

February 2006

Dear Friends,



Surgery in South Sudan

"Our operating room was simply a large room with four walls, a door and a couple of windows. As the metal roof heated up later in the morning, the bats exposed themselves as they tried to escape the heat of the roof by descending the wall. Watching the bats as they watched the surgery was OK, but the stench of their excrement was quite another! The inside of the operating room reached 100+ degrees and there was no fan or air conditioning. The most useful surgical light was my headlight."

Dr. Bert Oubre, Chairman
Cutting Edge Foundation
January 2006 Trip to Sudan with PCC

Two years ago, nine of us went to Sudan and came home with the passion of building a hospital in Werkok in memory of the "Lost Boys and Girls" of Sudan. We acknowledged that we faced a seemingly impossible task, but God has amazed us with his grace and faithfulness.

Initially, the first phase of our five-phase plan was less aggressive. But now, due to the immediate and extreme shortage of medical care, we need to move ahead more quickly to provide a functional hospital in a much shorter period of time. Our immediate goal is to provide a facility where emergency surgeries can be performed as soon as possible. Volunteer physicians are ready to perform surgery in May of this year. Then, over the next few years, we will construct more permanent buildings with space for pediatrics, outpatient wards, private wards, training facilities, and staff accommodations.

Your donations and prayer support have helped us move ahead in ways we did not think were possible! A significant gift from Fair Haven Ministries, in Hudsonville, MI, has enabled us to order a 30x90 foot multi-purpose steel building that will house exam rooms, a labor and delivery room, a lab, a central supply room, and storage and office areas.

Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) has funded the purchase of a shipping container that will come equipped with its own electrical service, air conditioning, an operating room table, anesthesia machine, and recovery room. It left the port of Houston, TX on February 13 and should arrive in Mobassa in six weeks. In addition, VOM has provided funds for medical equipment and surgical instruments. International Aid, in Spring Lake, MI, helped to stretch the worth of that gift ten-fold and we now have in Werkok nearly \$100,000 (retail value) in medical equipment, some of which was used in our visit to the Sudan last month.

Forty acres of land has been given to us by the local Sudanese people for the hospital site. Important decision making meetings have been held with the state and local community leaders. They are very supportive of the hospital and will contribute both labor and local materials towards the project. A hospital building committee composed of both expatriates and nationals is in place. An American construction engineer is on site and we have also hired a community liaison leader who will work with this engineer.

A partnership has been formed with Cutting Edge Foundation (CEF) who will be staffing and managing the hospital, and Christian Mission Aid (CMA) who are providing on-ground support and guidance. Both of these organizations have extensive experience working in East Africa.

We are thankful for the local Sudanese churches who continue to play a very significant role in the development of the project. Their commitment to Christ is evident.



Making a Difference

"I think the trip broadened my perspective of missions, especially in Africa. It was also an eye-opener as Christians in third world countries continue to baffle me with their joy despite the bleakest of material conditions. I am still at a loss as to how I can make a difference, given the extraordinary number of obstacles that are placed in front of the average Sudanese's life: politics, war, threat of war, unexploded bombs, lack of adequate medical facilities, lack of clean water, lack of transportation and electricity, extreme heat and creepy crawlers."

Dave Miller

Dave and his wife Kerry, a prosthesis specialist, traveled and worked with the PCC group to Sudan last month.



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We have purchased a used Toyota Land Cruiser which is now at the hospital site. It arrived safely from Nairobi last week after a week's trip over very rough roads which still have some land mines. (It was held up on the road by dissidents about 300 miles into the Sudan, and by God's grace, a group of SPLA soldiers arrived and were able to resolve the conflict without any gunfire.)

A tremendous improvement for us Americans has been the addition of a refrigerator on site! While this may not seem significant, it is very significant if you are there and experiencing 110° F temperatures.

Last year, the local people cleared the area for an airstrip. This allows planes to land approximately 200 yards from the proposed hospital. Not having good roads makes this a tremendous asset.

Other grass huts and tents will be built on the hospital site to house post-operative patients and their families. Huts will also house the kitchen and dining areas.

We also need to purchase four to six heavy-duty white tents that will reflect heat rather than absorb it. They will serve as housing for volunteers and patient wards. We need a well and it would be wonderful if we could afford a storage tank. A large generator will be necessary for the multi-purpose building and the other buildings on site.

The obstacles that confront us are still immense, but God has been so evident throughout these two years. We feel that as Christians, we have been given a window of opportunity.

The estimated cost of this more aggressive first phase is \$259,000. We need an additional \$100,000 to accomplish our goals for this year. Dr. Bert Oubre is hoping to return to the Sudan in May to do surgery, using the air-conditioned shipping container as his operating room. Other physicians and nurses are waiting to join him. Sixteen surgeries were performed in January. Dr. Bert reports:

"I made final post-op rounds and we prayed with our patients. A group of them said they had waited many years for their operations to be performed and they were sure that God had sent us. They were right!"

PCC is asking for your prayers and for your financial gifts. The people of Sudan have suffered over two million war related deaths during these last 20 years of war. Nearly five million Sudanese have been displaced and are returning to their homes. The people are struggling with famine. As Christians, this is a way for us to help our Christian brothers and sisters who are in dire need. We need to enable them through our love, concern and prayers. Would you please consider a gift to PCC at this time?

Sincerely,

David Bixel
Executive Director

"When one suffers, we all suffer."

1 Corinthians 12:26