



December 2019

As I write this Christmas letter to you, our Executive Director, Todd Hardesty, is in Old Fangak, South Sudan. He is getting ASMP ready for an exciting and crucial work season. I will be returning there in January or February. Whenever I am there it is like pushing the reset button on my values and priorities. I see life more clearly, with a deeper passion, and with a greater sense of urgency.

The Refugees Remain

Our village has dramatically changed, I think forever, due to five years of brutal civil war which has left an estimated 300,000 dead, caused nearly 4 million refugees to flee, and made South Sudan the world's most failed state. It also brought over 45,000 refugees into our once small, quiet region. Now it seems many of the refugees are going to stay in Old Fangak. And why should they leave? Here they have access to a medical clinic and clean water; essentials that many have never experienced before. ASMP, working along side the indefatigable Dr Jill, has been instrumental in helping to make this a reality.

The needs in Old Fangak remain huge and we are keeping our sleeves rolled up. During our last trip we drilled our 22nd and 23rd water wells, this time in the very remote and nearly forgotten village of Dhoreak. This project was logistically very challenging, as the village is remote from the river system, requiring two Cessna flights to get all the materials and drill team into the village. In addition we strengthened our very successful agricultural program which now is comprised of over 120 small "farms", and we provided further training to our local work teams.

The TB/infectious disease clinic is the big news!

This is our huge new project. And we are very excited! The need for this has been pressing for years. TB patients currently are being treated under the trees, which is unacceptable. A window of opportunity has opened up to get this new clinic built: the war has stopped and the Nile River has become safer to use for the transport of supplies and building materials to Old Fangak. Todd has been to Nairobi, Kenya, where the building materials have been sourced, and all materials should be ready to depart Nairobi by mid December. Arrival in Old Fangak, South Sudan, should be a few weeks later. We hope to have construction completed before the end of March. We have raised just over \$200,000 so far, about 1/2 of what we need to build and supply the clinic.

Our other plans for this work season, in addition to building the TB clinic, are to drill at least 2 more water wells which will provide clean water to 2 to 3000 more people, most of whom have never tasted fresh water before. We will also strengthen our agricultural program to help fight the food insecurity and hunger in the region.

The Transitional Government

Now that the war has stopped, except for sporadic fighting, the signed peace accord between the warring parties specified that a transitional government was to be set up. Unfortunately this has twice failed to happen. A new deadline for the formation of a transitional government has been set for the end of February. Pray this happens smoothly, and that it lasts.

Bridging the Divide.

During this Christmas season, I am struck by the division in our world. The division between the rich and the poor, the “haves” and the “have nots”. And the division is worsening. ASMP has been blessed with the unique opportunity to help bridge this divide for some of the most disadvantaged people in the world: helping them build medical infrastructure and helping them obtain fresh water and food security. Let us expand on this amazing opportunity.

The impact ASMP is having in the Old Fangak region is huge! Together we are making a life changing difference....for literally thousands! Please help us raise the funds for these vital projects for this work season. Your donations go a very long way in South Sudan!

The Lord has blessed us this Christmas, let us share those blessings.



Jack Hickel

