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The WBS President's Update from the Road

Brian Rex Davis - September 20, 2025



When starting out on a WBS journey, I am always relieved when the plane actually arrives for the first leg of the trip. John Fewkes, of Global Seed Sowers ministry that supplies basic Bible Teaching visuals for many young congregations around the world, joined me in Washington D.C. to begin our trip to South Sudan.

Through pioneer missionaries, Chuck Dennis and Dennis Cady of Texas, the beginnings of a great church planting movement have begun in South Sudan, the newest nation

on earth. Many sister ministries have cooperated to help these young Christians and churches build firm foundations on which to grow in which WBS has been honored to participate. Though no postal system exists, Phil Palmer and Tim Brumfield, two of our WBS International Representatives, have arranged for shipments and suitcases of materials to be sent to South Sudan over the last few years.



Our sister ministry Mission Printing challenged us to provide 4000 Bibles in one of their literature containers and through your generosity, these study Bibles were sent. Sunset International, Bear Valley, Global Seed Sowers and other ministries have all worked together to encourage the spreading of the Gospel in South Sudan. And God has been producing a great harvest! As you can see in an upcoming episode on our WBS podcast, Together in Mission, in an interview with local church leaders in the Aweil area of South Sudan, some 90 congregations have been planted in that area recently. As Dennis Cady and Chuck Dennis report, over 3,000 baptisms have taken place just this year.

Spending a couple of days in the capital city of Juba, we were able to visit with the WBS coordinator of Jonglei State (to the north of the capital). His name is Lam John, and he was a student at Mutare School of Preaching, a Sunset affiliated school in Zimbabwe. I had the pleasure of working with Lam John when he was training, and now I was able to enjoy a visit with him as we revived an old friendship and prayed for the future of WBS in his state.



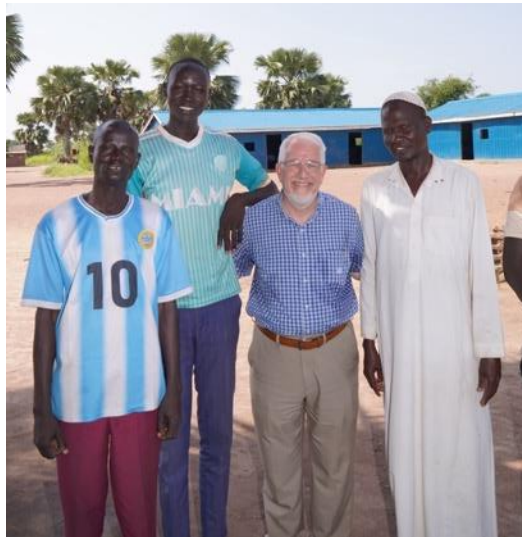
John Fewkes and I then took a bush flight to Aweil (which is in the northwest of the country) where many baptisms have been recently reported. Our objective was to teach leadership and foundational Bible classes for the young-in-the-faith church leaders and evangelists in this fast-growing movement. These foundations are vital so that the growth continues and healthy congregations can emerge. John,

my companion for this trip and the author of several textual studies, is teaching the book of James and the significance of the Lord's Supper from a book by Cleddy Varner, *In Remembrance*.

I am teaching the WBS Advanced Course on *Understanding the Bible* to help these leaders not only understand the great lessons of the Bible but to better know how to teach their congregations. Understanding how the authority of the Scriptures guides the church is vital for the stability of fast-growing church plant movements. Part of understanding scripture is knowing how to work through cultural issues as compared to Kingdom-of-Christ issues. Our students are mainly from the Dinka tribe; their culture has been fascinating to learn about as we share our different cultural experiences and perspectives.



However, as Christians, we are all being called into the Kingdom of Christ and His culture and must walk the path of discipleship. The Dinka are a very tall race of people who love wrestling. They consider Americans as very powerful people. One of the most moving days of study for me was when we discussed that "every knee will bow" before our King, Jesus. The Dinka culture does not have kings. This was a challenge to them. They asked how we as Americans can accept "bowing" before Jesus. I had to admit that it is a challenge. Then we studied how to bow, together, before an all-loving King.



I am the short, pale one

Though the temperature is in the 90's and the humidity is drenching, the students sit for hours in a corrugated tin building each day to better understand the will of God for their lives. Seeing their faces light-up with understanding as each lesson connects with the last is thrilling to see. As their nation and recent history has been plagued with warfare, meeting the Prince of Peace is transformative.

Like a cool breath of air and a drink of cool, clean water, the Word of God refreshes and revives even those calloused by years of bloodshed and violence. I had shared how I was so happy to finally be with them as I had been praying for Sudan (and then South Sudan) for many years. One brother named Bior, a tall, serious man with a great

gift of explaining scriptures to his fellow students, took me aside one afternoon and said, "You expressed your happiness at being here with us, but you have no idea how happy we are that you have come."

Bior, like many, long for the fellowship of love that can only be found in Christ. John Fewkes is one of those rare individuals that exudes love and good will. John is 77 years old, and as he is teaching he will have moments of awareness where the significance of the moment – for the Kingdom of God – will

deeply impact him. At one point, John just stopped teaching and walked up to each of these men, hugging them and kissing them on the forehead. Madic, a WBS student who is now a church leader, stood before the group and said, “Brothers, we never believed that we would see something like this!”

Below left: Bior

Below middle: Madic

Below right: one of our WBS Light App students



May we never forget or take for granted the wonder of the revealed will of God (as is so evident on the faces of the students pictured). May we never grow “cool” in our zeal for the fellowship of the saints. And may we

find our voices for sharing the name of Jesus with every soul on earth! I know that Heaven is going to be a far richer place because the Dinka (and all South Sudanese) will be among the ranks of the saints for eternity.

Our next week of classes will continue to build the foundations of faith for these young churches. We will continue to challenge them to learn, not only the lessons, but how to teach as they work to mature the churches wherein they serve.



The reach and impact of World Bible School is only possible because of our great supporters and supporting congregations. This year has been challenging as the global markets have been unsettled. However, there is still no finer investment than the one that yields fruit for eternity. If you are in position to help financially, please consider doing so. We will need to have a strong end of the year in giving to keep these tools sharp for the brotherhood and available to the world.

Just as Bior said that “you have no idea how thankful we are for you”, so too is our sentiment towards you. You have made so much possible with your kind support and your faithful prayers over the years. Thank you!

Your brother,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Davis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Rex Davis

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