

THE TAPOSA'S FIRST EASTER

Story by Margot Bass, photos by Heather Stevens & Rob Douglass



Taposa ladies celebrate the grand opening of their medical clinic in South Sudan, started by Ends of the Earth Ministries.

American Pastor Rob Douglass was filled with gratitude when he entered a new church among a previously unreached tribe in the South Sudanese desert on Easter Sunday, 2017. The room was filled with adults worshiping God and dancing with great joy as they celebrated their risen Savior. African Pastor Paul, an Ends of the Earth (EEM) missionary, was sharing a passionate message about the resurrection of Jesus Christ with the remote Taposa tribe. Rob, founder of EEM, was witnessing the first worship service on Resurrection Sunday in Taposa history within this region.

The last time Rob visited this tribal group in early 2016, the women were smoking under a tree and the men wore AK-47 assault rifles across their chests. “The Taposa have been slaves of fear and witchcraft for centuries, trapped in cycles of endless violence for generations,” Rob said. Though it took nearly a decade for the Taposa to respond to the Gospel, Rob recounted, “Now we are witnessing a spiritual harvest from the perseverance and sacrifice of EEM missionaries.” Years earlier, Rob preached the gospel to a nearby Taus group gathered at the EEM medical clinic, who later shared the Gospel with the Taposa tribe. The chief and elders were touched by the message of hope in Jesus. Months later, adhering to tribal traditions, members of the tribe who now had the blessing of their leaders



Pastor Rob Douglass

to follow Jesus, began accepting Jesus as their personal Savior. The church was planted soon after.

“The Taposa have been watching us for ten years, testing our message by our actions, and have finally come to the point of trusting that God is truly working among us, that our message about God is real,” Rob stated. “Walls are broken down by consistent love and servanthood.”

Behold a great multitude...of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...saying, “Salvation belongs to our God...” REVELATION 7:9b-10

Ends of the Earth Ministries in Placentia, CA, formed in 2009 with a focus on training, sending, and supporting national evangelists, pastors, and medical missionaries to share the Gospel with unreached people groups



Missionary Heather Stevens greets students at the EEM school.

in South Sudan and surrounding countries. Rob and Heidi Douglass have 20 years of missionary experience; prior to founding EEM, they lived and ministered in a Sudanese refugee camp in Uganda for four years.

Today, EEM has 20 national missionaries that have established two churches, a medical clinic, an elementary school, and a missionary training college. Each month, the medical clinic provides life-saving care to 1,000 patients who hear the Gospel—many for the first time. During a cholera outbreak this past June, many came to the EEM clinic for spiritual and physical care.

“National leadership is essential. They focus on reaching out to tribal people who have never heard the Gospel,” Rob declared. “Missionaries reach these rural tribes by using tribal stories and belief systems and then relating them to biblical truths, thus unlocking the Gospel message—as Jesus did.”

Churches can partner with EEM through sponsoring children to hear the Gospel as well as receive food, housing, education, and medical care. 🌱



Ends of the Earth
eem1040.org
rob@eem1040.org