



Circuit Rider Dispatch



Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

HOPE FOR SOUTH SUDAN

At a time when the majority of news out of Africa is bad—the Ebola crisis, kidnappings of children, and rampant terrorism come to one's mind easily, I am pleased to report that recently I witnessed some amazing "good news" in South Sudan. Through the efforts of Fred and Libby Dearing and their staff who steward important covenants with Holston Conference districts, the renewed short-term mission trips such as the one I experienced in August is bringing hope to the South Sudanese people. They know that they are loved, supported and important to not only the Holston Conference but the Lord as well.

Our 14 day trip from Knoxville to Yei took our team through many dusty dirt roads into the surrounding villages around Yei. We met young children who were terrified of the "Kwaja" (this is a non-racist term that literally means white man) and many, many people who, in spite of the daily hardships of living in a third world country, greeted our team with smiles, love and laughter. While most of South Sudan has been in an unsettling political unrest, thankfully Yei holds to the peace and stability that has allowed the Holston Conference efforts to continue providing education, clean water and a loving home to some of the world's poorest of the poor. The team witnessed many significant acts of hope, faith and love through the lives of a people long persecuted by Sudanese Arabs. They are learning to live in the world's newest country in peace and solidarity and the presence of the Holston Conference is a big part of their new life of peace.



Mission Team Leader Danny Howe with a G.R.A.C.E. Home orphan

With 32 bore holes dug by the Holston Conference many families and individuals in the surrounding villages have enjoyed clean water and disease-free living for several years; however, the Foundation and the Dearing's know that existing bore holes are in need of ongoing maintenance as parts wear out and chlorine tablets need to be replaced. To provide sustainable funding the *Sudan Well and Sanitation Endowment* was established and is available for funding through current gifts or donor estate plans. More information about contributing to the sustainability of Holston Conference's commitment to South Sudan is available by emailing the Foundation office or by calling 865-690-8124.

If your church would like to hear more about my trip to South Sudan and enjoy a slide show program, please [email](#) me for more

information. It is good to see first-hand the results of Holston Conference's efforts to support, sustain and bring life to a people eager to move forward from war, famine and hardship. I look forward to passing on their appreciation to their friends in the Holston Conference.

Paul Bowman
Director of Gift Planning





PERSONAL PLANNER

What Do You Own?

John and Helen have been thinking about updating their estate plan. They called and made an appointment with their attorney, Clara. [Read More](#)

SAVVY LIVING

How to Recognize and Handle Gambling Problems

How can you know when someone has a gambling problem? Since my father passed away a couple years ago, my 76-year-old mother spends a lot of time at a casino near her house playing slot machines. [Read More](#)

YOUR PLAN

Walter Minnick

Walter Minnick grew up the way that most people did around the... [Read More](#)

WASHINGTON NEWS

Congress Returns for Two Weeks

On Monday, September 8, the House and Senate will convene in Washington. With upcoming elections for 435 House members and one-third of the Senate, there will only be two weeks to complete the nation's business. By the middle of September, the... [Read More](#)

FINANCES

Stocks - H&R Block Increases Revenue [Read More](#)

Bonds - Treasuries Rise after Jobs Report [Read More](#)

CDs and Mortgages - Interest Rates Remain Largely Unchanged [Read More](#)

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO HAVE A GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY? **NOW.**

Before your church receives estate gifts, stock gifts, real estate or other appreciated assets, deferred or otherwise, THE CHURCH SHOULD HAVE A POLICY IN PLACE TO ACCEPT THE GIFT. Often churches want to promote planned giving in their church (being in an individual's estate plan for example), but do not take the time to communicate that a gift from a will or trust would be stewarded well. A Gift Acceptance Policy is designed to assure that all gifts to the Church, or for the use of the Church, are structured to provide maximum benefit to both parties.

The Holston Conference Foundation provides sample policies for the local church. Click [here](#) for a policy example that follows the current *Book of Discipline* which calls for an Endowment and Planned Giving Ministry Committee to educate, manage and steward planned gifts OR click [here](#) for a Trustee model for those churches who do not have an Endowment and Planned Giving Ministry Committee.

For assistance in passing a charter to establish an Endowment and Planned Giving Ministry Committee please [contact the Holston Conference Foundation](#).

