



# SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

*Bring the Gospel of Christ, and providing food, clean water, shelter, and medical care, to the people of South Sudan*

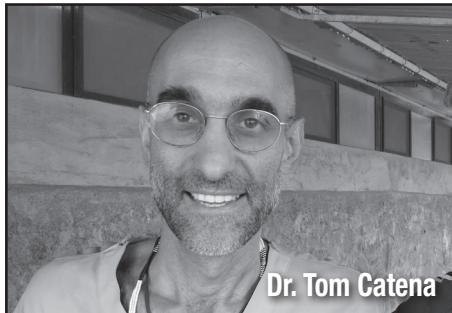
## South Sudan refugees 'living under trees'

Aid agencies have warned that tens of thousands of people forced out of their homes because of fighting in South Sudan are in desperate need of help. -BBC News

## CRISIS IN SOUTH SUDAN

Political infighting among members of the South Sudan government has escalated into armed conflict causing many South Sudanese to flee their homes and become internally displaced refugees. This influx of refugees and the instability has caused Sudan Relief Fund to shift resources from long term infrastructure projects like repairing churches, expanding hospitals and building schools to short term life saving measures to meet the immediate needs of these refugees. We are now focused on answering the call for food, water, medical care or whatever else is needed for the most vulnerable of these refugees. We need your help now more than ever.

## Medical Mercy in the Nuba Mountains



Dr. Tom Catena

Located deep in the mountainous area of the Catholic Diocese of El Obeid, the Nuba Mountains in Sudan's South Kordofan State has been the center of an armed

conflict. For more than 28 months, over 2.5 million Sudanese, have endured aerial bombardments by the government of north Sudan and military incursions that have driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and villages.

It's been nearly three years since Sudan divided into two countries, but in the disputed Abyei, Blue Nile and South Kordofan regions, fields and villages have been razed. People are living in caves and cracks in the mountains. Others have fled to refugee camps in South Sudan.

Technically a part of Arab-Islamic North Sudan, the black tribal, Muslim and Christian areas of Abyei, Blue Nile and South Kordofan are racially, religiously and culturally akin to southern Sudan. As a result, the government of North Sudan is waging a scorched earth policy to "ethically cleanse" the area of all non-Arabs. The government has placed a blockade on aid. Disease and malnutrition have taken hold. For the most part, the Catholic Church provides the only food, medical services and other aid.

The Mother of Mercy Hospital that the Sudan Relief Fund built remains open.

Dr. Tom Catena and a small staff of locals remain there despite the dangers and the severe shortage of food. Injured, sick and starving people come from as far away as 300 miles on foot, in the backs of old pick up trucks to this only hospital and doctor in the entire region.

The Mother of Mercy Hospital is an island unto itself. With upwards of 300 to 400 patients and only one doctor, the hospital is filled to capacity. Cots draped in mosquito nets fill the porches, and tents have been erected on hospital grounds.

Through the grace of God and with generous donations from Sudan Relief

Fund supporters, several deliveries of food, bandages, medicines, mosquito nets, and other basic supplies have been made to Dr. Catena, staff and patients. We rebuilt the hospital's latrines and keep the bore wells running to improve sanitation, provide clean water to stem the tide of waterborne illnesses.

Everyday the bombs fall and more of the wounded, sick and the severely malnourished come to the hospital seeking lifesaving aid and medical care. All are welcome. The poorest of the poor and "even the least of them" continue to find hope and healing here.

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### MATTHEW 25:34-40

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"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

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## LIFE IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS TODAY...

According to filed research conducted in July and August of 2013 by an anonymous non-governmental organization (NGO):

- 69% of displaced and 64% of nondisplaced experience moderate or severe hunger
- 62% of adults are restricting their own food consumption so children can eat
- 43% of surveyed households do not even have enough food to last a week
- 71% have never been to school
- Only 3% have attended anything beyond primary school
- 90% practice open defecation; only 2% use an improved sanitation facility
- 65% of surveyed households did not have soap readily available
- 76% of households do not have any mosquito nets
- In 68% of households, a child had malaria in the preceding month.
- 77% of mothers gave birth without assistance from a skilled attendant; 9% gave birth completely alone.



## A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

### PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

In 1998, Bishop Macram Max Gassis of the El Obeid Diocese, which includes the Nuba Mountains and Abyei in Sudan, established the Sudan Relief Fund for the purpose of bringing food, clean water, shelter, medical services, and the Gospel to the people of South Sudan.

Since its inception in 1998, the Sudan Relief Fund has made a great deal of progress under the most difficult circumstances imaginable. However, but much work remains to be done in this land of persecution and extreme hardship.

For over two decades, Sudan's war-criminal president, Omar al-Bashir, bombed, enslaved, tortured, raped, starved and slaughtered the South Sudanese people. He burned villages in Darfur...bombed schools and churches in the El Obeid Diocese and other Catholic dioceses in South Sudan...and prevented humanitarian aid groups from entering the region. Over two million people perished – a death toll greater than all the victims in Bosnia, Kosovo and Rwanda combined.

Today, Bashir's assault rages on in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan's South Kordofan State, Blue Nile and Abyei regions. And so, too, does the work of the Sudan Relief Fund and the Catholic Church.

With the support and prayers of our friends and donors, the Sudan Relief Fund is bringing hope and aid to hundreds of thousands of injured, sick, starving, displaced and persecuted people. We're also bring aid to areas of South Sudan – a country that still has not overcome the ravages of civil war, and now must deal with an influx of refugees.

We're answering more calls for food, aid, medical services and infrastructure improvements than ever before in our organization's history. And to answer these calls for aid we urgently need your financial support. We also need your prayers as we expand our mission to meet the great and increasing needs of the people. Thank you and God bless you.

Yours in faith,

*Neil Corkery*

Neil Corkery, President

# Sudan Relief Fund Brings Aid & Hope to the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio

The Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio is located in Western Equatoria State in South Sudan. The diocese covers 7 counties within the state including: Maridi, Ibba, Yambio, Nzara, Ezo, Tombura, and Nagero. It is comprised of 19 parishes, home to more than one million Catholics, which constitutes over 60% of the population.

The Catholic faith first entered the region in 1912 from Wau. The Comboni Missionaries inspired rapid expansion of the Catholic faith. However, The Missionary Act of 1962 prohibited the movement and activities of missionaries in South Sudan. In 1965, the first civil war of Sudan broke out. Many clergy and others sought refuge elsewhere. And the Church's infrastructure was all but destroyed during this period.



The first civil war ended in 1972. The clergy returned to the diocese, and by 1985, what was once known as the Mupoi Prefecture became the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio.

In 1983, civil war came again to the region, and much of the population, including the clergy, were once again forced to seek refuge in neighboring nations. Despite the ravages and dangers of war, a few courageous priests returned nine years later and immediately began to rebuild and rehabilitate their pastoral and social programs.

On the 9th of January 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in Nairobi, Kenya. The end to this second civil war – a more than two-decade long conflict -- ushered in a new opportunity for the diocese to reconstruct its dilapidated churches, schools and villages, and meet the food, water, educational and spiritual needs of the people.

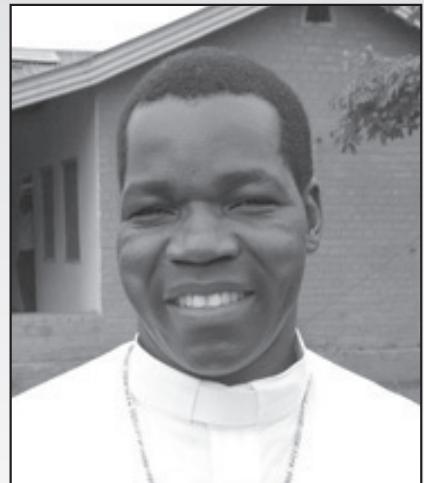
Since early 2013, the Sudan Relief Fund has been working with Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, the bishop of the diocese, to meet the basic needs of the people. We're helping Bishop Kussala make repairs to schools and churches. We're helping him dig bore wells to provide the people of the diocese with clean water. The Sudan Relief Fund will begin providing much needed basic medical services and food with the assistance and ongoing support of its donors.

***"How can I build a cathedral when I look and see the misery in which my people live?"***

**– Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, Diocese of Tombura – Yambio**

Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala is the Catholic bishop of Tombura - Yambio in Southern Sudan. During the Sudanese civil war he was involved in pastoral services to over 42,000 Sudanese refugees in the Republic of Central Africa, and was head teacher of a secondary school in the refugee camp.

On 19th April 2008, the Holy Father, H.H. Pope Benedict XVI appointed Rt. Rev. Eduard Hiiboro Kussala as bishop of Tombura-Yambio Diocese. As the bishop of Tombura – Yambio, Bishop Kussala leads 48 priests, approximately 622 catechists, 81 seminarians, 32 religious sisters, as well as a number of employed laypersons.



Life is very hard in the Diocese of Tombura – Yambio for the bishop and his people. There is no electricity, running water, roads or medical services. The people are subsistence farmers who must grow their own food to eat; and because of the weather, seed shortages and lack of farming tools more often than not go hungry. Their homes and schools and churches are simple grass huts, which collapse frequently during the rainy season, or catch fire during the dry. In many villages, children attend school and families worship under trees. The Diocese of Tombura – Yambio, like all of South Sudan, is a nation devastated by decades of war, genocide, isolation and the world's apathy. The Church has been and continues to be the only sign of hope.

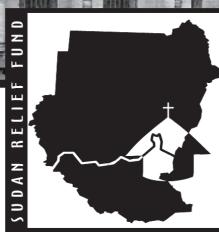
# SUDAN RELIEF FUND TO EXPAND ITS MISSION

- 1.** In the Diocese of Malakal: Completion of a house for the priests of St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish, Mudaria. This diocese is the poorest and largest diocese in the Republic of South Sudan.
- 2.** In the Diocese of Rumbek: Construction of a residence for the priests of Holy Family Cathedral Parish, as well as provide a safe off-road vehicle so the bishop can visit the Missions and substations, villages, clergy, and religious Brothers and Sisters serving in the diocese. Sudan Relief Fund will also assist in meeting the basic needs of five diocesan priests who are among the few agents of evangelization in Rumbek.
- 3.** In the Diocese of Tombura – Yambio: Provide training in the Church's teachings for some members of the Apostolic Societies in the diocese: Legion of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Catholic Action, Holy Family, St. Monica Group, St. Joseph, and St. Vincent de Paul. We are also helping to dig wells, reconstruct churches, pay for priests' monthly expenses and expand schools.

## NEWS FROM THE VATICAN

### Pope Francis appoints new Bishop to Diocese of El Obeid in Sudan

Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of the bishop of the Diocese of El Obeid in Sudan, the Rt. Rev. Macram Max Gassis, who has retired after reaching the age limit of 75 years. He is succeeded by Bishop Michael Did Adgum Mangoria, who has been coadjutor of the same diocese. The Sudan Relief Fund will continue to work to ease suffering and save lives in the El Obeid diocese as we have always done. And we wish Bishop Gassis many blessings upon his retirement.



### SUDAN RELIEF FUND

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[www.sudanrelieffund.com](http://www.sudanrelieffund.com)

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ENABLES US TO GO FORTH AND REMAIN IN COUNTLESS PLACES IN SUDAN TO BRING HELP, HOPE AND CHRIST'S LOVE.

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