

NEWSLETTER – November 2010

Growth Has Great Challenges And Great Rewards!

Just between you, me, and the gatepost, I am so pleased at the recent growth and successes of the farms in Sudan, that I think it would be nice to live another 40 years to see what future developments will take place.



Anthony Duku
SFC General Manager

For the time being, I'm just going to have to thrill you with the most recent report from the General Manager of the Savannah Farmers Co-operative, Mr. Anthony Duku ('Duku' is a common given name, much like 'Smith' in our country.)

He sent it to me in point form, and I will expand it a little bit from my own personal knowledge of the details:

The three houses under construction at Bori farm have their ring-beams in place and ready for putting on the roofs.



Volunteer guest house at Bori ready for the roof.

12,000 more interlocking blocks have been made set out in five block high piles and are cured ready for use. (We are about to build the new Four-

Bay mechanical workshop for repairs and maintenance.)

In this connection, Canadian Tire has GIVEN us an eleven ton hoist for lifting vehicles and trucks for easy access for under-the-vehicle repairs. That Workshop will cost \$42,000.00 to build which we very urgently need. Tools and equipment will be added as money is available. A VERY secure tool room is planned.

Gary Giles (Volunteer farmer/preacher) has taught our tractor drivers how to do machine planting. He has successfully taught five of our operators to do the weeding with cultivators. All the weeding for some years has been done by hordes of people with hand hoes.



Rev. Gary Giles

On newly cleared land we have had many drivers who knew how to plough. But to harrow and level the fields was a challenge. Now the drivers know exactly what to do, and how to do it.



Tractor with corn picker going to work at Bori!

Machine harvesting by corn pickers brought in a lot of this present harvest. Up until now all the harvest was done by hand. Vast fields – one cob at a time. It slowed everything down.

Three 2 metre by 26 metre corn cribs have been constructed at the Bori fields. Seventy-seven tonnes (metric) have already been stored in the news cribs. One more crib is currently under construction. The crops are consistently getting better and larger.

The harvesting of the maize has begun at the Mogiri. This is one of our smaller farms and the Manager of that small farm will soon be put in charge of our second 2,000 acre farm, just now being started.



SFC corn cribs full of corn.

Anthony Duku attended the county meeting of Agro-NGOs and county Agricultural Department coordination meeting in Kajokeji. It was reported that the SFC farms are by far the largest agricultural undertaking in the area. We have been told that it is also the largest farming project in ALL of Southern Sudan.



Mechanically planted corn In Bori. A big step forward.

And the best news yet:

The Bori community now attends Sunday services/prayer at SFC compound in greater numbers. When I (Cal Bombay) was there in August I preached under a mango tree



Cal preaching at Bori.

on the compound on a Sunday. There were perhaps 50 people there. The crowds are now increasing from that date. We plan to build a church adjacent to the farm compound which will seat at least 400 people.

All these above positive reports have produced optimism among our leaders and workers on the farms. All these forward steps took place in spite of some very negative potential. Extra-heavy rains made harvesting a much slower process than normally, but those same heavy rains have given extra growth to the newly planted fields.

Some of the corn in the Bori fields fell down because of heavy rain and wind and was attacked by termites. Two of our tractors at the Bori and two from the former Romogi farm are 'down' and need repairs. Two tractor drivers at Bori farm left work – one was arrested trying to



Corn in Bori. First season in background and second season in foreground.

steal cement. The other left for another job somewhere. We do not have proper accommodation for workers at the Bori fields. Several of our workers came down with malaria

(including Gary Giles) and some with typhoid fever. All are well now. Please pray for them all.

When I think of all these blessings and challenges, I have a tendency to compare them with what we face here in Canada. In this past month or so I have seen vast harvesters bringing in truckloads of corn in a matter of hours here in Canada. Soya bean fields are dry in the field one day and totally harvested a few hours later when I drive by. We take all this technology for granted, just like our electricity or tap water.

What we see as challenges are *minor* compared to the challenges in Southern Sudan. What *they* consider to be *great advances* we might look at as being very minor. It's all a matter of perspective. We look at life from the piles of abundance that surround us and with the security of savings accounts and retirement funds. They look at life from the perspective of nagging poverty and starvation with nothing in their hands to change the situation unless someone puts what they need in their hands.



Bulldozer in container now in transit to Sudan.

And you and I have that blessed opportunity to put everything from hoes to harrows, harvesters and land-clearing bulldozers into their hands. I wish I had the words to describe to you the difference you are making in their whole life perspective. Despair is changing to hope. Dependency is changing to confident self-reliance.

In the past four years hundreds of subsistence acres have enlarged to the place where the farmers are prospering, some of them even sending a son to University. All this in four years! (See the enclosed stories)

Christmas is coming pretty soon. I have found that when my family asks me what I want for Christmas I truthfully answer, "I don't know! I don't *need* anything". But I always get gifts . . . very few, if any, that I really need.

Will you pray about something? This coming Christmas, will you consider those that DO have needs beyond your imagination? Would you consider doing slightly less wondering about what we need to give as gifts to one another, and what the people of Southern Sudan really honestly do need?



Cal with a farmer helped by your faithful giving!

Contact us:

 HarvestSudan.com

Cal Bombay Ministries

Mail:
P.O. Box 22021
794 Colborne Street East
Brantford, Ontario
N3S 7V1 Canada

Office Phone: (519) 753-7380
Fax: (519) 753-6229
Email: cal@calbombayministries.org
www.calbombayministries.org
www.harvestsudan.com

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

1-888-577-8326 (1-888-57SUDAN)

Or use the enclosed envelope.