

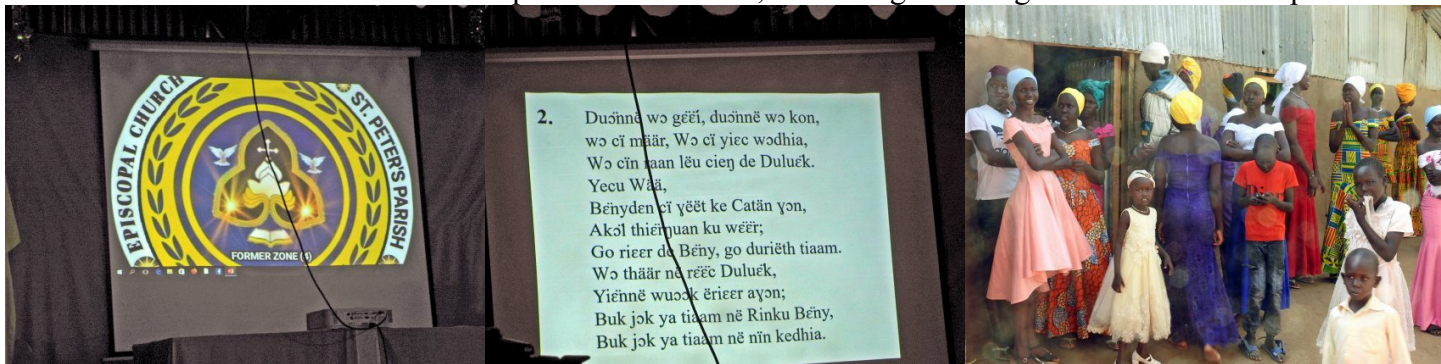
Three Sundays

For 28 August 2022 through 23 September I was on an educational mission trip for Seeds of South Sudan, a ministry based in Arvada, Colorado, (www.seedsofsouthsudan.org) and operating in Kenya, East Africa. Several Trip Reports cover the varied aspects of the trip. This report is given a “Three Sundays” title (for September 4, 11, 18) though the activities were not confined to those days.

While on international trips I have a habit of loading onto USB flash drives, to be given away, an inventory of movies from the Jesus Film Project, downloaded for free from <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch.html> in various local languages. Their main offering is the 2-hour movie Jesus, originally released in English in 1979 and recently available in more than 2000 languages. It is based on parts of the Bible book of Luke. A fewer number of languages are available for the 1-hour The Story of Jesus for Children. The Magdalena version, in about 200 languages, has a 1-hour version and the 81-minute version that has more explanations. The Life of Jesus (Gospel of John) and The Book of Acts are 3-hours long and in a limited number of languages. There are followup movie series like Rivka and Following Jesus and Walking with Jesus. The large collection of short films, mostly 1 to 7 minutes long, are for promoting discussions, with film explanations and sample discussion questions available in English from the download process. There are other movies and series available that I have not yet viewed. Downloads to smart phones are becoming popular. Jesus Film Project movies have been viewed by billions of people, making them the most effective means of sharing the Gospel with the world.

English and Swahili are the dominant languages of Kenya. In the far northwest Turkana is the local language. In the refugee camp in Kakuma those from Somalia speak Somali and those from South Sudan speak Dinka. Before the trip I downloaded films in most of those languages to my laptop and onto a few flash drives. I downloaded the Somali films while I was in Kenya, after I saw the large population of Somali refugees in Kakuma.

In the Kakuma refugee camps it appeared that few people had equipment for using the Jesus Film Project movies on the USB flash drives. Smart phones were in use, but the signal strengths were sometimes poor.



Sunday worship using screen, projector Hymn in Dinka language

After worship for South Sudanese

For Sunday, 4 September, we attended the worship service of the Episcopal (Anglican) Church for the refugees from South Sudan. Perhaps a thousand were present under a large roof, and the singing was robust. I noticed that they had the technology for showing Jesus Film Project movies. So I gave the pastor 3 flash drives loaded with movies in Dinka, Swahili, Turkana, and English. Later I prepared and sent another flash drive that included movies in the Somali language. That collection should cover essentially all of the languages used in Kakuma and its refugee camps. Hopefully they will be used for building up the faith of the congregation members and for informing the community, including the Muslim refugees, about Jesus.

Our driver for the Kakuma visit is a part of that congregation. His car has several labels (like bumper stickers but in different places, including the front windshield) proclaiming Jesus. He is well known in all of the refugee communities, including Muslim, as we observed when he often paused his driving to chat briefly with his

friends in the street vendor stands. We were told that he operates a small movie theater in the camp. So I prepared a flash drive in most of the local languages and later sent him another that included the Somali language movies about Jesus. I expect that it is likely that the Jesus movies will be shown in his theater using the appropriate languages. (My camera temporarily malfunctioned when I took a photo of our driver and his car.)



The following Sunday, 11 September, we were on a safari in remote Maasai Mara. My tent for two nights was located at S 01 26.453', E 035 04.070', more than 50 miles from villages and roads.



My tent at Maasai Mara.



A shade-loving lion.



During the afternoon we saw several male lions getting a bit too warm in the sunshine. The lion in the photo moved to the shadow of our vehicle when that first vehicle went away. When we left, the lion reluctantly went to the shade of another nearby vehicle. All the big cats seem to be used to having daily visits by a crowd of safari vehicles.

That evening I had a nice chat with the young woman functioning as a greeter/receptionist for our camp. In discussing the availability of churches nearby, it was easily revealed that the camp was too far away from any villages and therefore church buildings. She had a laptop which could take USB devices. I asked if she would like one of my flash drives with Jesus movies, and she was eager to get one. I had one loaded with all movies available in English plus the Jesus movie in Swahili and I gave it to her. She can view the several movies in her free time and possibly share them with others.

Our third Sunday, 18 September, was at Home Base in Nakuru, the home of the Seeds of South Sudan students. The students are strongly Christian and sing and pray easily and often. Our visiting team had an informal worship and testimony service with them. One evening we tried to show Jesus Film Shorts and commercial movies with the projector and screen that we were donating to them. But that showing failed because an amplifier was needed for better sound. After a good amplifier is found, the movies and teachings of all types can be played for the students.



Sunday worship at Home Base, Nakuru



Adut, left

A young South Sudanese woman, Adut, has graduated and returned to Home Base as a helper. I gave her a flash drive with the movies in English, Swahili, and Dinka. She is very likely to share the movies with the students once an amplifier is obtained. Until then, she can at least show a few of them the movies using the laptop screen and speaker.

Though my Jesus Film ministry was not officially part of the Seeds of South Sudan educational ministry, the gifting of the flash drives is likely to bear spiritual fruit in several language groups.

Dr. Ed Holroyd, 25 September 2022