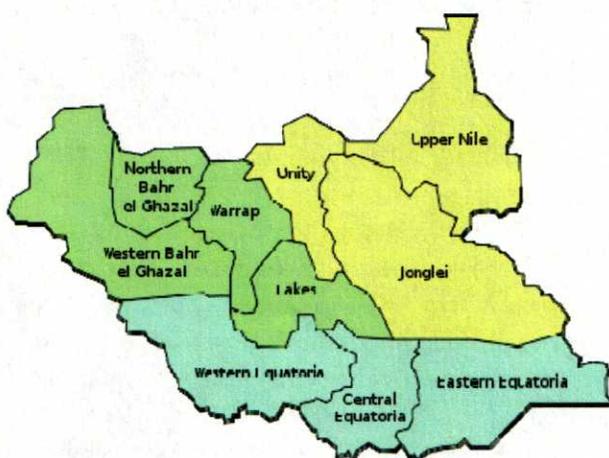


Training Partnership to Prepare Sudanese Church Leadership

Background:

The most recent Sudanese civil war lasted from about 1984-2005. Due to raids, bombings and military operations in the South, normal education was hit and miss (as were the bombings). An entire generation has missed adequate education. S. Sudan has 8.26 million people (2008—now many more due to returnees from the north). Eighty-three percent of the population lives in mud and grass huts (“tukuls”). Forty percent of males and 16% of females are literate and 78% depend upon either crops or animals for their income. An average of 45% in Equatoria (in turquoise in the map) states are below the poverty level (http://ssnbs.org/storage/key-indicators-for-southern-sudan/Key%20Indicators_A5_final.pdf).



Few church leaders have had a theological education, while a number of Sudanese church leaders in the Presbyterian Church of Sudan (PCOS) have social science bachelor degrees only. The PCOS, a church with missionary beginnings around 1902, has been strongly affiliated with the PCUSA. The PCOS runs the Nile Theological College in Khartoum and Malakal, but our Sudanese ministry partner, Patrick Oting, says that the doctrine taught there is liberal, and neither

Presbyterian nor reformed.

In April 2011 Patrick introduced me to the leadership of the Equatoria region of the PCOS (see photo—Patrick’s house, where the meeting occurred, was purchased with LMPC funds, incidentally), which includes the entire southern third of Sudan (Western, Central and Eastern Equatoria States). They do not have strong affiliation with the Khartoum PCOS leadership, and have a vision to plant churches among the 50 or so tribes in S. Sudan. While their church planting methods are traditional, not a rapid, simple church model, they have a zeal to spread the Gospel, and have just purchased a mobile platform for evangelism in the three-state region. I’m convinced that they know and preach the Gospel. These leaders believe that with independence in July 2011, the door will be open to heretical teaching from outside, and want to train their leaders in evangelical Presbyterian doctrine. Patrick and I later visited the leader, William Jada (foreground in picture), in Juba, the capitol of the Republic of South Sudan.



Since Patrick is a graduate of Westminster Theological College (WTC), and knows the value of that education, and since a top priority of William and his leaders is training S. Sudan pastors, we have been in dialogue with Principal

Emma Kiwanuka, of Westminster Theological College/Seminary to see how those needs might be met. The result of these negotiations among Emma, William, Patrick and me follows.

Proposal Overview:

The goal is to train Sudanese Christian workers through two or three programs developed by Westminster. The longer-range goal is to train S. Sudanese leaders through the Master of Arts in Theological Studies program (72 credit hours), so that they can become the faculty of an evangelical Presbyterian school in Juba. The project time period is four years, which would allow students to earn the above master's degree (18 credits per year x 4 years = 72 credits). The program would be evaluated annually, so the commitment at this point would be for one year, with the hope of continuing it for another three years. At the end of four years another review would occur. We propose starting both programs at the end of January, 2012.

The current estimate from William Jada is that there may be 10-15 interested in the certificate program, and 5-7 in the masters program.

Certificate and Diploma in Theological Studies

More immediately, we want to offer a beginning Certificate in Theological studies (1 year) program to those who have at least a primary school education. This can be turned into a two-year Diploma in Theological Studies for those desiring this. The Diploma may be attractive to those who have graduated from high school, or who already have theological training, such as graduates from Nile Theological College. A WTC graduate would travel to Juba to teach three modular courses (for two weeks each at the end of January, May and August). Under this arrangement, Patrick Oting will assist this teacher (as a WTC grad). In the two weeks, three courses are taught, using WTC texts. An administrator in Juba would oversee the entire school program. Facilities owned by the PCOS would be used, so there is no rent, and the budget is lean.

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

WTSeminary also has a modular program for the master's program, whereby students spend two weeks on campus, three times per year. WTC/S faculty are too few to conduct a master's program in Juba, so students must travel to Kampala from Juba, a distance of 500 miles over mostly poor roads. The proposal is to provide all costs for this program except for travel expenses, which would be borne by the student (except for visas, which are currently \$100 round-trip). We would provide for up to seven such students. William Jada is one of them. He will encourage the men to take vacation or leaves of absence to take the courses. Having a group take these courses will also reduce travel expenses. The funds proposed--\$700 per student per year--cover tuition, room, board, texts and about \$145 for personal expenses, including medical, which may be incurred while at WTS (students must bring even toilet paper). These funds would be paid directly to WTS, while the visa funds would be paid to the students. Since seven is an ambitious number, the budget may be less the first year.

The Certificate/Diploma finances would be handled through William Jada, and an accounting for the use of those funds would come through him.

Budget for 2012: USDollars

2 WTS Teachers, 1 from
Kampala and 1 from Torit

Estimated Costs for Certificate program in Juba—in \$ 3 modules

1900	2 WTS graduates to teach for 3 two-week modules 150 per week x 2 weeks x 3 modules (1000-Oting)
1000	administration for 3 two-week modules
300	teacher visas for 3 modules
420	transportation
1680	lodging –1 teacher
840	food for 1 teacher
500	transportation within Juba for 1 teacher for 3 modules
1200	computer and software
50	flip chart
150	phone & internet
460	copies
8500	TOTAL

Estimated Costs for 7 students to go for a master's program at WTS

0	students contribute transportation
700	visas
4900	555 for 3 resident modules, including tuition, texts, room and food, with some personal costs=700 x 7
5600	per year TOTAL
<u>14100</u>	<u>Grand Total, 2012</u>

Evaluation:

The program would be evaluated by William Jada, Patrick Oting, Emma Kiwanuka, the Juba administrator and myself. The materials taught would come from WTC/S, so there is quality control. We would track the initial ministry of graduates of the various programs and get evaluation/testimonials from students at the end of 2-3 modules. The program will likely begin small and grow.

Summary:

Today is a freeze-frame moment in the foundation of the new nation of S. Sudan. The nation needs a spiritual base if it will be not only survive, but thrive and be a buffer against Islam moving south, as well as a base to move north. Key leaders of the PCOS in Equatoria and the leaders at Westminster are willing and ready to partner together so that eventually S. Sudanese can train S. Sudanese in gospel ministry and Kingdom expansion.

August 19, 2011, submitted by Jim Sutherland