



REPORT FROM FLAME INTERNATIONAL ON TRAINING FOR SSPDF CHAPLAINS

2020 would have been our 4th year of training South Sudan Peoples' Defence Force (SSPDF) Chaplains. Three missions each year has enabled us to train 296 Chaplains, 9 of whom have formed a training team, and so far, 4 have joined the Flame teams. Our last training took place in Wau, in late January 2020, working with Internal Archbishop Moses Deng Bol, 5 Division SSPDF and the Diocese. The 2020 June and October missions have been postponed. Challenges arose during the year around the issue of visas, but an extraordinary God given intervention by the Charge d'Affaires in the London Embassy, Ambassador Maker Ayuel Deng, and the Office of the President in Juba caused the visas to be released just days before we were due to fly. In addition to training Chaplains we have continued to spend one week with the Pastors, Leaders, and Mothers Union.

We are always encouraged when we receive positive reports from Government officials and senior military officers, when they see changes in the lives of the Chaplains. We are delighted when Generals and senior Officers attend the training and then release the Chaplains to train others in their Barracks and Communities.

Seeing senior Government officers, Brigadiers and Colonels attend the SSPDF Conferences, and participate fully in the training; delighted to experience for themselves the healing power of forgiveness; and come to the foot of the Cross, brings tears to our eyes. *One of the Brigadiers shared that his brother was in Australia and had not communicated with the family. He was very concerned and shamed at this behaviour. Every day he worried about it until in the workshop he gave his brother to Jesus and finally found relief. He was a changed man.*



Col Abraham (Director General of Police Administration) - a superior officer owed him 53000 Kenyan Shillings and he has asked him three times for the return of the money, but now he has forgiven him and will not ask again for its return.

Col Deng had to forgive his nephew for assisting in killing his father. He said he had forgiven, but not completely, however after the teaching, he completely forgave his nephew.

Col Michael said "You are a military people, with a retired general as leader. We the military, all of us are corrupt. You bring us out from corruption to be a Godly people. We do not fit with corruption now; you have brought us out".

If Flame had not come, Lt Col Alfred says he would have died in his sins! Many people have mistreated him. One of his leadership team had stolen 4.575 million South Sudan Pounds, plus he had not been paid by the government for 9 months. He had been thinking of killing the leader if he visited him, but the other day he forgave him and decided not to kill him.

These testimonies, and many others, show how inner healing is brought about by understanding the Word of God, appropriating it for themselves, and taking the same message to others in their barracks and communities. It empowers the individual and helps promote Christian values and peaceful co-existence by respecting others and treating others in a different way.

In October 2019 we had the privilege of working in Pagak on the Ethiopian border where there had been fighting between the Government Forces and those In Opposition. As part of the peace building effort a mix of Chaplains and Pastors from both sides joined the Flame training. As a result, both parties pledged to work together and we later heard that there had been a change in the town, they were working together and asking for a Flame team to return. We praise God when we see the work of God bring peaceful outcomes.

We received the news on Sunday that one of the leaders of the Chaplains, Pastor Paul Kuol Deng, died in Khartoum hospital on Sunday 23 August. We believe it was COVID19, but this is not confirmed. Paul has been working with us in Juba and was a Flame team member in Wau. He was a young man with good years ahead of him. He leaves a family in Kakuma Refugee Camp. Please pray for his family, and for the Chaplains.

Finally, to end on a high note, whilst we cannot go to South Sudan we joined in prayer through Zoom on 25 June. About 60 Flame supporters, for the first time, met some of our South Sudanese Bishops, Pastors and Chaplains whom they had been praying for over the years. We prayed in small groups split geographically, each group with a Bishop, Pastor or Chaplain from that location. We were also thoroughly blessed by Archbishop Justin Badi Arama joining us for about 30 minutes at the start of the prayer meeting. We praise God for these wonderful opportunities.

May God continue to richly bless you as you serve Him.

Flame International – Releasing God’s Healing, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

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