

News from the Frontline

Greetings to each of you in the Precious Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is a great honor and privilege to be able to report on how God is working in the Nuba Mountains.

It was exactly 100 years ago the first missionaries arrived in the Nuba Mountains to a place called Heiban.

Pour in, pour in missionaries. Let us fight in one solid band for Christ. What does it matter whether we are Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist, Quaker or Anglican? Step into the breach and seize the place for Christ."

-Bishop Llewellyn Gwynne in 1911

One year later, in 1920, the first Nuba, a lady with leprosy, came to faith in Christ and followed in baptism. Over the next 42 years, these missionaries from the Sudan United Mission gave their lives until they were finally forced out in 1962, leaving behind an indigenous church with 200 baptized believers.

"Do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes."

-Isa 54:2

Learning from past history, there were 3 things the missionaries prioritized and these were Bible teaching, literacy training and leadership development. While Sudan was once a thriving Christian land from the 6th - 15th century, Christianity eventually died out due to internal weaknesses in the church. The church relied heavily upon foreign bishops and priests. In addition, the Bible was not accessible to the common person and when it was, it was in a language they could not understand.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

-Hosea 4:6

During the 1920s and 1930s, the missionaries helped to establish "bush schools" to develop the next generation of leaders in the Nuba Mountains. These were the only schools in the Nuba Mountains and at first, they even had to pay children to go to school because education was not a priority. As these schools began to take root in the 1930s and 1940s, the missionaries and local Christians set a precedent of "visitation evangelism." They would often go to check on the students and teachers while

encouraging them with a message from the Bible before heading to check on the next school.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believe, first for the Jew then for the Gentile."

-Romans 1:16

Today, there are 262 of these "bush schools" in the Nuba with approximately 70,000 students. Each of the schools are constructed with local materials using timbers for the frame and grass thatch for the roof. The teachers are unpaid volunteers that use their gifting as a platform to reach the students for Christ. On two instances, we have met teachers that have served the same schools for 16 and 18 years respectively without any pay.

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friend."

-John 15:13

It is incredible the way in which God has allowed us to use these schools as a vehicle to get His Word into an officially Islamic country. Since May of 2018, the Lord has protected us while visiting each of these schools to distribute Bibles to the students and explain the plan of salvation. As we reported last week, God has provided for and allowed us to take in over 80,000 Bibles and 90,000 Story of Jesus picture books. Each of the children who can read now have their own Bibles and each of the children who are being taught to read are now being taught from God's Word.

"Is not my Word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

-Jeremiah 23:29

Please pray for these teachers and students, that the Word of Christ would dwell within them richly, that the message of the Lord would spread swiftly, and that God would use them to seize the land for Christ.

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

-Jude 24-25



The photo above shows all the Bibles and books that were distributed.



The photo on the left is Ben pointing to the actual sign and the first church planted by missionaries in 1919.

**Yours for the fulfillment of the Great Commission,
*Ben, Cindy and Elijah Cohen***

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