

# SOUTH SUDAN PRE-LAUNCH PLANNING REPORT

Report written by Jean Paul Nsekanabo, chair of EFC-Rwanda Missions Team, Brad Carpenter and Matt Macy with EFM's South Sudan Field Study Group in Mid America

## **1. In a brief sentence for each of the five CAN GO criteria, what is the latest update concerning each: Champion/s, Affirmation, Need, Gifting, and Opportunity/Openness.**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- **Champion(s):** We have a team we are calling the EFC-Rwanda Missions Technicians who are championing the preparation and mobilization required for EFC-Rwanda to send missionaries to South Sudan. The team includes Pastors Jean Paul Nsekanabo, Nicodeme Basebya, and Gerard Munyanganzi as well as Brad Carpenter
- **Affirmation:** The Yearly of Rwanda approved the plan for sending missionaries to South Sudan and chose Pastor Nicodeme and Annonciata to be sent as the first EFC-Rwanda missionaries to South Sudan. They also approved the EFC-Rwanda Mission Board to give leadership to the mission.
- **Need:** Even though there are churches in South Sudan, many of the people called Christians are Christian only in name. There is a great need to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. There are some areas that are unreached by the gospel.
- **Gifting:** Pastor Nicodeme and Annonciata have many gifts and years of experience in pastoral ministry and they are surrounded by a group of strong church leaders who have many needed gifts to complement and support the mission.
- **Opportunity/Openness:** We have been welcomed by everyone that we have talked with in every area we visited: church people, government officials and others we talked to.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- **Champions:** EFC-Rwanda, Brad and Chelsea Carpenter, members and friends of the Central Africa Field Support Team; particularly at Northridge Friends and Crossroads Friends in Wichita, and Chandler Friends in Oklahoma.
- **Affirmation:** from Mid America, EFC-Rwanda, EFM, and EFC-Africa. EFC-Rwanda is in motion to send missionaries to South Sudan and anticipating help with EFM workers and partnership
- **Need:** Each visit reminds us more and more of the highly compelling needs of the whole gospel in both unreached places and under-reached. The un-developed nature of South Sudan is heart-breaking.
- **Gifting:** EFM does not have anyone who is saying they are particularly drawn to serving in South Sudan. We move forward in faith that God will use us to help those he is calling to know of the opportunities.
- **Opportunity/Openness:** Exploration teams have received invitations with offers to help from government offices at high-level national offices as well as local

offices. There are also many invitations from people of peace in local communities.

**2. Compelling conviction to launch (to build just a short paragraph on top of the CAN GO summary). What is the compelling picture that is worth giving our lives or the lives of our sons and daughters to? How might these peoples or places look different because we paid the price to take holistic Good News? What words would sharpen our Help Wanted sign for this new field?**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- We are called to be a part of the Great Commission and take the gospel to the nations. We are challenged by the missionaries who brought the gospel to us and believe God is calling us to do the same. There is a great need for a gospel that transforms peoples' lives, families, and communities. The people of South Sudan have been through many years of war and internal conflict including tribal conflicts. The war has caused much of the land to be unused and people are very poor. As Rwandans we have experienced the trauma caused by the genocide against the Tutsi and the consequences of that time. Now, we live in peace and unity as a country and so we believe we can give a good example of Jesus bringing peace where there was conflict. We believe that as we have prayed that God has led us as EFC-Rwanda to be a part of taking the life-transforming gospel.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- The brokenness we see in South Sudan paired with the ripe opportunities to start a mission among communities that are transitioning back to a peace-time status...the harvest is ready!

**3. Strategy: What informal ideas make the most sense at this time for how this mission field will be launched and developed? How does this impact entry strategy?**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- To use the tool of D4D to gather and disciple groups in the local communities to be whole-life disciples of Jesus. This will help us to raise up South Sudanese leaders who will lead the EFC of South Sudan.
- Another idea is to start a school that would help meet a need in the community and also bless them by offering good Christian education.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- To be present in service and help to the leadership of EFC-Rwanda missionaries in humble learning/serving postures. Ideas for helping start farm/s and business/s have emerged in every conversation. As we have learned that government schools are a rarity/minority and that private citizens and other groups are able to run good schools sustainably or even at profit, we have started to ask ourselves if EFM should be a part of starting schools to immerse into communities and serve wholistically.

- 4. Visa: What are the visa requirements and what are our best options? What, if anything, does this mean for strategy or preparation?**
- We need to find more information about this. But this is easier for East African citizens.
- 5. Skill Sets: What are the skill sets that stand out as we look for missionary candidates for this field? How might people in your church hear the opportunity and call, including those who never imagined themselves as “missionaries.” How might the call for workers help people discover that their life or work experiences, character and interests fit into the missionary team/s? Young adults? Mid-career? Retired? Long term? One to two years of service?**
- In the future, we will need teachers, builders, farmers, business people, nurses/doctors. Some of these would be for short-term service, others for long-term service.
- 6. Language Learning: First term missionary’s objectives will focus on language and culture learning through immersion. What relationships and connections might be available for language helpers for language learning through immersion? Are there formal language school options that should be considered? How much will these options cost? How does this impact what city or neighborhood they start?**
- Reverend William and Bishop Luke are our advisors for many things. We do not know of a language learning school. We think that the PILOT method from Mission Training International will be the best tool for learning Arabic. This method includes time in the community every day to practice language and is a great way to learn culture.
- 7. Location: Where will our missionaries live? What is the region, specific city, or neighborhood?**
- We believe that the first missionaries will begin in the Juba 2 area of Juba, which is the capital of South Sudan.
- 8. Lifestyle: What will the missionary lifestyle look like for their first term of culture and language learning immersion? Will they have a car or use public transportation? Will they live on their own or with someone else?**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- In the beginning, the missionaries will use public transportation (or taxis sometimes) and live simply in general. Because they will move as a family, it is difficult for them to stay in someone else’s home, but our observation is that South Sudanese are very open to talk and fellowship with us. They will live in a neighborhood that has many South Sudanese in it.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- We lean into EFM’s values and missionary training for immersion and language learning /culture bonding best practices. We expect that the initial term will be super simple lifestyle and will always be appropriate for context and in sync with Rwandan missionaries. The age and stage of EFM households and other context realities will speak into what is possible, but we have seen that ex-pats can do well living in immersion with a local family for a time (especially single or young married). We see that working through family housing needs may come into play even short term, but especially long term, for Rwandan or EFM missionaries where water, sewer, and electricity don’t exist.

**9. Spiritual Issues: What are the significant spiritual issues in the area? How does this impact missionary self-care and support in this particular environment (i.e. coping strategies)?**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- Many people we have interacted with said they were Christians but appear to have continued in their traditional beliefs that include: idols or other gods, witchcraft, polygamy, and other things. The coaching team will need to include these issues in topics that they discuss often with the missionaries. The missionaries and the mission board will need to work together closely to determine the proper way to handle various issues that come up theologically. For example if a man with multiple wives becomes a Christian, will he be required to divorce his wives? Or what?

**10. Missionary Care: What needs considered for missionary care in the first term of language learning and culture bonding. What support is required? What pace and rhythms should be considered in this immersion context? Where will the missionary/s go for respite? Are there needs for on-site short- or long-term missionary support personnel? What support or camaraderie already exists in the area of service? What options are there for children’s education (if applicable)?**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- We have begun discussing a few of these topics, but much more study is required before decisions can be made.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- This is a very tough place to live, especially out of Juba. We are passionate about being in sync with Rwandan missionary lifestyles and practices as well as incarnational with South Sudanese, and in continual open conversation. We don’t have much experience with immersion in hard places but we have contacts with experience. A rhythm of respite and debriefing with member care may be necessary to succeed in immersion experiences. There are options, especially in Juba, where missionaries could get away for respite.

**11. Teams: It is natural to ask “what if” we have one missionary household ready to deploy but we don’t have others identified or ready. There are many ways to define teams and each context/scenario will impact the way EFM would have “peace of**

**mind” short or long term in the process of launching and building/developing healthy thriving teams and mission strategy long term. Please identify what missionary or ex-pat personnel outside of EFM are working (or planning to work) in the area of this new field location who could serve as interim or long term “team” support to EFM worker/s. Briefly explain current status of relationship with these persons.**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- We are friends with Reverend William, Bishop Luke, the ALARM organization, and the PEACE Plan Organization. There are also Rwandans in South Sudan: soldiers, police, and business people. All of these could potentially be helpful as informal team members before other EFC missionaries move to South Sudan.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- EFM’s missionaries would team with EFC-Rwanda’s missionaries.

**12. Support Budget: What will the major field expenses be during the first term? Housing? Language helper and/or language classes? Transportation? Any insights concerning income levels and lifestyle in the area of service? What else?**

Answers from EFC-RWANDA

- We are working on this.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- We are finding that housing costs in Juba are very high. We have realized that living in a different city/village for language and culture bonding would be much more cost effective, but what is possible for this depends on the missionary household’s needs, particularly when children need access to education.

**13. Possible Missionaries: Who are possible missionary candidates for this field that we should be talking with and preparing? This includes people who don’t have traditional “call” but are willing and able to serve within EFM’s missionary qualifications and within context of type of service.**

Answer from EFC-RWANDA

- Pastor Nicodeme and Annonciata have been chosen by EFC-Rwanda are preparing to go. Others might be interested, but are not known specifically yet.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- EFM has no specific names, yet. We have faith that God will provide the right workers to accomplish his mission as we are faithful.

**14. Partnerships and relationships with other organizations, or collaborations with other regions/yearly meetings in the U.S.**

Answer from EFC-RWANDA

- We are planning to partner with EFM in the launching of the mission in South Sudan. The details are still unclear about what this partnership will look like. EFC-Rwanda is planning to send the first missionaries in 2025 and will take the lead for this mission venture. We as EFC-Rwanda suggested that in the beginning that EFC-Rwanda would pay for 40% of the mission budget in South Sudan and asked

that EFM would pay for 60%. The idea would be that EFC-Rwanda would gradually increase it's giving as missions become more normal for the YM. This needs some clarity between EFC-Rwanda and EFM.

Additional Perspective from Mid America Field Study Group

- We see a partnership with EFC-Rwanda as an incredible asset and benefit to accomplish this mission. We love that they are going ahead of us. We look forward to further guidance from EFM in the partnership proposal process, as we are tardy in giving answers to EFC-Rwanda's appropriate and practical questions.