern ruling elites and backed by the United States, is in danger of unraveling. It has been shown to be incapable of solving the basic needs of the vast majority of the population.

The *Observer* newspaper quotes revealing statistics on the shocking state of South Sudan — bigger than France, with 10 states, almost 50 tribes and 400 dialects. There is one doctor per 500,000 people and just three surgeons in the whole country. One in six pregnant women die in childbirth, and there are only three midwives. A 15-year-old girl has a higher chance of dying during pregnancy than of completing school. About three percent of people have access to sanitation. The region suffers from 15 of the world's 16 deadliest diseases that are long eradicated in other African countries. Measles, polio and leprosy are returning, which adds to malaria, cholera, acute respiratory disease and HIV. Only 27 percent of the girls are in school. There are 1,000 primary school pupils per teacher. Female illiteracy is 92%, compared to 62% in Darfur.

An estimated two million people died during the north-south civil war through violence and disease, and four million people lost their homes and were displaced. There is now permission by the authorities for the return of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). Two million people have so far returned from neighboring regions, from North Sudan, and from Kenya and Uganda. A report by the International Organization for Migration states that conditions for the returning IDPs remain dire. They arrive into towns and villages where there are no basic services or facilities — no shelter or healthcare, poor sanitation, no food or clean water, no jobs and little chance of education. Increased violence has forced over 130,000 people to flee their homes in the south in the first half of 2009. Over one thousand people were killed in attacks in Jonglei and Upper Nile states in the border region between north and south Sudan between March and May. Cattle are being stolen and children are being kidnapped and traded. The Southern Sudan government has shown itself to be powerless to maintain order.



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REACH THE UNREACHED**

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