

Werkok, Sudan Update

June 2008



Hello everyone!

My name is Derek Draft and I am a dentist in Grandville, Michigan. In April of this year, I traveled to Werkok, Sudan with PCC to bring much needed dental care to the people of Southern Sudan. I feel truly blessed to be a part of PCC and to have had the opportunity to use my skills given to me by God to bring relief to the Sudanese people. I would like to briefly share with you my experiences, what I have gained, and how we were able to help the local villagers.

My wife Heidi and I had a dinner meeting with David Bowman last year and he shared with us his passion for the people of Sudan, what PCC was, and the goals they were trying to accomplish. After seeing his video, my first comment was "I'm in! What can I do?" Little did I know at that time what God's plan was for me and where it would take me within a year!

By year end, I was getting vaccinations, scheduling plane tickets, and starting my packing list. I had agreed to pay for my own travel expenses (as all volunteers do!); however I wanted to raise the funds to purchase some necessary dental equipment for Werkok. With the generous support of my family, my family of patients, and the community, we raised enough funds to purchase a mobile x-ray unit and a water/suction delivery unit. I couldn't believe it was all coming together.



Once the day came, I squeezed and kissed my family till they couldn't take it anymore and headed towards Sudan. After three days of travel, I was in Werkok, Sudan and doing some dentistry. I performed many extractions, cleaned lots of teeth, and even started a root canal! It was a great feeling of personal accomplishment to provide services to a population who had never seen a dentist before. We also drained a life threatening infection on a small boy who otherwise may have perished.



When I wasn't seeing patients, I was helping others in our group run electrical and finish drywall in the hospital. When we left, the hospital was approximately 80% completed and already being used by the two Sudanese doctors to treat patients. The paint wasn't even dry and they were already providing patient examinations! Dr. Deng and Dr. Ajak are amazing doctors and will be able to provide much needed medical care to the Sudanese people. In the short time they have been in Werkok, they have already saved many lives, most recently a young girl with malaria and pneumonia!

The ultimate goal of the Werkok project is to create a self sustaining compound with Medical, Dental, and Vision care. However, the reality is it takes money to create the positive and nurturing environment necessary to educate and train the Sudanese people to be self sufficient. PCC relies 100% on donated funds to support the Werkok project and your help is very critical. The dream started many years ago by a few Christian people has grown and become a reality with the help of people like you. Please take a moment to make a contribution. Your support will help to make an enormous impact on the quality of life for the people of Southern Sudan!

In God's Faith,
Derek Draft, D.D.S.