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Celebrating the one year birthday of the world' newest nation



The First Independence Day For South Sudan

***"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord",
Psalm 33:12***

On July 9, 2012 The Republic of South Sudan celebrated their first year as a sovereign nation. In Akot, Lakes State, the day was spent praising God, and praying for His blessing on this new nation. Over 400 residents of the community gathered at Akot Christian Ministries Compound for a birthday bash for SoSu. Many community officials attended and enjoyed the day of celebration. Women of Hope, Akot Christian Ministries' women's ministry, presented their message in song and dance. The primary school children of Abundant Life and Living Water schools also performed for the crowd. A bull was killed and sodas served for this auspicious occasion. After many long years of war and devastation, there is finally a feeling of hope in the air.



A Rare Occasion

For a people who have known nothing but fear and suffering, a party is a rare experience. While war continues to rage not very far north of Akot, this community is enjoying a time of peace and hope of a better tomorrow. This window of opportunity for sharing the good news of the gospel may not be open long. Living Water Community Transformation is making the best of this time by growing disciples through church and pastor development, primary education for children, and vocational training for women. This family is in their Sunday best and toting the family Bible.



The Only Lasting Peace is Jesus

At any South Sudanese gathering there are many speeches given by the important men. Pastor Gordon Mayom, Director of Akot Christian Ministries, was the keynote speaker for the Independence Day celebration. The pastor's message was a reminder of Jehovah God's faithful provision for South Sudan, and His provision of eternal life through His Son, Jesus. Pastor Gordon's strong message was the main event, and sole purpose for hosting this event. Believers in Akot were unified in prayers of dedication of South Sudan to Almighty God.



Women of Hope

As in any community the women are the backbone. These



Food Shortage

July is known as the month of hunger in South Sudan. This year



Community Leaders Appreciate ACM

The community leaders

women in white shirts and black skirts are a part of ACM women's ministry. They have completed a year of disease prevention training and learned at least 100 Bible stories. Many are now seamstresses and several are trained in pump repair. There are 95 of these "Women of Hope", as they have named themselves. They have recorded songs about all they have learned, which can be heard over the radio station in the closest city. Pray their message reaches many. And that God receives all the glory.

is no different in Akot. This picture of food in abundant supply is a really big deal for the community. The celebration at ACM was the only Independence celebration anywhere in the area. Many hungry people come to ACM requesting food. Our staff give selflessly from their own meager resources to minister to "the least of these". They thank you for setting the example of sacrificial giving, and ministering to Jesus, through feeding the hungry. To God be the glory.

of Akot attended the birthday bash for the new nation. The responsibility of governing at the local level is shared between tribal chiefs and appointed government officials. Celebrating the holiday in a worship service and dinner on the grounds was very appreciated by the leaders. The political situation between the neighboring Sudan and South Sudan has intensified the food, fuel and money shortage. Please pray for peace and stability for South Sudan.

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