



# SSEM

South Sudan Educational Mission Newsletter

FALL 2017

## Only the Lord Knows

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you this Fall season.

On behalf of South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM), I am honored to bring you much greetings from our beloved young and newest nation of South Sudan.

The seventh SSEM trip in the mission field of our motherland is happening now. We thank the Lord for giving us this great opportunity and privilege to serve Him and his people during this critical moment.

As you can see from these pictures, the suffering is unspeakable and so painful. Yet, I am ashamed to appeal to all of you for help to pray because, we are the ones who have brought this great suffering to our people.

May the Lord change our hearts and our minds to love unity and to bring change to our future children or next generation. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Sincerely,  
Paul Gatluak Both  
Missionary to South Sudan, Ethiopia and USA

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Worshippers in Prayer

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Refugees leaving South Sudan

# Context of Conflict and Crisis

## SOUTH SUDAN TIMELINE

-Jan 9, 2005: After years of conflict along religious and ethnic lines, South Sudan begins its break away from Sudan with a peace agreement.

-April 15, 2010: Salva Kiir elected president of newly forming nation in a landslide election.

-February 7, 2011: South Sudan votes to leave Sudan. 98% of voters vote to leave.

-July 24, 2013: President Kiir fires his entire cabinet, including the Vice President who represented the minority tribe. (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/24/south-sudan-salva-kiir-sacks-cabinet>)

-December 15, 2013: Violence erupts. Two groups emerge, split along ethnic lines; the president leads soldiers loyal to him—mostly of the Dinka tribe, and the former vice president becomes the leader of the resistance movement, mostly of the Nuer. Two armed groups fight for power with many atrocities against non-combatants—almost exclusively along ethnic lines. Non-combatant Nuer and Dinka are massacred as a nationwide genocide threatens to emerge. Famine and one of the largest refugee crisis since World War II takes place. (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/23/south-sudan-state-that-fell-apart-in-a-week> ; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/12/19/south-sudan-soldiers-target-ethnic-group-juba-fighting>)

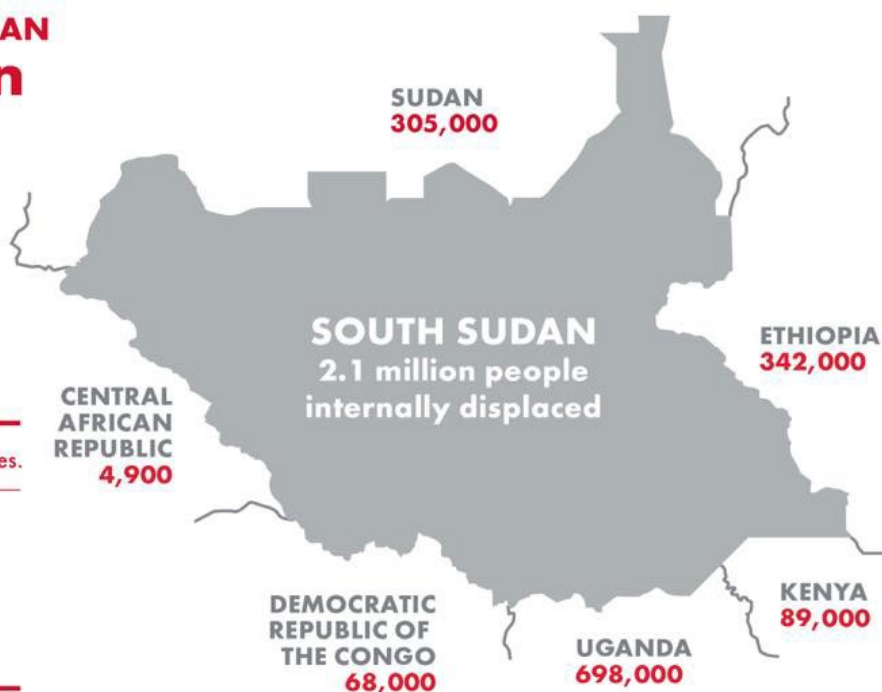
## CRISIS IN SOUTH SUDAN New Nation Torn Apart

Conflict in the world's newest country has spread across the nation, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. **South Sudan has the third largest refugee crisis**, after Syria and Afghanistan.

**3.6 million** have fled their homes.



**6 out of 10** South Sudanese refugees are children.



As of February 10, 2017

Sources: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2017/2/589d82834/solution-sight-refugee-numbers-south-sudan-cross-15-million-mark.html>



## FACTS ABOUT SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan gained independence on July 9, 2011. It's regions are Bhar el Ghazal, Equatoria, and Greater Upper Nile. It's 11 million people live mostly in rural subsistence farming communities.

South Sudan has the third largest oil reserves in Sub-Saharan Africa and is rich with other natural resources: copper, iron ore, and arable land for agriculture.

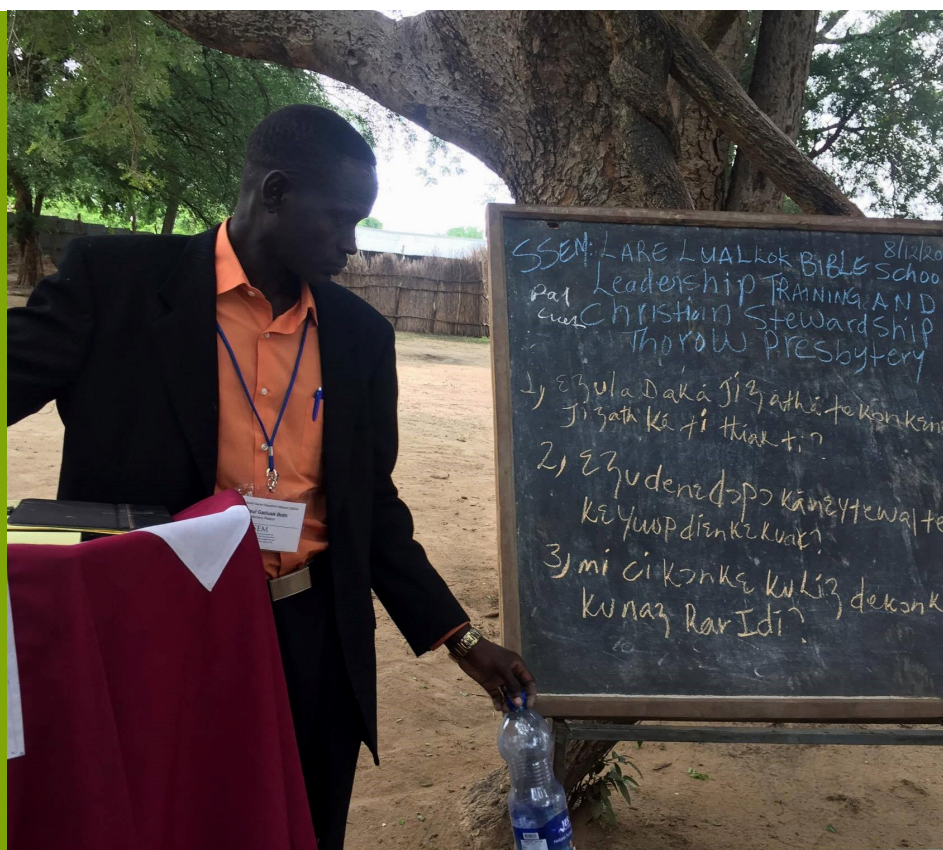
Only 27% of the population can read and write in the national language: English.

## Message from SSEM Board

The SSEM Board of Directors is finding new ways and new members to help support the ministry.

In August, the Board welcomed Pam Hillary and Sara Scherf. Pam brings years of leadership experience with Deere and Co, along with executive coaching skills. Sara brings youthful enthusiasm and passionate energy. She has interior design training, experience with Montessori learning style, and loves God's creation.

Pam shares, "I am very humbled to serve as a SSEM Board member. The work Paul Both is doing has been near and dear to my heart since I met Paul when he was a seminary student. So often we wonder where to give money for a good Christian cause. We don't know if the money goes directly where we want it to go. With SSEM, I know where my donations go and who is being helped. Now, as a Board member, I can contribute in different ways with ideas, teamwork, and support for Paul."



Teacher Paul during Leadership Training.

### SSEM Timeline: the Past Six Months

**April:** Paul continues his travels to churches in the United States, telling the story of SSEM and raising funds for the ministry.

**May:** SSEM Board meets with missionary and teacher Paul Both. Paul reports on a hard-working and fruitful fund raising season.

**June:** Paul arrives in Africa. Ministry in Ethiopia and South Sudan begins. A ministry of prayer, encouragement, support, and Bible instruction is underway.

**July:** Special gatherings at Dorong Church, and churches in Gambella, Lare and Addis Ababa Ethiopia, and Pagak, and Pinythor, South Sudan. A connection with the Makene Yesus denomination is cultivated.

**August:** Many leadership training events held at Lare Luallok Bible School, Thorow Presbytery, Itang Presbytery, Gambella Presbytery and Malow Presbytery.

**September:** Celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit at Kuergeng Presbytery in Lare, Ethiopia. Special preaching and gatherings at Keach Church and Tetbol Lew.



## Financial Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a blessing to see what financial support SSEM has received over the year. Donations come in from as far away as Texas and as close as Dubuque, IA. With God's guidance and promise His Word will go to the ends of the earth and be fruitful.

Starting in January of 2015 we had a balance of \$3684.89 we have brought in over 15,000.00 through the year. Funds go toward leadership training of young people in South Sudan to basic needs for Paul While in South Sudan and while he goes out to talk about his mission here. We also are about to build a well in his home village along with a hospital. We also bring in medicine from the States medicine which we take for granted. When we do this we fill suitcases full and those are brought with Paul to spread to different villages. This year alone we have spent \$169.00 for transportation of Medicine and Robes Our funds also go out towards bringing Paul back and forth to South Sudan that can run over \$2000.00. Recently Paul has purchased Bibles in the Nuer language for those without one.

As you can see funds are a constant need for our mission; so if God puts it on your heart, donations can be made directly to SSEM via our web page or by check mailed to 3525 Windsor Ave., Apt 107, Dubuque, IA 52001.

While we have gone a long way toward many goals, I am sure God has even more plans for his missionary, Paul Both.

*Shirley VanDuser*  
Financial Secretary

South Sudan Educational Mission (SSEM )

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