



# The Baxter Family

## MISSIONARIES TO SOUTH SUDAN



### **Dear Praying Friends,**

We hope you all had a *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year!* Our ministries have been going nonstop here, with many new developments.

As Christmas fell on a Sunday, we had decided to hold a Christmas Nativity Play for the main service that morning. The children and teens from our church faithfully came and practiced, learning Christmas carols that they had never even heard before. There was a spirit of excitement on every face as the story of Baby Jesus unfolded. One man said he had *“finally discovered the true meaning of Christmas”* and a new convert in the church commented, *“So, did all that really happen in the Bible?”* We take for granted that everyone knows the story of Jesus’s birth, but many here have NEVER HEARD. Two young ladies accepted Christ after the sermon at the end concluded with an invitation for those who had never “Let HIM in.”

We welcomed in the New Year at church and set new goals for our church to strive to accomplish, with God’s help. In January, already 11 people have been born again, 7 people have followed the Lord in believer’s baptism, and 603 Gospel tracts have been passed out! We are starting some training sessions for various jobs around the church, and are opening up more opportunities for people to get involved.

Our teens had the chance to attend a Bible Youth Camp in Western Uganda. The nine teenagers who went from our church all made spiritual decisions during the preaching services, and started implementing those decisions as soon as we returned from camp. They have been faithful to their decisions in being involved around the church, and their new fervor for serving God is sparking a renewed spirit of service in the whole church.

### **EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS:**

- \* **The church building is going very well:** the roof is on, electrical lines are in, and plastering has begun! Please keep praying for the building to stay on schedule, for the prices of materials to

stay low (they have been fluctuating quite a bit since we began the project), and for the safety of the crew

- \* **We will be splitting our combined children’s Sunday school into 3 classes** by their different age groups very soon. *Pray for the new Sunday school teachers we are training to lead the classes.*
- \* We are finishing up discipleship courses with several people in church, who in turn are helping to disciple other new converts. **We are looking forward to starting our midweek prayer meetings on February 15<sup>th</sup>.**
- \* **School holidays** in Uganda have ended, and most youths in our church are back to school. *Pray for all the student and teachers, but especially for those who have returned to boarding schools—that they would have opportunity to attend good churches, that they will keep a faithful walk with God, and that they can be a witness to the lost around them.*

### **☆☆☆ 2022 Numbers and 2023 Goals:**

- \* **In 2022,** 106 people made salvation decisions, 65 people were baptized, and 1 couple was wed.
- \* **In 2023, we have set these goals:**
  - 250 Salvations
  - 50 Baptisms
  - 400 Visitors
  - 15,000 Gospel Tracts Passed Out
  - Have more couples wed and join our church membership

*Serving In Christ,*

*~ James, Abby, Armina,*

*Jameson, & Annalise Baxter*

*“The World’s Newest Country... The World’s Newest Mission Field...”*

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