

Canadian Aid For Southern Sudan

Spring/Summer 2011

www.casscanada.net

A New Partnership



Providing clean water in the region is the number one solution to health problems. Through a unique partnership between CASS and the Water School, the availability of clean water is rapidly expanding and creating unique opportunities to move forward.

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Ways You Can Help



There are many ways that you can help. You'll find many ideas on page 3. Even a little donation can go a long way!!

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"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a room with a mosquito."African Proverb

Our Most Vital Project



The Sudanese leadership has placed its highest priority on the completion of CASS's proposal for a secondary school. What has taken years to develop is now approaching its final stages.

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As CASS moves into its second decade of work in south Sudan, **thank you** for your continued support.



History is Made

The Sudanese Referendum, held this past January, was the most important event CASS has ever witnessed or participated in during our lengthy involvement in that troubled country. It was history in the making.

A large CASS team arrived in south Sudan just prior to the Referendum itself, and no sooner had we landed than they made

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2011 Team Members – left to right

1) Jane Roy; 2) Glen Pearson 3) Nigel Woolrich; 4) Denise Pelley;
5) Lucy Ogletree; 6) Todd Russell; 7) Mardie Weir; 8) Lynn
Blumas 9) Kristy Lee Varley; 10) Mark Pathy; 11) Josh Chadwick

The Value of Teamwork

Each year CASS takes over teams of Canadians to south Sudan to further the projects there and to bring news of the challenges and opportunities back to Canada.

This year's team was a diverse, talented and committed group of individuals who helped purchase goats, manage music and art camps, distributed clean water, helped supply a medical clinic that we've supported for years, and assisted with plans for constructing the secondary school in this coming year.

The team was made up of a 17 year-old student, a retiree, and everything else in between. They were installed as international observers to the Referendum and they've returned to Canada desiring to encourage their fellow Canadians to continue with the ongoing efforts to make south Sudan, soon to be the world's newest country, a vital force to be reckoned with in both Africa and the world. All of them graced Sudan with the Canadian spirit and brought back the wonders of Sudan in return.

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the entire team international observers – a great honour and totally unexpected. That classification permitted us to attend polling stations and to hold interviews with voters.

People had lined up well before dawn on the first morning of the Referendum and that pattern continued for days. In many senses the people had been preparing for this since 2005, when peace was signed between north and south Sudan, so they were ready to vote.

The entire event, across the whole region, was remarkably peaceful and 99% of the people qualified to vote did so. The turnout was expected to be high, but no one envisioned such a massive participation in the democratic exercise. Everywhere we journeyed, southern Sudanese were singing and dancing, elated that their fate might finally be in their own hands.

When it was all over, well over 90% of the voters opted for independence. That wasn't a surprise, but the peaceful way in which the entire Referendum process was carried out amazed all international observers.

What next? On July 9th, 2011, south Sudan will declare itself as the world's newest country. The United Nations and numerous other nations like the US will affirm that reality by recognizing south Sudan's new status (called the "Republic of Sudan") and a normalizing of diplomatic relations will take place. It is yet unclear what Canada will do at that time.

The sound of people journeying through the night to reach polling stations, the remarkable line-ups just for people to dip their finger in ink wells to mark their ballots, the sheer efficiency of it all – these are things CASS will never forget and form the most memorable event in CASS's long journey with the people of south Sudan. And to be made international observers? Well, that was something we'll carry with us always.

Some real challenges now begin for us, as millions of people are on the move from other countries to the south to be part of the new nation. Our course is set as we continue to travel with these remarkable people in the opportunities ahead. The development work to be undertaken will be daunting, but after all we have witnessed it is clear that the hard efforts of the good people of Canada have fully borne fruit.



A New Partnership Makes For A Healthier Future

SODIS – remember that term because it spells new life and better health for the people of the Aweil East region of south Sudan. Simply stated, SODIS refers to the technology of utilizing the sun's ultraviolet rays to clean what was once polluted water. It's a remarkable and natural technology that is all the more effective for its simplicity. Water is placed in clear plastic bottles and left out in the hot Sudanese sun for a day. Any disease in the water is killed off during that period, leaving the bottled water not only perfectly fit to drink but life-saving in the process.

Slightly over 80% of the diseases in the region are water-borne, and with all the new arrivals flooding into the region as a result of peace and the successfully concluded referendum, the need for affordable and effective ways of providing clean water has become paramount.

For a number of years now, CASS has cooperated with the Water School as a means of providing more hope to the region. In May of this year, that relationship was formalized into a partnership that will see the Water School officially expand into our region of south Sudan while CASS uses the technology to assist with local health issues.

A Chance For A New Start

Abuk's Herd is our most popular CASS program. For \$60 a goat is supplied to a returning former slave or exile to provide milk or perhaps even to grow a larger herd for the family. Impossible for returnees to purchase themselves, these goats provided by CASS supporters permit families to become established in their new areas. Canadians have made a difference in more ways than they can imagine with their support of this remarkably personal and practical program.

Some Ideas:

Clean Water:

- \$50 helps a family for a year get clean water (Sodis method in partnership with Water School).

Medicine and Health:

- \$10 for a mosquito net to prevent malaria
- \$50 for one day's worth of medicine at health clinic (a \$500 value)

Darfur Refugees:

- \$25 helps to purchase sorghum and maize seeds for a family.
- \$50 helps with farming tools for a family.

Abuk's Herd:

- \$30 for baby goat
- \$60 for goat

Education:

- \$10 for a brick to help build a school (currently working on a high school).
- \$15 to help with school supplies for a student.

Women's Empowerment

- \$50 helps with a purchase of materials (a micro-loan) for a woman starting a business.
- \$250 buys a sewing machine for a graduate of a tailoring course.

Music and Art Camp:

- \$25 sends a child to music camp for a week.



Our Biggest Project

Why a secondary school is vital

With no secondary school in the region there is little that primary graduates can do to further their education. A new school has been an important initiative for CASS over the years but its costs are significant. The plan for the school's construction is now coming closer, as arrangements have been concluded with the local administration.

With peace coming to the region, the referendum completed, and south Sudan's independence only a couple of months away, the need for primary graduates to get a full education and fill up many of the needed job opportunities in the area will be required if the economy is to move ahead and the people themselves find self-sufficiency. Donate if you can – it will revolutionize the entire region.



A community without a secondary school has no future.

Art & Music Camp

With Denise Pelley and Lucy Ogletree

It's hard not to be inspired listening to so many young children who have endured years of hardship joining together and singing both Canadian and Sudanese songs, yet that's what we heard every morning as Londoner Denise Pelley managed the music camp for another year. Our visits coincide with their summer break in Sudan and the kids flock to the camp to learn more about music and customs.

Lucy Ogletree directs the arts and craft aspect of the camp. On the day this picture was taken, Labrador Member of Parliament Todd Russell was teaching the kids to make masks. Each year the kids gather in the area as they know the Canadian team will be arriving soon and that Lucy and Denise will be back with more instruments and craft supplies to teach them a world of new things. This part of CASS's work has effectively joined the two cultures more than anything else.



Todd Russell, former Member of Parliament from Labrador helps with the Music and Art Camp

Want to Make a Difference?

- Make an online donation at www.casscanada.net
- Send a cheque c/o CASS- 35 Bruce St., London, Ontario, N6C 1G5
- Please make cheques payable to CASS
- Charitable BN#: 86394 8212 RR0001