

MISSIONARY YEARLY REPORT TO SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Missionary's Name(s): Debbie and Del Braaksma

Country of Service: Sudan/Uganda

Primary Type of Ministry: Leadership Development

Date: 12/12/05

1. In one sentence, what is your ministry's primary goal?

Through training of Sudanese church and community leaders, create awareness and impart knowledge and skills that will equip communities in peace-building, trauma healing and civic education.

2. Over the past year, how have you seen God working in your ministry? Please share both the progress and the setbacks with respect to your ministry goals. Please include your joys, challenges, and/or disappointments.

First of all, we have experienced a "miracle" as we were appointed the end of February and were able to move to Uganda the end of August as we met our required support level. God really provided for us! Secondly, since coming to work with RECONCILE in September, 2005, we have been blest with working together as a team with wonderful African colleagues. We have so appreciated their gifts and expertise and well as the opportunity to learn together. Deb and I have been involved in four workshops this fall and have been so amazed that in the midst of many hardships and struggles of enduring war for so many years that the church is so vibrant in its faith. We have seen God working especially in the trauma healing workshops as numerous participants have expressed that they have seen and continue to see God as their source of healing for trauma and restoration. As a result, RECONCILE has been getting many requests from various church and community leaders for trainings. It has been really exciting to see that the programs we are offering are seen as valuable and needed. The challenge comes in as we deal with limited resources both in finances and staffing to be able to meet the needs in a timely way. The other challenge and frustration is just dealing with the logistics of organizing and carrying out a workshop or training event. Travel in and out of Sudan is an experience in itself and we often find ourselves struggling with a "laugh or cry" mentality!

3. Share any physical or spiritual health issues that have impacted your ministry during this past year.

Our main challenges have been to find Christian fellowship. It has been great in our work environment at RECONCILE, but it has been a real struggle to find a "church home" that meets the needs of our kids. You can imagine that it is difficult for teens to sit through 3-hour worship services. Also, we are still searching for a youth group/fellowship for Bethany and Daniel as there is not much available for their age groups.

4. Briefly discuss any goals, dreams, and/or changes you would anticipate in your ministry for the coming year.

RECONCILE is in the planning stages of building a training centre in Yei. We are planning on starting construction in January, 2006. It will be exciting for RECONCILE to have its own training facility and visible presence in Sudan.

RECONCILE has recently completed a strategic plan for the next three years. We have made some large goals that on one hand look a bit overwhelming, but at the same time we realize the needs and the requests are coming in faster than we can provide services so you really feel that what you are involved in is really meeting people's needs.

5. Share any specific project related needs and other ways supporting churches might be able to assist you.

We have two project related needs.

1) **RECONCILE Program Support** . We are in need of project funds to cover the travel of our team into Sudan, office expenses and the costs of putting on the workshops. It would be really helpful for the RCA congregations to be able to contribute program support money in terms of PIM full or partial shares so that RECONCILE can extend its outreach.

Secondly, there is a Training Centre Project (Derrick it seems we lost some of our emails and am not 100% sure of the exact name of the project fund).

2) **RECONCILE Training Centre**. RECONCILE is beginning construction of its training centre in Yei, South Sudan. We have received funding for the 1st phase of 3 buildings that consist of offices, a training hall, and a dining/guest building. Additional funds are needed for the 2nd phase that will be a dormitory and staff housing. For these building projects we are inviting work groups to come and help construct the 2nd phase for those who are up for a "Sudan Challenge"!

Funds can be sent to: PLEASE INSERT lock box address

Like Esther, we are trusting God to equip RECONCILE "for such a time as this" by providing us what we need to minister to the desperate needs in Sudan.

6. Please tell us about ongoing as well as special prayer needs you may have at this time.

-For a halt to the aggression of the Lord's Resistance Army, which is causing setbacks to security in Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan.

-That our upcoming workshops meet the needs of church and community leaders.

- For church leaders as they seek to help reconcile ethnic groups who are clashing. A recent clash between the Dinka Bor and Zande in Yambio left hundreds dead and required us to postpone a workshop.

-For Del as he works to begin the construction phase of RECONCILE's training center in January 2006.

-For us to find a good church home here in Kampala.

-For Bethany as she is applying to colleges for the fall of 2006.

