



Celebrating

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you at this precious movement! On behalf of Luallok Bible School and the boards of (LLBS) and South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM), I am thrilled to announce to you that our second class of Luallok Bible School seminary students graduated with certificates.

Our senior class had seven students—four women and three men. They graduated with certificates of Biblical studies and with hope to be ordained as pastors. They will serve the churches in the Lare area and in western Gambella Bethel Synod.

Rev. Guanluthani Peter Luallok Lok Dup was the first ordained pastor in our area. He was truly a man of God, who committed his entire life to giving God's word to our community. In 2015, I shared a dream about Rev. Peter Luallok Dup, that he had seen the vision the Bible School needed to be open, and it should be named Luallok Bible School.

A meeting was arranged with the leadership of Lare area pastors, and they agreed the idea was great. The pastors informed me the churches in the Lare area were thinking about this noble idea earlier. Therefore, we honored our first chief Pastor Rev. Peter Luallok Dup and named our first Bible School, "Luallok Bible School." The school opened in 2016.

Now, we rejoice with our second class of seminary students. Their graduation ceremony and community celebration was September 19-20.

Once again, thank you so much for your prayers, support, cooperation, and understanding. You are appreciated greatly.

Sincerely,

Paul Both

Paul Gatluak Both Top, MSW, M. Div.
Missionary Pastor to South Sudan SS, Ethiopia ET, and USA US
Principal/ Dean of Theological Education of Luallok Bible School/LLBS

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Paul Both



LLBS Second Class of Graduating Students - Final Exams

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A Gift of a Goat for the Celebration

A Time for HOPE

Dear SSEM Family,

Can hope and heaviness occupy the same heart? Can abundance and need overtake the same foundation? Can exhaustion and strength fill up the same soul? I believe the answer is “yes.”

I think of my brother Paul, and how many times he has called me in the middle of the African night, praying and encouraging me, while our finances are stretched, and painful news is told across the miles. Should we be discouraged? Were we discouraged when all we had were suitcases of ibuprofen and some choir robes?

The children are still singing and taking their tests. The teachers are still dedicating their lives to building up a new generation that will courageously overcome poverty and violence. More wise and faithful leaders are being equipped. More property is being developed. More influence is building. Hope is still rising, in the midst of heaviness.

This season has been very difficult for SSEM. Losing our primary method of raising funds due to COVID restrictions and concerns has reduced our income while our ministry has been at its peak.

In addition to that, Paul's and Martha's son, Mission, was diagnosed with epilepsy and desperately needs care in the U.S., something we are prevented from providing for the time being. Our hearts have been heavy even as we hope.

Hope is what we are called to however; and hope will have our attention. God will bring healing and care to Mission. God will provide the funds to pay our excellent teachers and expand our schools. God will powerfully work through the ministry of our graduates. God will bring peace to South Sudan and the rest of the region.

We hold to this hope unswervingly.

Please join us in this hope through your prayers, your giving, and your words of encouragement.

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

-Reverend Dana Perreard, Chair
SSEM Board of Directors



LLBS Graduates of 2020—September 19



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She Began a Legacy

Gretchen Louise Stout-Schiller, 60, formerly of Maumee, Ohio, entered eternal life on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at her son's home in Philo, IL after a 11-month battle with cancer.

Gretchen loved being a mom to Jason, Sarah, and Kyle. She delighted in making birthdays special, baking her famous frosted sugar cookies, and she absolutely loved Christmas with family. She was fun and silly (how she prefers to be remembered by her grandkids) and loved life. Her joy was contagious.

Gretchen enjoyed sewing and crafts, gifting all who knew her with creations made with love. Her faith in Jesus Christ was the bedrock of her life, getting her through the most difficult days. She was active in the church and shared her faith with all who would listen.

Memorial donations may be given, at Gretchen's request, to South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM), the organization started by her loved bonus son Paul Both.

The making of a family legacy is here. Jason and his wife Erin are members of the SSEM Board of Directors. Others in the family have given to the mission and helped make the building of the SSEM school possible, and a scholarship fund, enabling South Sudanese students to attend the school, is established in the name of Gretchen L. Stout-Schiller.

On behalf of SSEM and my family, I would like to say that Ms. Gretchen L. Stout-Schiller's love for God and for children is unending and undeniable. SSEM mission and these students were so overwhelmed with a great joy when receiving their first chairs from this mother who have taught her children to reach out as far as Africa.

Jason-Gretchen-Paul



Chairs for Students



Our hearts are broken to hear the passing of our backbone and our beloved mother. It is also our hope and prayer that Mother is now pain free singing to her God and praying for us all, as always. May God rest her soul in Peace, until we meet again with you dear mother of all children! - Paul Both



Mid-Year

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LLBS Campus



Financial Report - 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Again, God has provided, through generous people like you, the financial support SSEM has needed to advance its vision. Many fundraising challenges arose this year, yet the mission grew in scope. People were creative and faithful givers:

- The Woman to Woman small group at one church is selling homemade pies for Thanksgiving. The proceeds go to SSEM. God is GOOD!
- In another church, one woman has made, over the years, nearly 100 dresses for Paul to deliver to the children. This year, she also raised funds needed for the transportation.

Starting in January of 2020, the SSEM bank account balance was \$2,547.11. During the year, deposits totaling **\$25,793.86** were made. Praise God for faithful donors! Withdrawals were **\$26,833.91**: build the additional classrooms; add more water supply; and, provide the missionary stipend and medical support. The balance as of October 31 is \$1,507.06.

Funds are scarce; so if God puts it on your heart, please donate through PayPal via our website or directly to SSEM by check mailed to 3525 Windsor Ave., Apt 107, Dubuque, IA 52001.

God is moving in mighty ways, and I am sure God has even more plans for his people of South Sudan and for missionary, Paul Both.

Shirley VanDuser, Treasurer

South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM)

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