

Ingrid Reneau Update

...I am come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly... (John 10:10)

Three years ago in 2007, before I left to work in South Sudan in Education with Across, a partner Christian NGO of the PCUSA, a missionary said to me, "Humph! *You* are going to Sudan? *You! You will never last.*" Other family and friends were just as *prophetic*: "Are you out of your mind? You are leaving academia for Sudan? You are nuts!" Well, that dear missionary and those loved ones were right: Ingrid *did not last*, and *she* is indeed out of *her natural born* mind; but all glory, honor and praise to Jehovah! While I did not last, the Holy Spirit of the Living God has lasted and bloomed with/in me, and my mind is more and more assuredly the mind of Christ. For the reality of living these and many other wonder-ful truths, I bless the Lord Jesus for the faithful prayers of Body of Christ, in the PCUSA, and elsewhere, through which I am mightily sustained and empowered to delight to do his will and nothing else, ever, all the days of my living.

For me, the will to have Jesus as Life more abundantly, especially for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan, greatly informs my vision for the ministry of the Holy Spirit with/in me. Two projects described below seem destined to make this vision a reality: 6 months – 1 year Intensive English courses at regional school for 5 women of the areas with which we work in Jonglei and Lake States – Pibor, Akobo, Pochalla, Jiye, Cachipo and Adol – that they may *catch-up* more quickly in the language skills needed to be trained as teachers, serve as translators and be better empowered to function in other leadership capacities in their communities; to reach children and young adults whose reading level ranges between a 1st – 3rd grade level, and to assist in generating a reading culture in Jonglei State and beyond, as well as create a "safe/peaceful space" in which to encourage or inculcate commitment to "peaceful coexistence," we want to produce 2,500 high-quality, semi-glossy, color illustrated children's literature series based on 3 areas: (i). selected folktales focusing on shared common values and cultural practices of the Murle, Nuer, Jiye, Cachipo and Anuaks of Jongeli State; (ii). selected traditional praisesongs from all 5 tribes focusing on women's survival and heroism; (iii). Bible stories that depict women as leaders in their own right and working in collaboration with men to achieve great goals, and Bible stories that affirm children's value and gifts; this literature will be used in the ALP, GEM, FAL and Teacher Training programs at our Across Boma Learning Center in Jonglei State, and in Pibor and Pochalla Teacher Training; and in collaboration with GOSS, they will also be used in Jongeli State primary schools and beyond.

There are projects including Across' upcoming bi-annual Partner/Donor Conference to be held in March 2011; our theme is Holistic Mission. As ever, thanks so much for your continued prayer and financial support in making Life more abundant for the Sudanese people a reality of Jehovah's kingdom in their midst.

