

Help Still Needed in Sudan



LEFT:
An Azeri
underground
Sunday School.

was speaking of their condition, about the return of the only prayer house which was actually built as a prayer house—and which was taken away after World War 2.” That prayer house is now being used as a cinema.

“When I was there a few years ago, the church out of their own poverty tried to support refugees mainly from Armenia, because Armenia was throwing out Azerbaijanis. There is old ethnic hatred between Azerians and Armenians.

“Azerbaijan is a rich country because it has oil,” explains Smits.”The population is mostly Muslim—about 97 percent. However, that is mostly cultural Islam. There are also some sects of Muslims that are very fundamental, very hateful for Christians. Christians are a very small minority. On the other hand, evangelical believers have been there more than 100 years. Some Christian tradition in a very small minority is very strong.”

Smits says he appreciated that one Azeri Christian told him that though people abroad pay attention to all kinds of problems happening in Azerbaijan, God is blessing the Azeri church. Muslims are becoming Christians at many Christian gatherings. “I know that they need help—prayer help more than anything else. And also publicity of their plight—which always helps—because they are people out of their own poverty helping others.”

Smits himself speaks the Russian language, which is widely spoken in Azerbaijan. Originally from the former Soviet state of Latvia, Smits has served as a pastor in Latvia before and after Communism—often under dangerous conditions. He has also served as a pastor in Canada, and currently resides in Fort Erie, Ontario, and serves on the Board of Intercede International.

SUDAN (INS)—Intercede supporters have been generous in meeting the needs of **Southern Sudan Mission**. In the last issue of *Mission Gateway*, Intercede shared SSM’s needs to complete construction of the Savannah Children’s Centre, to dig a bore well, and to provide a rugged four-wheel drive truck. Since then, Intercede supporters have donated \$15,000 to meet these needs; \$35,000 is still critically needed to make up the shortfall.

SSM is grateful that Intercede supporters have sent generous donations and a shipping container of much-needed goods to Sudan. That container arrived recently, and SSM missionaries received it joyfully.

“Donation of a 40-foot container by Intercede full of different items and materials such as agricultural equipment, medical equipment, office equipment, and school supplies is a very big development achieved so far this year,” declared SSM leader John Okumu.

The material support sent by Intercede with the container has solved many of the outstanding personal material needs of the children. But a clean water bore-well and water storage system and a finished Centre are still ongoing priorities for these children.

“Intercede is the leading partner in support of all programs of the ministry financially, materially and morally through prayers,” reports Okumu. “I hope you from Intercede will sincerely join us at the Savannah Children Centre in your support morally through prayer and material support. May God bless you abundantly—and thanks.”



TOP PHOTO:
SSM missionaries
receive bicycles
sent from Canada
through Intercede.

BOTTOM PHOTO:
A child in the care
of SSM is happy
to receive a doll
and other gifts
sent in Intercede’s
Overseas Material
Aid container.

For more information and a quarterly Field Report from this ministry, contact Intercede mentioning this project codes: 514SSM.

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