

Lynn Treneary

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The call in action

Luke 11:5–10

Hello and greetings from Maridi.

It's been a busy few months since my last link letter. Christmas and New Year have gone by, Chaima held its fourth graduation, the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) had a two-week pastors' retreat culminating in new lay readers, deacons and priests, including me. We celebrated the centenary of the gospel in Maridi, brought by CMS missionary William Haddow, and I went on outreach on the Rumbek road to Kozi village.

I visited and received information in six villages on the primary schools and assessed the number and the needs of those with nodding syndrome. It was revealed that the biggest need in all areas is clean water. All boreholes need servicing. They are either broken or pumping dirty water. Some people are walking over two miles to access dirty water. The water is needed for everyday necessities, making bricks and keeping livestock and gardens healthy. On return, after taking my first Holy Communion Service, at St Barnabas' church, I met an officer for Urban Water who offered to help the ECSS by doing an assessment on the Rumbek road for free. Pray to God that in his mercy we will attract one of the water charities to this area.

I visited six villages on this trip: Churuco, Amaki, Mata, Lutur Ngeri, Wako and Kozi. The nearest to Maridi, Churuco, has a new primary school, called Tandiru, built by Fields of Life and their partners. It has teachers, desks and good blackboards. It lacks wages for the government teachers, textbooks, electricity/solar, water and any sports equipment.

The other five schools had incomplete or no buildings. Lessons are held in churches or outside with blackboards up against a tree and logs to sit on. They do not have any resources apart from a teacher. If they are able to complete the P8 final exams they qualify to attend secondary school in Maridi. To do this the children must find a place to stay and contribute towards the cost of living as well as school fees, uniforms, stationery and toiletries, etc.

The length of time it is taking for the challenges to be addressed is taking its toll on the villagers. One village I visited was so infested by flies and had such a lack of resources like food and water I was almost overwhelmed after five minutes. We prayed, I put on my General in the Lord of Heaven's Army hat and encouraged people to tithe with integrity so that the windows of heaven will be opened and blessings pour down. I was angry and upset with God. We shared out our clean water for a treat for people and it was really appreciated. I was very sick on return and I'm still not over it.

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Name: Lynn Treneary

Location: South Sudan

My call: Encourage and strengthen people in Maridi through faith and love to live out their lives as children of God.

My role: Teaching English at Chaima Christian Institute, working with the evangelist teams and the Mothers' Union.



Our lovely Justin Badi asking the government visitors to the centenary celebrations to hold hands in a circle and pray for peace together

The number of people with nodding syndrome varies from 60 in one village to one in another. In answer to prayer, the Nodding Syndrome Alliance (NSA) has been treating 1200 people in Maridi town with clinical assessments, medication and community-based rehabilitation (CBR). Remote areas cannot be reached regularly though. In partnership with CMS Ireland, the ECSS is praying to add an extension to its Bethsaida clinic to provide short-term in-patient care and a four-wheel drive vehicle, a nutritionist and an OT. NSA's contract with their medication provider runs out at the end of May. Please pray International Health Partners (IHP) or someone else will become the new providers of medicines.

Chaima Christian Institute Maridi (CCIM) continues providing the only further education available to secondary school leavers and adult learners in Western Equatoria State. I give thanks to God for your prayers which he answers or will answer. I also give thanks to my church supporters who have given generously and bailed us out of difficult circumstances. I see light on the horizon with support coming from new donors for our internet, batteries, inverters, library and theology needs. We have new possibilities opening up. Please pray for the process of becoming a campus of The Episcopal University (TEU), which has stalled. Not all chancellors of the colleges set to become campuses of TEU want the change. The people I talk to in the community really want TEU to succeed. Prayers please.

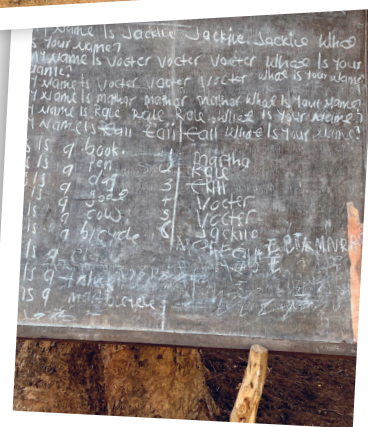
There is a need for Christian discipleship in ECSS to be improved. I know we all long for this in all our churches. But, to be specific, the church needs to befriend the new disciples the amazing evangelist team here is always bringing to God. A new teaching within all parishes is needed to make sure they don't let our new followers of Jesus slip through the net and become disheartened. The churches also need more teachings on the trustworthiness of God with our individual tithes.

So, in summary, prayer requests are:

- Water. For new and serviced boreholes.
- Schools. Resources for primary and nursery schools and boarding facilities for Haddow Secondary.
- Chaima. We give thanks for all the Lord is doing and request his will be done re TEU.
- Nodding syndrome. We give thanks for all the Lord is doing and request the provision of medicines and an extension to Bethsaida for the new clinic and its resources.
- Discipleship and tithing training.
- My family. I thank the Lord for hearing our prayers for my family. Especially for keeping my mother well and for the birth of my new grandson, Jameson. Please pray for continued blessings on them all.

I give thanks to God for all my family, friends and supporters who make sacrifices for me to be here. I love you all. If it helps, I do find ordinary people are very encouraged by our expression of love to them by my being here. Long live CMS.

Lynn



Photos from top to bottom: Chaima parade; Chaima graduation, ordinations and full priestings; from an outdoor school lesson

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