



NEWSLETTER - May-June 2009

Sometimes you meet people who's stories break your heart.

Her name is Rose. She and her four sons live near our farm in Bori. I had wanted to visit some of the families who live near the farms, and Emmanuel, the farm manager, had heard about this family through a local pastor. I thought that the families living around the farms would be well-fed, because they live on the most fertile soil in Sudan. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined what I would find the day I visited them.



Rose with empty granaries

We drove down a path off the main road, stopped in the middle of dense bush and then walked on a barely visible path to the clearing where Rose and her boys live. Their compound consists of two small huts and three hand-woven granaries. As we entered the clearing, the family watched expressionlessly. The youngest, a boy of two, with a protruding naval on a hunger-swollen abdomen, clung to his mother's leg.

After spending twenty years in a refugee camp in Uganda, Rose has recently brought her family home to Sudan, to her father's farm. She found the place overgrown with trees, brambles and bushes. With her two oldest sons, she has cut down some trees and hand-turned the soil with some old hoes. She's planted some corn, cassava, and squash. Now the family is waiting for the harvest in late July.

"What do you eat while you are waiting for a harvest that is still several months away?" I asked.

"Mangoes." Wild mangoes grow in the forest and were all this family had eaten for some time.

I asked if anyone had offered to help, perhaps some nearby neighbours.

"I can't even ask them because I have nothing to offer them to eat." This would be shameful in their culture.



Joy at having something to eat!

I wondered where her husband was. He had lost his mind and abandoned the family. There are plenty of reasons for a man to go mad in southern Sudan.

Rose is a believing Christian and attends church. But no one in the church can help. They, too, are struggling for survival.



Empty Granaries

We looked in her granaries. Not a grain in sight. We saw a couple of bottles, a clay pot and a metal pot for cooking maize meal. But there was no maize to cook.

We had brought a sack of maize with us, and as I handed it to her, I told her that we had come because we had heard of her plight. She stood, dazed. Slowly she began to smile.



Rose's boys with our gift of food.

The boys approached and looked at the big white sack. They smiled too, but there was still a clear measure of hopelessness. The food was wonderful, but would it last until July?

A while later, as we were leaving I turned and looked at Rose standing with her four sons and one sack of grain. She had a dazzling smile on her face. I thought of our refrigerator at home in Canada, filled to overflowing with food.

And I wept.



A new single row picker in Uganda is over \$20,000

Current Challenges!

WHAT MUST BE DONE

Within the next few months, we are facing the biggest challenge yet. We have reached a stage where the crops are too large to harvest and process by hand.

Here is what we are **now** trying to acquire:

- (a) At least three 2 row corn-pickers. We have a man who can refurbish used ones and make them run well. Do you know a farmer with one that he is no longer using? Give us a call.
- (b) A well-drilling rig worth about \$35,000

We also need the following as soon as possible: (Success creates the need for greater efforts)

- (a) – A sixty-thousand litre storage tank and pump in order to save money on diesel fuel. (\$15,000) we'll then be able to buy in bulk.
- (b) – Once the grains are harvested and completely dried, it (maize, sorghum, millet and others) has to be ground into flour. For this we need to get a rather large grinding mill.

We have a small grinding mill, Can you imagine trying to grind 500 tonnes of grain through the little mill seen here to the right? A grinding mill large enough to handle such large harvest will cost about \$94,000 including shipping, installation and housing.



Cal with the small grinding mill in Kajo Kaji

- (c) – A four-wheel drive vehicle to haul the well-drilling rig from place to place. Used - about \$25,000

These past five-and-a-half years of working in Sudan have been very successful because of you. Even the government of southern Sudan (GoSS) is now looking to us for advice and guidance in some agricultural development.

None of this would have happened without your very prayerful support.

I thank you, deeply and profoundly for your continued prayer support and financial support for this increasingly successful work of faith. May God's richest blessings accompany your every thought and action!

Very sincerely in Christ, for Sudan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cal R. Bombay".

Cal Bombay

Contact us:

The logo for HarvestSudan.com, featuring a stylized golden wheat stalk on the left and the text "HarvestSudan.com" in a golden, serif font on the right, all set against a dark, textured background.

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Please do your best to beat back the hunger in Sudan.

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Or use the enclosed envelope.