



Operation Nehemiah

HELPING REBUILD THE NEW SUDAN

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Beth Israel Farm development - AGRICULTURAL MONTHLY GROUND REPORT May 2010



Shalom! Since the year 2010 begun slowly and surely we have been making progress in advancing the agricultural development in Beth Israel farmland and the surrounding community. Rainfall has been a problem. We have missed planting season by a month. However, we are back on track. Presently as I am writing to you through faith in God, he has provided us with plenty of rains in the month of May.

It is the most encouraging moment for me and much more on behalf of Operation Nehemiah, The Nile Beth Israel Messianic Congregation, the families, orphans, widows and Christians at large here in the South Sudan to express our loves to you the international President and Founder of ONMI, Mr. William Levi and donors notably Brother John MacLean for investing in our lives in donation of thousands of dollars to help us develop agricultural sector to establish food supply and stability in this land. This has been a labor of love on your part for helping God's children in alleviating the plight of our people who have just returned from exile





after 25 years. Christians here have suffered terrible persecutions in the hand of Islamic regime in the Sudan which led to the bloodshed and millions of loss of lives for the sake of Jesus Christ. However, in the midst of that the church of Yeshua (Jesus Christ) has grown. The land was deserted and became desolate. Thank God, He has brought us back from exile to take hold of this beautiful land and prosperous land dedicated for His work.

This agricultural initiative at the Beth Israel farmland shall not just be beneficial only to Operation Nehemiah Mission International but to all the sincere God's children whose hopes and dreams were blurred and dashed

by the utter desperation of the living conditions and experiences they had encountered in the refugee camps. To date, South Sudan is fed by Uganda and Kenya. There is food scarcity in the whole of the South Sudan. Life is expensive here. However, since 2009, thank be to God for answering our prayers with Operation Nehemiah's agricultural initiative, urging and encouraging families to work with their own hands. We are now beginning to see progress in food security. The people in the village are now able to feed themselves. The challenge is far from over but we have the faith in Jesus to overcome anything.

Operation Nehemiah leadership has been encouraging families to take the advantage of being back in the land and making use of the land for food production.



The ministry of Operation Nehemiah, through the leadership of the Beth Israel Messianic Congregation is encouraging the men to rise up, work hard and provide for their families. As you can see, the men are finding their rightful places in their community. They are developing entrepreneurial vision to start their own family run businesses instead of leaving their families behind and going into big cities like Juba looking for jobs.



To review what has taken place so far, last year we have opened 48 acres of which 15 acres are covered with cassava awaiting harvest this July. The rest of the acres from the last years are being weeded and clear for 2010 crop rotation plantation. Mangoes and orange groves planted last year are doing very. In the next two years they will be ready for harvest. Weeding has taken place in the old fields; of which seven (7) acres already cleared leaving plants doing so well. And to focus to new established gardens, 18 acres are opened or finished making total lands dug this season to 25 acres; however

there are still tremendous problems of lack of mechanical supports i.e. it is manual support anyway we are almost hoping to put tractor back down the field.

Crops planted are cassava, maize, Irish potatoes, passion fruits, guava, Okra, cabbages, pumpkins, green papers, water melon, egg plants, tomatoes, onions, oranges, tomatoes, mangoes, Pineapples, Carrots, beans.

Crops which are next to be planted within these short couples of days but however clearing the fields is yet on it's speedy progression are;

sorghum, sweet potatoes, paw paws, yams, millet, peanuts, simsim, soya beans, sun flowers, bulrush millet, rice, green grams, sugar cane and bananas.

Perfectly all the above listed crops which are on waiting point are doing not bad via season timing because before the end of July hopefully, every kinds of crops will be in the soil and next will only remains maintenances.

Pests check up: We were able to control things like rats, termites and squirrels which in most cases became the serious and dangerous to cassava, however trappers placed pieces of clothes tied on sticks while inserted in ground all over the gardens boundary, which had peacefully slow down their destruction. Lately monkeys, are the notorious ones. They destroy cassava as well but we manage





to scare them off the land we physically patrol the garden making sure they don't come near to cost destruction.

House for temporary accommodation until we can afford concrete structure: One big grass thatched room has been constructed right in the mid of the Beth Israel gardens, which is aimed at helping the accommodating workers and safety storage of farms equipments, e.g. hoes, pangas, axes, etc, seeds before been planted and most of yields after harvest. Materials like

bundles of grasses, timbers, bamboos, bricks, cements, ropes doors and labour cost, has made ground . Three more rooms are expected within these few days approaching before the uprooting of the cassava begins.



Acquiring of crops; base on this, logistic, work has so far gone to the half points, crops like maize, Irish potatoes, passion fruits, guava, Okra, cabbages, pumpkins, green papers, water melon, egg plants, tomatoes, onions, oranges, tomatoes, mangoes, Pineapples, Carrots, beans, and cassava didn't cost any amount because we are making extension or transferring our own old cassava stems to the new fields.



Equipments; here we did purchases on tools like hoes, pangas, axes, rakes, water tanks, knives, gumboots and one trees cutter machines since fields can't be established without first of all allowing trees go down which are in the site. Tractor delayed improvement shall not be waited just why men are allowed to go still with their hands provided power by God to clear the fields. Initially **3,500,000#** was used to deal with all these. But more equipments are needed like water pump since some periods, the region is out of heavy

rainfalls meaning it can be use for watering the vegetables during such moments.



Land that have been cleared awaiting plantation





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