



**"Abiding in the Shadow of the Almighty" Psalms 91.. The theme of Nehemiah Missions report  
June 2008.. [www.operationsnehemiah.org](http://www.operationsnehemiah.org)  
Report By William Levi, CEO and President of ONMI**



**Figure 1 Hannah and the children seeing me off at the Logan Airport, Boston , MA**

Dear Friends and co-laborers in the Great Commission..  
Shalom! From the deepest of our hearts, on behalf of our family and Operation Nehemiah, Hannah and I want express our gratitude to each and every one of you for your prayer and financial support for making my mission trip to the South Sudan possible. Praise be to God for His unfailing promise and loving kindness.

The theme of the trip was based on Psalms 91... **"Abiding in the Shadow of the Almighty**



**Figure 2 l-r William, Eng. David Firth and Kevin Rousseau at BIMC Sunday, June 8**

On June 2, 2008, my dear friend and brother in the Lord, Kevin Rousseau and I left for the South Sudan to witness and validate the ongoing mission of Operation Nehemiah which is rebuilding lives of people returning from exile to their homeland. Our primary focus is the village of (Borongole) Beth Israel, in Pageri Payam, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan. We left USA for the South Sudan via London, UK and Kampala, Uganda. Upon our arrival in Kampala, we were joined by Engineer David Firth from Blessing of Obedience. He specializes in setting up Christian broadcasting radio stations throughout the South Sudan and East Africa. And after one week , we were joined by Miss Jamie Dean, a reporter with the World Magazine. We had the best team on the trip. There was cohesive spirit of brotherly love and unity in Christ among

us. Our ground staff was well prepared to receive us. Upon arrival, we were received by our Field Director, Dr. Luka Gobi Benson, Pastoral leader Michael Levi and ONMI's Sudan's Chairman of the board of elders, Dr. Mindra Godwin. We set out on this trip for spiritual warfare. We expect that there will be trials a long the way. Emboldened by our ground staff, we made daily devotion and scripture readings and prayers on rotational based as our top priority.



On June 7, we arrived Nimule, South Sudan. In the first order of the day, we dedicated Operation Nehemiah Missions compound in Nimule where one of our staff member was bitten and killed by snake in May 2008. We dedicated everything which God has entrusted to Operation Nehemiah from human resources, to equipment and invoked God's protection upon His people and His mission. Psalms 91 was read and staff was prayed over.



**Figure 3 Children at BIMC worship center. June 8**

**Thousands of people have returned from exile to Magwi County since January 2008.**

In Pageri Payam, Magwi County in the South Sudan today, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached to the people., Peoples' lives are been transformed for Christ, their physical and spiritual need have been met. Families have been restored, men are rising up to their calling to be priests of their household, women and girls are been protected and children have been instructed to love God and obey their parents. For us, this was no a surprise. We have no trepidation what so ever that one day this village and its community will rise from the ashes of destruction. We knew and expect that one day the sound of the Sunday Worship bells will ring again and beautiful dawning sounds of crowing cocks and singing birds will be heard throughout the villages echoes the rumbling sounds of majestic River Nile, the rolling hills of

resilient remnant of a people yearning for God., This is a dream and promise coming to pass.

Nimule to the distant Mts of Opari will be inhabited again by this



**Figure 4 Kevin Rousseau, Matthew and Paskwale Ingi on street evangelism**

## Service at The Nile Beth Israel Messianic Congregation..



Figure 5 Kevin and David posing with the children of BIMC

On June 8, we attended our first Sunday service at the 2<sup>nd</sup> newly planted Beth Israel Messianic Congregation based in Operation Nehemiah Missions compound in Borongole, Pageri Payam in Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State. There were 350 plus in attendance under a mango tree. The message was brought by Rev. Michael Levi from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12 about unity in the body of Christ. This gathering was impossible in June 2007 when I was down there due to security problems that had engulfed Magwi County.



Figure 6 William Levi center bringing greeting from family and churches in the USA, as Okang Ezekiel (L) and Michael Levi (r) at BIMC worship center listened.

Just six months ago, all the 7500 returnees who are now the permanent residents of this re-emerging villages were in the Ugandan exile. We used to hold our Sunday services at The first Beth Israel Messianic congregation which was established in Pageri in May 2005. The church is 5 miles south of ONMI main compound.

## ONMI Mission House Before and after



**Figure 7 Mission Building before**

Islamic regime set up their camp on the way to Juba. The Sudan people Liberation army (SPLA) and its political wing the SPLM were in charge of the region's security and administration. Road conditions were very terrible. However, the region was porous and equally roamed by the Ugandan rebels, the Lord Resistance army (LRA) who were rendering havoc and striking fears in the hearts of those trying to return to their home land.

In January 2004, when we first opened up Borongole, (Beth Israel), the current mission compound of Operation Nehemiah and the surrounding villages, there was no a single habitant living in the area. This area was nothing but a wilderness. Our current mission house was an abandoned II WW stone structure to the left - with roof blown off, windows and doors torn down, trees and grasses had grown inside the building. Nehemiah field clinic was none existent. We were 90 miles from the frontline where the



**Figure 8 The mission house and the clinic after**



**Figure 9 The SPLA soldiers at ONMI compound on patrol and been ministered the word of God**

Between 2004 and 2006, we had witnessed deadly road ambushes and brutality of the LRA rebels who came as close as one mile within the reach of our compound. Many of our field staff left for the fear of their lives and a number of missionaries changed their minds never to return. In the midst of all this uncertain security, we stayed the course of implementing ONMI Vision, Critics had called our move arrogant and a miscalculated adventure at best. However, we did not give into such critics nor did we focus on the surrounding circumstances which were real and deadly. We kept our eyes on Christ and press on. *By faith and courage we moved into this uncharted region abandoned for 25 yrs as compelled by un waving hope to take the Sudan for Christ.* Taking one family and one village at the time, we established our mission com pound to serve as the base of

operation in Borongole (Beth Israel.) In due course, and by the power of God, slowly but surely, we are seeing God is bringing everything together in our effort to building Pageri Payam in Magwi County to be a city on the hill. He is setting Judeo-Christian Biblical world view to serve as an example for the rest of the Sudan. In the course of these challenging and inspiring adventurous quest, we dedicated every step we took in prayers and allowed the Lord to guide us like in the days of Moses, Joshua, Ezra and Nehemiah.



**Figure 10** The community has returned from exile

ambassador on earth. Satan has no power to stop us to reach them. Jesus has already given us a go ahead. The only one that can stop us is ourselves. Here is our hope, the community has returned from exile and they are ready. God has protected them from the influence of African paganism, Islamic conversion and social materialism so that their souls could be saved for Eternity. They have been coming to Operation Nehemiah missions in one, and in ten of thousands looking for encouragement and Biblical guidance. They have returned home from exile broken, hungry, naked, sick and spiritually empty. They came to Operation Nehemiah Missions compound, all in need of spiritual and physical food.

Now, four years in the making, we have seen God's hand in the mission of Operation Nehemiah which he has entrusted into our care in Pageri Payam. *Operation Nehemiah is fulfilling its original mission objectives envisioned back in 1993 which is to rebuild the broken hearted, broken families, widows, the fatherless and to restore the church of Christ destroyed by the Islamic war of persecution in the Sudan... Thank God for those of you who have persevered with us to see these things are being fulfilled..* The timing is right according God's plan for Operation Nehemiah to implement these vision and its objectives. ***From this latest mission trip, I saw a great harvest for Christ. People are ready for God because they are broken. We have Biblical mandate to reach them with the message of Salvation of Christ.*** We have to teach the Gospel message of reconciliation of men to God as Christ



**Figure 11** William Levi finished praying for the children at BIMC

However, we realized this was spiritual test and we could not afford to fail it. We ought to allow the Holy Ghost to lead. .

**The second Beth Israel on the Nile:**

ON June 8, the scenery we had experience was similar to John chapter 6 where Jesus fed 5 thousands people on five loaves and two fishes. We were flooded with over 350 people who rushed to the house of the Lord under huge mango tree for worship and prayers. They welcomed us with cheers and gratitude. At first, we felt overwhelmed telling Pastor Michael Levi that there was not enough place to conduct a Sunday service, we should move people to the other church 5 miles away.



**Figure 12** BIMC worship service June 8

God has prepared us spiritually, physically and materially to receive them. This was a big encouragement to us from God seeing the size of gathering that converged that morning under a mango tree for the sole purpose to praise God and to thank him for bringing them from exile to their homeland.



**Figure 13** Everyone is reading their Bible at BIMC



**Nehemiah Field Clinic has been officially opened to the general public**

On June 9, we witnessed Nehemiah Field Clinic opening its door to the general public returning from exile for the first time. From 2004- 2008, ONM had conducted its medical outreach under trees or in the outdoors. Now this has changed. This time ONMI was prepared to present its community with a new facility powered with solar energy, stuffed with \$10 million worth of medical supplies and equipped with four born again medical staff ready to serve. In a short while during the course of the day the clinic was filled up with more than 100 patients. Our clinical officer, Miss Nellie and Dr. Luka Gobi Benson were so thrilled to attend to these patients. *Miss Nellie, originally from Kenya who was acting as the spokeswoman for the ONM said, she was so blessed to serve the people and she thanks the brothers and sisters in the USA Specially the International Children for providing the medical*

**Figure 14 Nehemiah field clinic**



**Figure 15 Patients**

supplies and the Berkshire medical centers for providing the fund for the lab equipment and the building project. **She said the medicines they got from ICFare quality medicines which are hard to find anywhere in Africa. Having served in several medical clinic across Uganda, she said, these medical supplies that ONM has are the best of its kind.** She said, on behalf of ONM she would like to say Only God can reward the donors and pray that may God continue to bless the hands of those here in the USA who has provided these medical supplies and the building to the community in the South Sudan.



**Figure 16 from L-R, Clinical Officer Nellie and Medical Director, Dr. Benson**

I asked Clinical Officer Nellie and Dr. Benson, what is the difference between Nehemiah Field Clinic from other medical centers.? They both said, NFC is Christian medical facility run by a Christian organization(ONMI), where doctors and nurses know and understand their limits and medical jurisdiction over patients. Beyond that they see themselves as God's instruments serving God's people with Jesus Christ being the ultimate Great physician over them and everyone else. They are working hand in hand with pastors who come along side and conduct prayers over the patients and patients are offered the opportunity to receive the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. Patients are constantly reminded that some illness are terminal that leads to physical death and beyond that there is Eternity and there is hell where Jesus presides over the soul of every person irrespective of their earthly profession.

**On June 10, Nehemiah Trumpet Call Gospel Radio 97.3 FM in the airwaves of Magwi county**



**Figure 17 Distribution of fix tune solar receivers**

of God, Kevin and I took to the street while leaving engineer David Firth with some of our ground staff in the broadcasting room airing the precious news of the Gospel and the whole community was glued to their solar radios hearing the Good News. As we took to the street and visiting the homes of some of the returnees, we were met by a record numbers of men, women, boys and girls joyfully thanking God for this



precious technology which God has brought to their door steps.

Our street evangelistic team comprised of Kevin Rousseau, Festo Kicere, Paskwale Ingi, Matthew Levi and I. We went door to door, distributing the fixed tune solar radios and Gideon pocket New Testament Bibles. One of the most fascinating testimonies on our evangelistic trail was that of Festo Kicere a young man who came to Christ last year. We had feature Festo in one of our monthly newsletters. Last year Festo was a baby Christian and prior to that

he was self centered violent street drinker. This time around, this young man has matured and was able to share his testimony with many others. In obedience to the will of God and the calling God placed in his lives, he gave his life up for Christ. The fruit of the Holy Spirit began to manifest in his life. Grounded in the word of God, he began to work with his own hands, build his



own house, and open up a big farmland to support himself and his extended family. This past March 2008, His younger brother Duku and his wife were repatriated from exile into the area. Festo did something that many people in the flesh will not do. He gave up his house to

his brother and his sister in- law and gave them full access to his garden to that they can harvest food to live on. That is how God changes lives in Christ Jesus when we are able make a U turn in the course of our lives for something as precious as finding a new life in Jesus Christ and be able to step out of ourselves and serve others.

This time around, the message based on the biblical teaching for holy living in this emerging community was heard not just by the few but thousands of the people who have just returned from exile heard it. Within one hour hundred of them came to the compound, requesting for Bibles and solar receivers which Kevin and I brought from the USA donated by Galcom International based in Canada.

Seeing how hungry the people were for the word



**Figure 18 Bibles distribution**



**Figure 19 William introducing Miss Jamie Dean at BIMC, June 15** agreement signed to end the bloody war between the Northern Sudan Islamic regime and the Southern Sudan's SPLA. As a fellow believer in Christ and a missionary guest of Operation Nehemiah, her presence among us added another momentum to the success of our mission trip.

**Miss Jamie Dean from the World Magazine joined us on the mission trail.** On June 11, we went 90 miles north of our mission compound to Juba, the capital city of the South Sudan from where the newly formed government of the South Sudan (GOSS) presides. We went to Juba to receive Miss Jamie Dean of Charlotte, NC who was sent by World Magazine to report the progress of the work of Operation Nehemiah on the ground and also to report on the development and the progression of the Comprehensive Peace



**Figure 20 Miss Jamie Dean Interviewing Mohan, of UNHCR as Dr. Benson looks on**

She brought encouragement to the brothers and sisters there from the song of Moses from Psalms 90. We spent two days in Juba and four days in the ON's compound. While in Juba, Beth Israel and Nimule, Miss Dean conducted a number of interviews with government officials, church leaders, ONMI staff, UNHCR officials and returnees. In the course



of the one week. on the ground, she visited our mission compound, met with our staff in every department, conduct interviews, visited different projects, worshipped with us, and visited the homes of people that have returned from exile. If you are subscriber to the World Magazine, very soon you will be able to read Miss Dean Report on this trip or you can also visit their website at

<http://www.worldmag.com/>



**Figure 21 Miss Jamie visits ONMI Banana plantation with ag staff**

**This is the climax of our mission trip.** June 15, 2008 marked the climax of our mission trip where approximately 400 believers converged on a Sunday service at BIMC in ONMI compound in Borongole to witness a historic moment, the ordination of Pastor Michael Levi of Beth Israel Messianic Congregation by Rev. Gabriel Lagu Nichlaus Vuni of Christian Brethren Church. Rev. Gabriel is also on the board of elders of ONMI. He brought a message of pastoral charge and exhortation from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Pastor Michael Levi has now the pastoral mandate to ordain other pastors, appoint pastoral staff, deacons to work along side, baptize people and dedicate babies, conduct marriages, burials, and plant churches and presides over the finances of the church.

BIMC Messianic vision is rooted in taking the church back to her Messianic root 2000 yrs ago in the book of Acts where Jews and gentiles are one in Messiah. The Gospel spread from there starting from Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria to the utmost part of the earth. The church was started by ONMI under my leadership in our mission compound in Kampala, Uganda on July 29, 2000 with help of Beth Israel Messianic Congregation based in Garfield, NJ USA to serve as a fellowship center to meet and care for spiritual needs of the South Sudanese in exile who found themselves in a big city like Kampala.

Figure 23 Rev. Gabriel Lagu blesses Michael Levi – Numbers 6: 24



Figure 22 Rev. Gabriel Lagu Vuni of CBC ordains Rev. Michael Levi of BIMC, June 15 Exhortation and pastoral charge Message from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7



Figure 24 William preached from John 21: 15-17 at Michael Levi's ordination

In 2005, we moved the church to the South Sudan. Rev. Michael Levi is the first pastoral fruit of the BIMC. My brother Michael and I see ourselves and BIMC as the spiritual product of a long term brain child work of our grandfather, Rev. Andrew Vuni who had tremendously impacted our spiritual walk with Christ early on in our childhood upbringing. Thank to our parents who had raised us in a godly home.



Figure 25 Worship celebration at Michael Levi's ordination



**Figure 26 a tractor tilling Farmland**

### **Food:Security**

On this trip, we have accomplished a lot of other projects such as putting the welding machine to work, repairing the big truck for repatriation refugees, the bee Keeping harvest, the compressor is now functional, the new stove for the mission house, 15kW generator working and four new computers for IT department etc. However, we decided to place major emphasis on ensuring that the agricultural sector of the ministry goes forward. This is the main and one of the most sensitive areas of the organization. Food security is a must. We shared ideas with staff and asked to expand farming activities throughout the land and the river site and across the river where there is vast

banana plantation and other important fruit trees. The land across the river is fertile and without conflict of interest. We want to expand out there with timber plantation and other edible fruits plantation.

Challenges and need for prayer support: We need 2 more tractors in addition to the one we have, we need disc 2 harrows and 2 tillers. Greasing the tractor and protection of the hydraulic hoses are very crucial. They don't need to uproot the trees in order to plow around. When we were down there the tiller incurred a dent on one of its horizontal bars protecting the blades. Kevin suggests that it should be removed, straightened out with hammer and put back otherwise in a long run will jam the blade and render the tiller obsolete. The body of the church at BIMC both in Pageri and Borongole should be involved in a collective community work at least once a week to help with the work in the garden. Every plantation done on the River site and beyond the river should be done in the name of Operation Nehemiah to be supervised by the BIMC. All production should benefit the body of Christ that is the widows, the orphan's, and the families in need. Surplus should be sold in Juba or else where to generate income to sustain the church and its functions. Individual families should be encouraged to use the tractor to plow their gardens as long as they can contribute financially to maintain fuel and grease expenses.

On June 17, our mission trip finally came to an end. It was an emotional sad ending because we realized the time has come for us to go home to our families. Back home here in the states, our families are waiting for us to come home.

A lot has been accomplished on this trip.. however, you will read more reports on specific income generating projects on our next newsletter.

For More information please visit us at [www.Operationsnehemiah.org](http://www.Operationsnehemiah.org)

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