

Mission Moment



South Sudanese (Mabaan) Moving to FUMC, DSM

The South Sudanese (Mabaan ethnic group) Congregation is moving from Epworth UMC to First UMC in downtown Des Moines on Aug. 1. Their numbers grow weekly as new families move to Des Moines where this group numbers about 200 people. Twelve men of the group have completed the Lay Servant course of study and now assist with the worship services, lead Bible studies and prayer groups.

Their worship services are colorful, vibrant, loud and long as they praise the Lord in song, scripture and a spirit filled sermon.

The South Sudan is the newest country in the world. The power struggle between their government leaders has led to massive destruction of their villages, many killings with few social services being offered their people. The Mabaan tribal group is small mainly living in the Upper Nile State near the Ethiopia border.

The majority of the Mabaan's have lived in refugee camps before being resettled in the U.S. through the United Nations High Commission for Refugee program. There are Mabaans scattered in several United States communities with a group in Storm Lake and Omaha.

They struggle with English, their 3rd or 4th language, after Arabic, Mabaan and Dinka. Classes to teach the Mabaan language are held on Saturday afternoon. Plans are for English as a Second Language classes to start in September. They are identifying members of their congregation to train to teach Sunday School for the large number of grade school children.

Because their worship starts at 12:30 PM they are free to share their witness and songs in Iowa churches in morning worship services.

Financial contributions may be sent through your local church designated: #267 SS UMC/Mabaan.

They appreciate prayers as they cope with living in a different culture, hearing a strange language and adjusting to a new way of life.

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The Rainbow Covenant book may be found at <http://www.iaumc.org/rainbow>. If you have questions, email your District Representative or pastorayoung@gmail.com, Chpn of Iowa Mission Education Committee.

Rainbow Covenant Note:
#267 SS UMC/Mabaan

Mission Education
Committee of the Iowa
United Methodist
Conference.