

TRIP REPORT TO ADJUMANI – NORTHERN UGANDA

JULY 6 TO 13

BY ROSEMARY KHAMATI

I made a trip to Uganda for three reasons:

- Meet and spend some time with staff on ground
- Spend time in the school and to see the progress on learning/teaching
- Prepare for the second class of church leaders training on trauma healing

I am thankful to each of you that continue to pray for me as I make these trips and meet with different people in course of my travel. I am indebted to all those who spend their time and money to see the ministry move forward in the strength of the Lord. You may never know how your involvement impacts what we do and those that we serve.

The Vision of PEACE for the South Sudanese living in the refugee camps in Adjumani District of Northern Uganda is to help them live peacefully with one another and with the Host Communities. Over the past close to four years, we have observed and noted that the South Sudanese will be in the refugee settlements for many years to come. As much as the refugees have requested to have the training inclusive by bringing in other tribes from South Sudan living in the camps, it is also important that they learn to live peacefully with the Host Communities. This will also help them to settle down and do things for themselves as opposed to them waiting to be given by somebody else. The more they learn from the host communities the easier it will be for them to live like the citizens of the Uganda. We are helping them to live the Jeremiah 29 scripture.

You will recall that we started these trainings way back in 2014 when a few church leaders from the Dinka and Nuer tribes of South Sudan requested for our assistance as they longed to live together as brothers and sisters. In 2015 and 2016 we brought together 20 church leaders, 10 from each of these warring tribes for training in trauma healing and peace building. They are now busy in their communities helping others to realize how to live peacefully with one another. Among the 2 participants was a representative of the Host Community as we are trying to make it as inclusive as possible so for the South Sudanese to build good relationships with the Ugandans as they live together. Pastor Simon who is a part time staff working as the Chaplain in the school and coordinates our Church leaders activities was also in attendance, mostly helping us with translation as he has already graduated from the training. This was in preparation for the next training in September in peace building.

The fact that seven tribes of South Sudan and a Ugandan National all gathered together in agreement to learn and go back to teach their community members about what they have learned is amazing. More amazing is the fact that they all agreed that after they graduate they would like to team up with the earlier class that graduated in 2016 to move from one settlement to another spreading peace and reconciliation. They believe that in so doing, word will reach those left in South Sudan and that will be the beginning of transformation.

The attendance sheet is shown below:

S/N	NAME	SEX	TITLE	LOCATION	TRIBE	CONTACT	IDENTITY
1	JAMES TORIT	M		Boroli	Murle	784595339	Refugee
2	JAMES ETCHO	M		Boroli	Murle	77188922	Refugee
3	OKELLO OKOTH	M		Boroli	Anywak	770554476	Refugee
4	PETER AMUM	M		Boroli	Shiluk	-	Refugee
5	ACHOL AWAK OJUAWAK	F		Boroli	Shiluk	774421340	Refugee
6	OBULEJO SAVIOUR	M		Alere	Madi	786842716	National
7	MARTHA AJOK ADEE	F		Olua I	Dinka	778614077	Refugee
8	ANNA NYALIEP RIAK	F		Alere	Nuer	-	Refugee
9	MARIA NGALUAK	F		Alere	Nuer	785685873	Refugee
10	BIPEAN YAK	M		Alere	Nuer	-	Refugee
11	ELIZABETH NSAKURI	F		Alere	Nuer	-	Refugee
12	CHARLES RIAK	M		Alere	Nuer	781238553	Refugee
13	PETER BANTHIEDDL	M		Alere	Nuer	-	Refugee
14	OYET JOSEPH	M		Mirieyi	Acholi		Refugee
15	ELIZABETH AMOR	F		Mirieyi	Dinka	783138842	Refugee
16	ELIZABETH AMER	F		Mirieyi	Dinka	788977531	Refugee
17	RACHAEL ABIAR	F		Olua II	Dinka	783169514	Refugee
18	ABRAHAM PANCHOL	M		Alere	Dinka	782442318	Refugee
19	SIMON GARANG MARK	M		Olua I	Dinka	788118095	Refugee
20	EDEMA CHARLES	M		Olua I	Madi	784154153	National
21	DABORAH AWAL POT	F		Mungula	Dinka	770554461	Refugee

Day 1 focused on self-awareness and identity. Participants were introduced to part of the story of Joseph in the bible Genesis 39. The scripture describes Joseph and hence anybody reading it can easily visualize Joseph. The topic was on Self Awareness to help them evaluate themselves and to know who they are.

Day 2 focused on Coping with stress.

The facilitator worked with the participants to identify causes of stress and thereafter broke into groups to work on how to cope with the stresses identified. The groups had every tribe represented.

Day 3 focused on the best communication skills to pass on the message of healing from trauma. Participants were taken through forms of communication, barriers of communication, channels of communication, factors improving communication, and benefits of communication.

Group discussions on how to communicate to various groups in the communities was done they came up on the best approaches to reach out to the different groups. It was noted that women were more actively involved in the group discussions which helped the men motivated to participate more actively.

Day 4 focused on decision making. The participants were taken through and steps taken towards decision making, and values of decision making. In most cases, our brothers and sisters from South Sudan are shy to make decisions in case they are seen to be wrong and cause unnecessary friction. This session helped them to appreciate how to communicate when making decisions without causing friction.

Group discussions ongoing



Class room sharing ongoing



Day 5 focused on revision work for the week and the action plans for the next one month and a half before the next training in September.

Action/work plans:

Given the short time between the training and the next training, the participants committed to use the knowledge acquired to go back to the communities and sensitize community structures on trauma healing, targeting Women groups, Sunday school teachers, church teachers and choir. (The value of the work plan is to ensure that the trainees go and train other church structures who shall in turn reach out to the whole community. The methodology of their work shall be in group work whereby targeted group is mobilized from all the churches in the settlement to a particular location and then sensitized together in order to build up more cohesion among the different tribes in the settlements.

Dates for sensitization:

- July 21 all church leaders from the seven tribes represented at the training
- July 28 all women group leaders from all the seven tribes represented.
- August 4 all church choir leaders from all the seven tribes represented
- August 11 all Sunday school teachers from all the the seven tribes represented
- August 18 the current class and the first class meeting to share experiences.

Please keep praying and giving towards this transformational efforts for our brothers and sisters.

God bless you for being a part of this life changing initiative.

Rosemary Khamati