



Great Commission Media Ministries update

June 2018

**UNESCO:** A staggering 70 % of the population of South Sudan is illiterate. Children in villages are recruited and trained as soldiers. Our upcoming mega city campaign in the capital city of Juba will minister to these children and their parents using Digital Audio Players (also known as Mega Voice.) In the photo: This boy, like tens of thousands of others, has never heard the story of Jesus. For them reading is not an option.

South Sudanese Government official about the upcoming November campaign:

## "You Should Have Come Long Ago..."

### Dear ministry partner,

I write this letter onboard a Kenya Airways flight high above the Sahara Desert headed home from equatorial South Sudan.

My heart is full of thanksgiving. The past four days have been suspenseful but also such a blessing. Much progress has been made as we continue preparations for the November campaign. The campaign promises to be an unprecedented evangelistic outreach in the nation's capital city, Juba. There is reason to believe that the Lord will bless the campaign in a mighty way.

South Sudan is a land with a population of 12.3 million people. Millions have fled the prevailing violence to neighboring countries. Seemingly, every family has expe-

rienced human loss and suffering in many different forms. Tribal warfare has taken its toll, there is widespread crime, famine, disease, poverty. But there is hunger for change and for God to intervene.

### Prayer For The Minister

Yesterday, we had a meeting with two South Sudanese government officials, **Simon Philip Ali** and the honorable **Lado Kenyi**, Minister of National Communications (Media). We discussed the upcoming mega city campaign and its message: "God gives man the power to change. We have seen God intervene. As a result enemies are reconciled, relationships are healed,

human suffering is halted."

The government minister listened to our report. "You should have come long ago, this should have happened already in 2013."

Simon was referring to the outbreak of civil war that left 11,000 people dead in the capital city in one night. Despair could clearly be seen in Simon's eyes.

At that moment. The Holy Spirit reminded me of Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus. Mary told Jesus: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died!" John 11:32.

Jesus said: "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you would see the glory of God."

The Holy Spirit was present in that government office. Before we left, I had the privilege of praying for each of these key government officials. We had witnessed a wonderful "God" moment!

Pastors across the denominational spectrum have warmly embraced the mega city campaign. There is a buzz among these ministers of the Gospel.

Third bishop of the Episcopal Church of Juba, Emmanuel Murye Modi commented on the upcoming campaign:

"The cry of our hearts is to see our people saved from their sins. This is a great opportunity that has come our way and we

must seize it.

I feel that the Lord is saying: "here it is. Here is what you have been praying for. May many people come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. May a spirit of forgiveness, reconciliation sweep this nation like never before."

Senior Pastor Nasser of the Evangelical Church of Juba predicted:

"We are excited about this campaign. It will be a very big happening. It is something that we could never do alone.

Using media, together with GCM we will reach great numbers of people. Hundreds of thousands in Juba are still waiting

to hear the gospel message."

But, there are challenges to be sure. One challenge is illiteracy. According to UNESCO, South Sudan has the world's highest illiteracy rate. An appalling 70 percent of South Sudanese people cannot read. At first thought, it appears that the devil has scored big time in isolating millions of people from hearing the good news about Jesus.

This was a logistical nightmare we had not faced in over 100 major city campaigns (2003-2018).

But in God, there are solutions to problems. We are taking unconventional steps



70% of South Sudanese people are illiterate. The units are programmed with scripture and are nonerasable. Each unit will contain:



the Gospel of John; 15 powerful transformation stories; a road map to new life in Jesus plus Bible stories for children—all in South Sudanese Arabic.



**Yuwan Pitia**

"My older brother wanted to take my livelihood, my cattle, by force so that he could marry. I refused to fight him. I summoned the elders. We discussed the issue and a solution was found. I refused to fight him because I had listened to the advice on the audio player. It is like a father giving wise advice. The messages spoke to me. Otherwise I would have harmed my brother."



**Alfonso Jumbo**

"As tribal leaders in this territory we have been listening to the audio players given to us. As a result, cattle raiding has been dramatically reduced.

We heard the message clearly and we have stopped the raiding. We do not take from others that which is not ours."

Alfonso has come to know the Lord as his Savior.



We are nomads, we guard our herds. We no longer use spears. We now have more powerful weapons.



We are dealing with a nation of 12.3 million people in turmoil, riddled with extreme poverty, widespread hunger, disease, 70% illiteracy rate and tribal warfare that threatens to destroy the young nation.



Children in villages are often recruited as soldiers. The campaign in South Sudan will minister to these children using Digital Audio Players. Photo: For these boys reading was not an option. The story of Jesus reached them via audio player.



This tribal wrestler is holding a digital audio player. The unit programmed with the Gospel led him to a new life in Jesus.



The tribe of this chief numbers 3,000 members. The chief was given a digital audio player that introduced him to Jesus.

to obtain 20,000 palm-sized audio playback units. These units are solar powered, pre-programmed, and nonerasable.

At the touch of a button, the unit will read out the Gospel of John. Touch a button again to hear all 15 powerful South Sudanese transformation stories. The unit tells a tribesman and government official alike how to receive Jesus as Lord. Also included are Bible stories read aloud for children. All content will be in the local South Sudanese Arabic dialect as well as in

major tribal languages.

In the capital city, we will utilize more conventional media like radio, television, outdoor ads, flyers, facebook, youtube, social media and the campaign book—tailor-made for South Sudanese people who know how to read.

But, without the audio players millions of South Sudanese would not be reached with the gospel message.

The solution to this need came unexpectedly. We were providentially led to

Walter Duku, who has worked with an educational branch of the UN involving a similar digital audio players. Walter will assist with import and preprogramming of the units. The South Sudan Council of Churches is assuming responsibility for distribution.

Walter explained how an entire village will be reached. "In a small village of 500 people one unit can be hooked up to a megaphone that is hung from a tree branch.

Up to a hundred people at a time can listen in. In larger villages, several units will

circulate from group to group."

The price of one unit is \$20 USD. The need is for 20,000 units. Interpretation: we need a financial miracle!

But, God is in the business of doing miracles. Still today, in God's hands five loaves and two fish are enough to feed thousands.

Still today, small lunches become huge blessings.

I thought about the Biblical account of the little boy and his lunch. He had a choice. He could have enjoyed the lunch his mother had prepared. The disciples would not use coercion of any kind to extract his lunch. They were sure that the boy's lunch amounted to nothing compared to the need.

Consider the little boy. He must have known enough about Jesus to decide that his little lunch would be put to much better use in the hands of Jesus than in his possession.

The rest is history. It was a story of God's power over mathematical impossibilities." But it was also a story of a little boy's faith.

I like to think that the boy had the most awesome story to tell. He had a front row seat and could tell it like no one else. I wish I could have heard what he told his mother! And to his children and grandchildren! That story still moves our hearts. It lives on to this very day!

There is no limit to what faith can do. All of us have a chance to go to bat with what we have been given by the Lord.

The words of Jesus to Mary and Martha still speak to our hearts: "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you would see the glory of God."

We are grateful for your dedication to God, and to the ministry of GCM. Thank you for your partnership. My prayer is that your experience would be as blessed and exhilarating as that of the little boy and his lunch. Paul wrote: "To Him who is able to do infinitely more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever." Eph. 3:20.

Your fellow servant in Jesus,  
*Hannu Haukka*



"A small village generally has 500 people. A bigger village can have 7,000 people. One unit can be hooked up to a megaphone that is hung from a tree branch (see picture above). A hundred villagers can easily listen in.



**Simon Philip Ali, Ministry of South Sudan Communications**

"You should have come long ago," said government official Simon Ali, "this should have happened already in 2013." Simon was referring to the renewed outbreak of civil war that left 11,000 people dead in the capital city in one night. Clearly, despair could clearly be seen in Simon's eyes.



**Emmanuel Murye Modi, Third Bishop, Episcopal Church of Juba**

"The cry of our hearts is to see our people saved from their sins. This is a great opportunity for us and we must seize it. I feel that the Lord is saying here it is. Here is what you have been praying for. May many people come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. May a spirit of forgiveness, reconciliation sweep this nation as never before."



**Walter Duku  
Across Media, Juba**

A village generally has between 500 people and 7,000 people. One palm-size audio player can be hooked up to a megaphone that is hung from a tree branch. A hundred people in a village can easily listen in.



**Nasser Khajoud, Senior Pastor, Evangelical Church of Juba**

"We are excited about this campaign. It will be a very big happening. We cannot do it alone. Using media we will reach great numbers of people. Hundreds of thousands in Juba are still waiting to hear the gospel message."