

mission

Spring 2011

Leadership Without Idolatry

Chris Wright

Chiapas
A Two-Hour Flight
A World Apart

On Integral
Mission

Can We Delegate
Salt and Light?

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REACHING THE LOST REFUGEE IN AMERICA

Imagine a place with no running water or electricity, where people live in mud huts with only an open flame to cook what little food they have, a place torn by war for over 20 years that has been plagued with disease and periodic famines . . . a place where over two million people have been killed and more than four million displaced. Clean water is scarce and few areas have medical clinics or schools. Many have no knowledge of the hope found in Jesus Christ.

After years of a brutal civil war, thousands of southern Sudanese refugees fled to the United States looking for a new beginning. The Lost Boys were a group of orphaned young boys who were forced to flee their home villages beginning in the 1980's due to the violence against them by the government troops. These boys got their name because they had to literally run into the African wilderness with no supplies or adult assistance to escape the impending violence. Many of the boys were eaten by wild animals, shot by soldiers, drowned in the raging rivers, or starved to death. The young men that did survive the long journey to the Kenyan refugee camps and made it to the United States were referred to as the Lost Boys of Sudan.



Now imagine traveling to a new foreign land with little knowledge of the language. Finding a job to support a family is difficult, especially when you are unfamiliar with the customs, culture, and language. You are no longer in a place ravaged by war, but there are still struggles and hardships. The needs are great, but Aid Sudan is attempting to meet some of these needs both in Sudan and the United States.

Founded in 2000, Aid Sudan is an inter-denominational, non-profit organization serving the southern Sudanese in several targeted locations in Sudan and through the U.S. Our offices are in Dallas and Houston. Aid Sudan, through the Moses Project, trains Sudanese refugees living in America as missionaries so they may return to their native country, supported by our staff, to evangelize southern Sudan. This isn't our only goal, it's just one project. Whether in the U.S. or in Sudan, the vision is to aid in growing strong southern Sudanese communities committed to serving Jesus Christ.

Dallas has the second largest Sudanese population in the U.S., with over 8,000 Sudanese. As the Dallas Director, I lead Sudan mission trips and organize support for Sudanese refugees, teaching basic American life skills, such as how to speak English, use computers, and grocery shop. Over the past 18 months, God has done some incredible things. He has led several churches, both in the Dallas area and across the country, to partner with Aid Sudan.

Some of our partners include huge churches and large Sunday school classes, while other partners are just families that want to minister to the people and share the love of Jesus.

What does this "partnership" mean? It means whatever God wants it to mean! We have had churches meet physical needs of the Sudanese population here in the DFW area. Some churches bought new coats for children, gave gifts at Christmas, and supplied hygiene baskets for women. One partner church created a community garden where women from the American church worked side by side with Sudanese women to cultivate a garden and enjoy the harvest. Other churches have tried to meet the education needs by starting a literacy program for women, supplying children with materials for schools and helping children with homework. Most importantly, people are reaching out to meet the spiritual needs of the Sudanese.

God has given us all gifts, whether the gift of time, teaching, money, creativity, gardening, etc. Whatever gifts you possess, they can be used to minister to the Sudanese or anywhere else where the Lord leads. He just calls you to simply "Follow me." **mm**

For more information, visit www.aidsudan.org.

-Nathan Bogue is the Dallas Director of Aid Sudan.

