

**Trinity South Sudan Ministry**  
**Pibor South Sudan Mission Trip Overview**  
**January 26 to February 2, 2019**  
**Greg Force, Team Leader**

Trinity South Sudan Ministry sponsored a mission trip to Pibor, Boma State, South Sudan from January 26 to February 2, 2019. The following mission team members participated in the trip:

- Trinity Presbytery Pastors Leon Page and Robert Scotland
- Nurse Amy Smith (Rogersville Pa UMC)
- Youth Education and Music Director Lee Ann Alexander (Saxe Gotha PC, Lexington)
- Hydrogeologist, Greg Force (Saxe Gotha) who served as the team leader.

Leisa Wagstaff, a PCUSA Mission Coworker who is working with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) education department, flew from Juba to meet and work with us in Pibor from Sunday through Wednesday.

Our hosts in Pibor were Rev. Orozu Lokine Daky, President of Serving and Learning Together (SALT) and Rev. James Aleyi Zeelu, Executive Secretary Eastern Jonglei Presbytery, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. We received a warm welcome at the airport by our hosts and members of the various churches from around the area.

Objectives for the trip included:

- theological training,
- Talking Bible distribution,
- conducting an eye glass clinic and evaluating the general health of the local population,
- training Sunday School teachers, and
- meeting the local and State church and governmental leaders to determine current and future needs.

During the seven days that our team spent in Pibor all objectives were accomplished:

- On Sunday morning Pastors Leon Page and Robert Scotland each preached at local Presbyterian Churches. During the next five days they provided training to 24 (eight women and 16 men) Pastors and Elders representing some of the fifty Presbyterian congregations within Boma State. Training included trauma healing, essential commands of Jesus, preaching and congregation management skills, the sacraments, the care and use Talking Bibles in the Murle and English Languages and more. At the conclusion of the Theological Training on Friday afternoon, a dedication service was held for the distribution of the 176 Talking Bibles, and the Lords Supper was celebrated.

- Lee Ann Alexander conducted two days of training for 20 children’s Sunday School teachers from various area churches on how to present the Bible using chronological stories that are interconnected about God’s promise. She followed up with three days of supervised practice teaching the children, who grew in numbers from approximately 60 to over 150 for the last two days. The method she taught involves a set of 60 stories of God subdivided into a visual outline of twelve rows of five stories each.
- Amy Smith met with the local health professionals to learn what medical services are being provided and what additional care is needed. This included meeting doctors and nurses at the Doctors without Borders (MSF) Hospital compound and physicians at the local clinic.
- In addition, Amy and Greg met with the State Minister of Health, and the State Director of Women’s Affairs and Gender Equality. The Minister of Health stated that the health of the people in Boma State is declining based on limited maternity care; lack of child immunizations; poor nutrition; and animal health problems. A strong desire to provide hospitals throughout the state was expressed.
- We met with the State Director of Women’s Affairs and Gender Equality several additional times. She is a capable and dedicated woman. She received the girls’ hygiene kits that were donated and will distribute them and train the school girls on their use once school is back in session.
  - She said that the Governor is working to recover the children who have been abducted by the Murle from some of the other tribes for return to their parents. Children are being abducted and held for ransom is so the kidnappers can receive cattle that are then used for the dowry for a wife, which typically costs 40 to 50 cows.
  - Another challenge that Lydia is working on is to end child marriages. Young girls are “booked” or promised for marriage at the age of two or three.
- Amy and Abass distributed over 110 eyeglasses and 100 sunglasses at the village clinic. Amy also provided 48 tubes of hemorrhoidal ointment and 150 malaria test kits to the doctors at the village clinic. She learned that MSF is providing assistance to women needing Vesicovaginal Fistula Repair. It appears that the greatest medical need is for an eye surgeon.
- As the group leader Greg was responsible for the welfare of the team and assuring that everyone had what they needed. In additional, he met the following people to learn more about the current conditions and future needs:

- We met with Governor David Yau Yau, Acting Deputy Governor, and the Minister of Health for Boma State. He stated that there is a great need for water, for both the people and the cattle. He believes that a year-round local water supply is needed to prevent the annual migration of cattle which creates problems with the neighboring communities to the west. He reports that there is a great need for better education including vocational training for the elders and the youth. He is concerned that the students will not be able to attend college without more and better secondary schools.
- We met with the Director of Education for Boma State and three of his staff members. We learned that there are five primary schools (four government schools and the Kadaco Church School).
  - The Director of Education and his staff would like to have a local girls boarding school so that local girls would not have to go away to obtain a Secondary education. The PCOSS is trying to open one up with assistance from Across and UNICEF.
  - The Kadaco (church) School is obtaining some help from the government and NGOs. Approximately 800 girls and boys attend the Kadaco School in Pibor.
  - They requested financial support for a female headmistress, three male teachers and two female teachers for the Kadaco School.
  - We toured the Kadaco School which consists of two school buildings with three class rooms. There is also a school office building, six latrines, and a bamboo enclosed kitchen. The class rooms are equipped for the most part with desks and a chalk board.
  - The Director of Education was given a suitcase full of pencils and notebooks.
- We provided refurbished, donated, laptop computers to the four leaders
- Greg inspected the well material that the drilling contractor delivered to the SALT compound for the borehole that they have been hired and partially paid to install. This material is in deplorable condition and must not be used for borehole construction. Lynn Kandel, the PCUSA Regional Liaison for the Horn of Africa, has agreed to meet with the drilling contractor in Juba to discuss these issues and request a refund of the down payment for the bore hole.

A letter of appreciation was received from the Moderator of Eastern Jonglei Presbytery and one from the Gummuruk Parish Pastor seeking additional assistance.

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