



KISI NEWS

News from Keep in Step International

“We’re hungry...”

...for the Word of God.” The words that met us when we arrived in Maban for a week with 20 refugees from Sudan. The mission was arranged with Bishop Samaan Farjalla of the Diocese of Wad Madani (Sudan) and his representatives in Juba and Maban. The refugees had fled fighting in Sudan in 2011 and temporary homes in the refugee camp had become a permanent base.

From three different tribes, and different churches in the camp, most met for the first time when we arrived. From Muslim roots they had converted to Christianity but lacked access to good, regular biblical teaching. They wanted to learn more of Jesus and how they could live for Him. The team – Justin from South Sudan and Stephen and Kate from the UK – led a programme of teaching centred on the book of James. At the end of the week almost everyone stood to testify how God had been speaking to them during our time together:



Worshipping together

“What I have learned and God has spoken to me. Previously when there are occasions of big parties there is a spirit of discrimination, putting others on important chairs and others not. This discrimination there in those years, separating people – the well dressed and those not well dressed. After learning from here, I have come to the conclusion that people are the same and there’s no point for discrimination and segregation. This will be my first mission in our camp. I will be preaching to people about this. If people were to work based on this I think there would be no conflicts and trouble.”

We concluded our time together by sharing Communion. The group continue to meet together and are planning to run workshops themselves to encourage others in the community to go deeper in their faith.

“From the book of James I have learned about patience. Before that I don’t experience patience, but through study of James I have learned it’s important so this will help me to be patient in every situation.”



Team transport!

“I’ve learned that when someone provokes you do not provoke that person again or if someone comes to you with negative things do not respond negatively.”



Sharing together

“It’s hard to “go”...

...to prison as a pastor – our focus has been on those coming to the church.” Words that surprised us when we first arrived in Turalei, Twic County. Later we heard from a prison officer: “We’ve heard about the church but don’t know as no-one brought God to us”. A group of 18 people had been brought together, from different denominations, to form a team to carry out prison ministry.

In this rural town, near to the border with Sudan, there are many challenges, but the team were eager to find out more and get involved. They soon opened up, sharing their own stories, reading the Alpha materials and asking many questions!

We visited the prison as a team on Sunday. The worship, led by prisoners beating drums, took place under a tree. Each member of the group shared a short word of encouragement – for some it was the first time to share – and there was an opportunity to pray together too.



Studying materials and planning together



The newly trained team wait for the prisoners to assemble

The first Alpha course session was attended by 20 prisoners with officers keen to join in too. All were eager to hear more about Jesus. When asked the question, “If Jesus was standing here what would you say to Him?” there were many answers, among them: “for forgiveness of our sins”; “to have peace amongst us”; “to change our life to give us eternal life”; “I am turning my heart to you Lord”.

The ecumenical team divided themselves into smaller groups to continue with the ministry, regularly meeting together to discuss progress and make decisions together.

This was the first time the churches had come together to minister and, as we officially closed the training, the church leaders spoke of wanting the unity to continue and expand to more areas.



Arise, shine for your light has come...

The theme, chosen by the Committee, for the Episcopal Diocese of Lomega youth conference, held at Aru Junction, in December.

Last minute family issues meant our team was reduced in size but there was no reduction in the number of youth attending from across the Diocese. We expected 100 and wrote certificates for 128! Archbishop Paul was a welcome addition to our team, assisting Stephen and Kate with the teaching.



The committee meet with Archbishop Paul to review spending!

The Committee sat each day to discuss where they were with the budget and were able to learn much about budgeting through the time - the conference budget proved a helpful illustration during the session on budgeting!

Away from the teaching there was opportunity for friendships to be formed between those who don't meet often, as well as strengthening friendships with fellow church members - we tried not to ask the youth what time they went to sleep!

An evangelistic message, from Archbishop Paul, during an overnight prayer led to over 60 making a commitment to follow Jesus.



Participants working together in groups

A short mission, just three days, with much packed in including, after teaching had finished, a choir competition with entries from parishes and archdeaconries.

As always our teaching was planned in consultation with the diocese. We covered topics including Christian marriage, leadership, budgeting, the role of youth in the Anglican Communion, as well as more traditional topics including prayer and the Holy Spirit.



Building friendships during breaks

What people say when we have left...

"I am so grateful for your work done, I am looking forward that you will do more and more as you have seen the hunger of people for the word of God" - Bishop Samaan Farjalla

"Lomega youth conference was excellent, they [the youth] really appreciated the teaching and morning devotions." - Archbishop Paul Yugusuk

Pray with us...

Without prayer we can do nothing. We value prayer for our work and for those we support.

If you would like to receive occasional updates (more frequent during missions) to inform your prayer, please email: info@keepinstepintl.org

“Give even more directly”

With thanks to donations from individuals we have been able to support nine people in their education over the last year. Those supported range from primary to PhD students.

One student, who transferred from primary to secondary during the last year writes, “I am really grateful for the support you have given to me and the family.”

We have also been able to continue our support of St Mary Magdalene’s Church in Lusaka – specifically supporting those who lead worship each week.

Do you want to be sure where your donation is going? If you would like to sponsor someone’s education (from primary to PhD), cover medical costs, support Church activities, help refugees and internally displaced people with basic needs, we can ensure your cash donation gets to the right place – either school, hospital, church or the individual themselves – whichever you would prefer. Whether you know the person you want to support or would like to be connected with someone in need, please get in touch for more details. Donations from eligible UK taxpayers benefit from Gift Aid.

Who we are...

Founded in 2022 Keep in Step International has a vision to see Christians encouraged, empowered and enabled to stand firm in their faith. We currently work with churches in South Sudan and support individuals and churches in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. With no fixed programme we discuss the needs of those we are visiting and prepare accordingly.

Verse of the Day



We have a presence on the main social media channels. You’ll find us @keepinstepintl so please follow and like. As well as sharing news of missions we also share a daily verse.

Donate!

Donations to our general work enable us to invite South Sudanese team members on our missions and make a small contribution towards the costs of our hosts. To donate please visit our website and click on the “donate” button or email info@keepinstepintl.org and ask for our bank details. Donations from eligible UK taxpayers benefit from 25% Gift Aid.

There are details of other ways you can give - through everyday shopping via Give as you Live and easyfundraising and, thinking further ahead, by leaving a legacy on our website. Head to <https://keepinstepintl.org/donate> to find out more.