



NEBRASKANS REACHING OUT TO SUDAN

NEBRASKA DISTRICT - LCMS

Cargo Containers Bring Hope and Promise to a Community

After a year of prayers and negotiations, three Orphan Grain Train containers reach their destination in Malakal, Sudan

In August of 2008, Orphan Grain Train, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, the Nebraska District, and Webster Gardens Lutheran Church in Webster Groves, Missouri, partnered together to send three cargo containers from Nebraska to Malakal, Sudan. Packed with **farming equipment, building supplies, a water purification system, and a medical clinic**, these containers embarked on a journey that no one could have predicted. After a year of negotiations with the Sudanese government, the containers and their contents were released and transported to Malakal, a city of more than 125,000 people on the White Nile River in Southern Sudan. In November of 2009, a **team of volunteers from Minnesota and Nebraska traveled to Sudan** to unload the containers and begin setting up the equipment they contained.

When the team arrived in Malakal, the containers were sitting at the river port dock yard. They

moved the containers to a secure location, which allowed them to store and assemble the equipment in relative safety. Members of the Lutheran church in Malakal gathered to help the team, and the **Sudanese were able to learn new skills** using the new tools by working alongside the American team.

A Sudanese man walked up to them and with tears in his eyes told them he had never seen eight white men work so hard for them.

Once some of the farm machinery was assembled, **the church site was cleaned, staked out, and disked** in preparation for the containers to be moved there. The three containers now sit on the church property and **store the farm and medical equipment**, as well as providing storage and **servicing as the walls for the church**.

According to one member of the team from Nebraska, the challenges they faced during their weeks in Sudan were all made worth it on the morning they left for home. A Sudanese man walked up to them and with tears in his eyes told them he had never seen eight white men work so hard for them.

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Some of the Containers' Contents



Volunteers and Church Members Reassemble Farm Machinery



Reassembled Tractors Ready for Use

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The team accomplished amazing things in the time they spent in Sudan, but **there is still much left to do**. The people of Malakal stepped in and took ownership of the materials that were delivered, but **without more funds and people to continue the work, the project will not be able to continue**.

The **most pressing project right now is providing a cement floor** in the church structure before the rainy season arrives. Without the floor, the rainwater will run right in and turn the floor of the church to thick mud.

Other projects that require more manpower and funds to complete include:

- Leveling the floor of the chapel and pouring a concrete floor
- Cement pads under the containers for stability
- Installing tin, windows, and doors on the church structure
- Connecting the water line with the city water line
- Completing the interior of the living quarters and clinic containers
- Educating the Sudanese on how to use the tractors and other farm equipment

In a city with a population nearly that of Sarpy County in Nebraska, there are an estimated 700 Lutherans. There is a **great need to share the love of Jesus Christ** with the largely Muslim population, and having a church that can serve the community in both spiritual and physical needs would be a tremendous blessing to the people. **Prayers and support** from the congregations and people of the Nebraska District **are needed to continue this important mission work**.

There is much more work for volunteers and mission teams to do in Malakal. If this is something the Lord is leading you to consider, get more information by contacting:

Orphan Grain Train
email@ogt.org
402-371-7393

or

Rev. Rich Boring, District Office
richb@ndlcms.org
888-643-2961



Setting Rafters on the Containers



The Church Roof on the Container "Walls"



The Church Waiting for Tin and Doors

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT WORK IN SUDAN by providing funds for the following projects.

Name: _____ Date: _____

My gift in the amount of \$ _____ should be used in the following way(s):

_____ Wherever it is most needed

_____ Cement for the church floor and the pads under the containers (\$3,000)

_____ Tin, windows, and doors for the church (\$2,000)

_____ A boat to allow pastors to travel throughout the area (\$10,000)

_____ To ship another full container of medical and religious materials (\$10,000-\$12,000)

Mail this form and your gift marked "Work in Sudan" to:

Orphan Grain Train
PO Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

or

Nebraska District LCMS
PO Box 407
Seward, NE 68434



Nebraska District LCMS † 152 S. Columbia Ave. † Seward, NE 68434 † 888-643-2961

www.ndlcms.org

Nebraska Congregation has Sudan Campus

Vincent Paul is a Sudanese native who is serving as a vicar at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lincoln through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Vincent is from a tribe in the southern-most area of Sudan, and the people of Trinity have adopted this area of Pa Jok Payam as a mission field and “campus” of their ministry. Following is an account of Vicar Paul’s recent trip to Sudan.

Vicar Paul left for Sudan on January 9 to establish a worshipping community that will become Trinity Lutheran-Pa Jok Campus Church and School, secure land to build on, and lay the groundwork for Trinity Lutheran-Pa Jok Clinic.

God blessed the efforts and all of these goals have been accomplished. More than 60 adults attended the first Sunday service, and so far 101



First Service at Trinity Lutheran-Pa Jok

adults have committed themselves to join the church, forming an organized body to run all of the programs relating to the church activities.

The city of Pa Jok has a population of more than 35,000 people, most of whom are returning to Sudan after fleeing during the previous conflicts and who are facing numerous difficulties as they try to settle in this new community. The most serious problem at the moment is the high cases of illness in both children and adults. There are many cases of malaria because of the



After the Worship Service

mosquitoes and typhoid due to poor sanitation and an inadequate supply of clean water. The clinic that the congregation plans to provide will be a real blessing to all in this community.



Clearing the Land

The tribal chief and community are really excited about the project and worked very hard to clear the four acres of the church’s land! The acting bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan and a representative of LCMS World Mission have agreed to train a man, chosen by the congregation, to teach them *Luther’s Small Catechism* and *I Have Good News for You* that were provided them. The next step is to begin raising funds to build a church and provide the transportation for Vincent to return in January of 2011.



Sharing a Bible with a Member

The Lord has given the people of Trinity eyes to see the mission field in this part of Sudan, even though most will never see first-hand the work that is taking place. What a blessing that the members of this congregation in Nebraska are looking beyond their walls and reaching out to share the saving message of Jesus Christ with those in their community and half way around the world.

Prayers for Sudanese Ministry

God has brought many Sudanese people to the **Mission Field** in Nebraska, and much is being done to connect them with the love of Christ. Please keep these efforts in your prayers.

- **Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mission, Omaha** — Rev. John Deang serves as their vacancy pastor. Rev. Deang is from Sudan and is working to develop their ministry to reach out to all African immigrants in the Omaha area. Please also pray that God would open the hearts of the Muslims living in Omaha and use this congregation to share with them the Good News about Jesus Christ.
- **Sudanese Ministry at King of Kings, Omaha** — Vicar Riek Marwang serves this ministry and has just completed his studies at the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Please pray that he would receive a call to serve as pastor among the Sudanese at King of Kings.
- **African Immigrant Ministry at Christ Lutheran, Lincoln** — Vicar James Rieng serves at this ministry, and he has recently completed his studies at the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Please pray that he would receive a pastoral call from Christ Lutheran to serve the African immigrants in Lincoln.
- **Sudanese Ministry at Trinity, Lincoln** — Vicar Gabriel Bol and Vicar Vincent Paul serve this ministry and they are continuing their studies through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology and work with Sudanese in Lincoln. Please offer a prayer of thanks for their first worship service in Nuer October 25 at Trinity. Thank you prayers are also offered for the mission congregation in Pajok Payam, Sudan, that this congregation is sponsoring.
- **Sudanese Ministry at Trinity, Grand Island** — Please pray that God would guide and direct Trinity as they develop this ministry, and that He would lift up a Sudanese leader to minister to the people and lead worship.



Rev. Deang



Vicar Marwang



Vicar Rieng



Vicar Paul



Vicar Bol

Sudanese Ministries

The Nebraska District is home to more than 4,000 Sudanese immigrants, many of whom are fellow Christians. There are Sudanese ministries in Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island, including the Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mission in Omaha. Many of these Sudanese brothers and sisters in Christ are from Southern Sudan, especially in and around the area of Malakal.

The Nebraska District in Convention in 2006 directed a special ministry emphasis be placed on this area of Sudan. This work has begun through LCMS World Mission, and the Nebraska District has supported and continues to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan in many ways.

The 249 congregations of the Nebraska District together support a number of Sudanese ministries, both here in the Nebraska District and in Sudan. The District also encourages and partners with congregations who reach out with special Sudanese ministries of their own.

Thanks to the generosity of District members and congregations through regular offering gifts and special designated gifts, the Nebraska District is able to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to the Sudanese and all others around Nebraska who have never heard of Him.

The *Nebraskans Reaching Out to Sudan* is a publication that comes from the office of Rev. Rich Boring, Executive for Missions and Outreach.

Pastor Boring works with the ministries of the Nebraska District. He is available to visit with you about existing or developing ministry opportunities across the District. He is also available to help coordinate a servant event between your congregation's group and a ministry in Nebraska.

If you have questions regarding this publication or any Nebraska District ministry, please do not hesitate to reach him at:

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888-643-2961 • richb@ndlcms.org