



Southern Sudan Gets Health Care From CNY **Maureen Sieh. The Post-Standard. Jan 23, 2008**

Syracuse, N.Y.---Dr. Barbara Connor, an emergency room physician at Auburn Memorial Hospital, spent more than a week in Southern Sudan providing health care at the Duk Lost Boys Clinic which was built by last May by the Skaneateles-based American Care for Sudan Foundation.

Connor, who returned home Monday, was accompanied by Dr. Dave Reed, an emergency room physician at SUNY Upstate Medical University; and Beckie Bollin, a fourth year medical student, who is doing an elective in emergency room medicine at SUNY. Reed and Bollin are expected to return home at the end of the month.

The inspiration for the clinic came from John Dau, the Sudanese “Lost Boy” who is featured in the award-winning documentary “God Grew Tired of Us.” John was one of four young men who was resettled seven years ago by the First Presbyterian Church in Skaneateles.

John told some members of the congregation that he wanted to help his people. Rev. Craig Lindsey, the church’s pastor, visited Sudan in 2005, and promised the elders he would build them a clinic.

Two years after Lindsey’s visit, a team of volunteers from Syracuse built a 4,000-square-foot medical center in an area east of the White Nile that today serves 700 patients a month. Lindsey returned from Sudan Jan. 13 where he spent two weeks overseeing the clinic and helping provide care with a team from George Washington Medical University.

Dr. Glenn Geelhoed, professor of surgery, infectious diseases and international medicine at George Washington University, took nine volunteers on the mission.

Connor, the clinic’s medical director, will spend a week in Southern Sudan. Reed and Bollin will be there for about a month.

“The goal is to help Southern Sudan have health care again after it was completely destroyed by civil war,” said Reed, who is on sabbatical. “Our immediate goal is to see how the operation has been going, help enhance and develop increase capability, and train the staff we hired.” Connor said she’s looking forward to seeing the clinic after monitoring its operations by phone, internet and satellite for the last year.

“This is the first time to see how it operates, how far people are walking to see us,” she said. Connor is taking six bags of medical supplies including diagnostic sets and stethoscope donated by Welch Allyn. Intelstat, world’s largest provider of commercial satellite, donated a satellite dish and will provide free satellite internet services for the clinic at least three years, Connor said.

“It’s going to be fabulous to have this connection. It’s going to improve communication,” she said.

Reed and Bollin will continue to update us on their trip. Stay tuned.