

# SOUTHERN SUDAN HEALTH PROJECTS



Issue: 1  
Volume: 1  
FINAL EDITION

## Mission Trip: March 2010

March 2010 is scheduled for the journey to Malek, in Bor Sudan by the Southern Sudan Health Projects. There are many ambitious goals set for the next trip, including establishing a Board of Directors. This board would include:

- a. Representative from Bor Hospital
- b. Representative from the East African Conference
- c. IMA (Interchurch Medical Assistance) Director of Health
- d. 3 Malek residents
- e. 1 SSHP person (others on the team would be ex-officio)

It is planned to form the board and to meet and take the next step in meeting our mission statement:

- Hire up to 4 health care promoters and to give oversight to their work
- Contract with IMA for their training.
- Establish a communication system for all involved with the project.
- Establish a medical supply system.

These are ambitious goals for the team as they travel to Malek. There will be need for much creativity and diplomacy in taking the next step with this project. And as always, prayers, words of support and great financial support will enable this project to be a success, for the Glory of God.

## Our History

In the year 2000, Andrews Memorial UMC (North Syracuse) help settle three "Lost Boys" from Sudan into Syracuse. A few years later Dut Deng came to the church looking to start a clinic in Sudan. After much research and an extremely successful meeting with staff of the Board of Global Ministries, it was decided to pursue a much more substantial ministry of community health care development. This process is where the SSHP works to train and employ Home Health Promoters to help a community to develop their own health care system.

Over the years, many more of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan have been participating in this developing ministry. In addition many churches have been involved.



## In This Issue:

Mission Trip 2010

SSHP & IMA Join Venture

Mission Trip 2009 Memoir

Christmas Gift Idea

# SSHP and IMA Joint Venture

During the April 2009 SSHP mission team to Bor, Southern Sudan, members met with Dr. Makina A. Nganga of Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA) World Health. According to its website, IMA World Health is a nonprofit organization that provide health care services and supplies to vulnerable and marginalize people. ([www.imaworldhealth.org](http://www.imaworldhealth.org)) As a faith-based organization, IMA mainly works in developing countries.

IMA World Health began in 1960 and works with many member agencies including the United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), the Episcopal Church, Lutheran World Relief, the Church of the Brethren, the Presbyterian Church, and many more. Based on a belief that communities, regions and nations can develop their own health care system, IMA World Health promotes "self-reliance and sustainable solutions."

One of IMA's field offices operates in Bor, Southern Sudan where Dr. Makina serves as the Jonglei state team leader. The organization uses its knowledge from its successful work in the Democratic Republic of Congo which is Dr. Makina's home. IMA collaborates with Southern Sudan's Ministry of Health to provide basic health services for people there. The \$26-million program is funded by the World Bank's Multi-Donor Trust Fund and is focused on establishing and improving basic health care services in the Jonglei and Upper Nile States where approximately two million Southern Sudanese live.

IMA's work will be conducted in three phases. Phase one includes the training of trainers for the state hospital health administration and medical staff in six of



The United Methodist Churches and Sudanese presenters share PowerPoint slides, stories, and discussions of the SSHP plan.

the eleven counties. Phase two includes the training of health centers staff. Phase three includes the training of Home Health Promoters (HHP) and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs.) A 30-day training for clinical officers, midwives, and TBAs will be done by United Nations Family and Population Agency (UNFPA) and managed by Obstetrics and Family Planning Health.

IMA CBPHC training for the HHPs will focus on health assessments and surveillance, counseling, health education and prevention, First Aid, extended programs of vaccination (EPV) national plan, and community based treatment for malaria and TB. For TBAs and midwives the focus will be on growth monitoring and safe midwifery practices and labor complication referrals.

IMA funding is not sufficient at this time to cover all 11 counties and IMA is looking for NGOs/FBOs to partner with to cover

the gaps in CBPHC training coverage as well as in data collection for health information sharing. Complete coverage will depend upon IMA's ability to fund raise beyond the 36 month funded period. Eventually, the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) is to take over the health care program, but currently GOSS lacks the funding and trained staff to do so. Medical facilities need structural revitalization, equipment and supplies, and monitoring and evaluation procedures need to be developed and implemented.

According to Chalres Franzen, senior program officer with IMA World Health, who commented on Southern Sudan's issues, "This is the worst health care situation that exists in the world. The vast majority of people in South Sudan have never had health services of any kind. IMA's impact could improve many lives."

Written by: Nancy Williams

**"This is the worst health care situation that exists in the world. The vast majority of people in South Sudan have never had health services of any kind. IMA's impact could improve many lives." - Chalres Franzen**

## April 2009 Mission Trip

One of the memories from the April 2009 Mission Trip to Bor, Sudan, is the trip from Juba to Bor. Seven of us (Mark Fullerton, Nancy Williams, Moses Khor Joh, Machar Agoot, and myself, all of Syracuse, and Darla Rowley of UMCOR, and Rev. James Mwoho of the East Africa Methodist Conference) had flown into Juba from Entebbe, Uganda, on Uganda Airlines, a quite comfortable flight. Mayol Malak and Majer Kuon, two Syracuse Lost Boys currently living in Southern Sudan, had planned to meet us at the airport but were held up by several problems, including a flat tire. It wasn't too long before they arrived with two Land Rovers and two drivers, and we all piled in.

We were briefly held up by a checkpoint just outside Juba as we crossed the river. Mark nearly lost his camera to the soldiers manning the checkpoint; they charged he had taken pictures of the bridge, which apparently was not allowed. He managed to retain his camera by showing them the images on it.

There had been rain the previous week, and the road was in very poor shape. The driver drove around huge mud holes and, at times,



An example of the flooded roads the team had to endure when traveling to Bor, Sudan.

through them. Four-wheel drive was a necessity on this road, as on all in Southern Sudan. We bounced around, holding on to hand-holds all the time and still, several times, hit our heads on the ceiling. Darla said she hadn't bounced so much since her horse riding days as a teenager. The 90 km trip took us 6 hours, with a rest stop along the way to use the brush for a bathroom break.

The drive did give us a good view of the countryside, which is sparsely populated. Some of the villages we passed were army settlements; we were warned not to take pictures of these. We stopped at a cattle camp. That was an awesome sight, with hundreds of long-horned cattle bunched together and armed guards around them. Several of the guards came over to talk with the Sudanese with us, thankfully in a friendly way.

All of our stops were brief ones, as Mayol and Majer were concerned that we not be on the road after dark, because of safety issues. We arrived in Bor about 7:00pm, just before dusk, and checked into the Freedom Hotel. After the strenuous trip, the tents which would be our home for the next week were very welcomed.

The trip back to Juba at the end of our trip was much less strenuous. There had been no rain during the week, so it had dried out, and graders had been through much of the way, smoothing out the road. It only took us 4 hours to complete the trip that time.

Written by: Jan Witter



**Check out our new website!**

**[www.umcsudanproject.org](http://www.umcsudanproject.org)**

This newsletter is the result of discussions at meetings of the Southern Sudan Health Project about how to disseminate our discussions and plans to those people who are interested in the project but have not attended the meetings. We plan to publish the newsletter on a regular basis and to include personal stories of the Lost Boys and of Mission Teams, progress of the Lost Boys, Bor Sudan updates, pictures, information about Interchurch Medical Assistance, and ways to be involved. We hope the newsletter is interesting to you and that you will continue to be involved in the Southern Sudan Health Projects.

Andrews Memorial United Methodist Church  
106 Church Street  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Syracuse, NY 13212  
Permit No. 3325**



Phone: 315-458-0890  
Fax: 315-458-2863  
E-Mail: office@andrewsmemorial-umc.org  
www.umcsudanproject.org

Honor someone special with a donation to the SSHP. Most of us have all we need and more than we want in gift items. This is an opportunity to make your gift count twice by giving to the SSHP and by honoring someone with your donation. Help the SSHP move into its next phase of ministry and honor those special people in your lives.



Please fill in the form below and send it with your check to: Checks should be made payable to:

**Andrews Memorial UMC and put  
Southern Sudan Health Projects in the memo line**



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Gift \_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to have an acknowledgement card sent to the person or family of the person you are honoring, please list that name and address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Please feel free to duplicate this form.***