



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

Sudanese families flee brutal warfare only to starve to death

The story of Rebecca, an innocent 15-year-old girl from a small rural town in South Sudan, exemplifies the worsening chaos that has this young nation by the throat. When the war came to her town last April, she fled with nearly 30 other villagers into nearby marshlands to hide. They spent two terrifying weeks slowly making their way to the relative safety of a region controlled by rebels of her same tribe.

They were constantly hungry, constantly thirsty and always in danger of being killed by troops trying to hunt them down. But when Rebecca's sister died along the way, it wasn't from being found and shot by government forces. She died from starvation — just like a staggering number of other South Sudanese.

"We didn't have anything to dig with to bury her," Rebecca said. "So we just put grass on the body and left it there." One of Rebecca's classmates, 16-year-old Marco, saw his father, brother and sister all starve to death as they fled the violence.

Stories like these are multiplying across South Sudan, as the country plunges into the depths of the worst humanitarian crisis the world has seen since World War II.

As reported in the last issue of *Sudan Relief Review*, the United Nations declared a famine in parts of South Sudan. The UN estimated more than 100,000 South Sudanese are starving, with 5 million more — equal to 40% of the country's population — having such limited access to food they don't know where their next meal is coming from. **Every international aid expert fears the situation is actually much worse now, with even more facing starvation.**

What makes the famine in South Sudan especially heart-wrenching is that it's an entirely man-made disaster.

Most famines are caused by natural disasters like crop failures or droughts. While South Sudan suffered a lack of rain



Of the millions starving in South Sudan, children are the hardest hit. More than 250,000 already have severe acute malnutrition — the deadliest form of malnutrition — and desperately need our help.

last year, the real cause of the crisis is the bloody fighting that has been raging since 2013.

The food shortages are the result of the brutal war that has prevented farmers from planting crops, which means there were no crops to harvest. The nation's farmers were forced to abandon their land, fleeing for their lives along with other civilians to find refuge in Catholic parishes.

The current famine was absolutely avoidable.

Yet the civil war that has brought millions to the brink of starvation shows no signs of ending anytime soon. So the overwhelming number of men, women and children dying from lack of food will continue to increase for the indefinite future.

The one glimmer of hope amidst the death and devastation is the Catholic Church. It is literally the only functioning institution left in South Sudan. And only the Church is

delivering lifesaving humanitarian aid to the most remote parts of the country.

This is why your caring support of the Sudan Relief Fund is such a blessing.

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Through your prayers and generosity, we are able to stay close to our downtrodden brothers and sisters in this forlorn country.

You make it possible for us to feed the hungry, care for the sick and provide other emergency humanitarian aid. Most of all, your Christian love helps us save the lives of those who increasingly have only us to turn to.

If you can support SRF again today, please do so. Our ability to deliver lifesaving food and other aid is about to get much more difficult. The rains that failed to come last year are starting to fall now. South Sudan is a country the size of France, but barely 124 miles of its roads are paved. This means that large parts of the country will soon be inaccessible by trucks and other vehicles, as the unpaved roads become a sea of mud.

With time now critical, please pray for the millions of God's children who are desperate for food. And then rush any contribution you can manage to the Sudan Relief Fund right away. You'll find a reply form and envelope enclosed with this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*. Every prayerful dollar you send will be put to immediate good use feeding those who would otherwise starve to death. God bless you for responding as soon as possible.

Bishop Kussala tells graduates not to join 'those who are destroying the country'

The Catholic University of South Sudan, which is funded by the Sudan Relief Fund, recently held its 5th graduation ceremony at the Nyakuron Cultural Centre in Juba. A total of 253 students graduated with degrees in Economics and Business Administration, Education and Agriculture.



Bishop Kussala (middle) and Father Pagan (right) handed out diplomas at the Catholic University of South Sudan's 5th graduation ceremony.

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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

The death and destruction from the war and famine in South Sudan are unrelenting.

And witnessing the needless hunger inflicted on these poor souls can leave us feeling overwhelmed at times.

But the Sudan Relief Fund and our beloved Catholic Church remain steadfast in our commitment to these children of God. Every day, we get up and go to work saving lives, feeding the hungry, providing shelter and keeping our parish communities intact.

Yes, this is a most daunting task. Over the past year, South Sudan has seen the largest human exodus in Africa since the Rwandan genocide. The war and starvation just go on and on with no end in sight. So many are pleading for our help!

That's why I give thanks for friends like you. With God's grace and your prayerful support, all things are possible -- even in South Sudan. Together we ARE making a difference. So much good still happens amidst the chaos through your partnership with us.

Could I ask for your help once again? Please say, "YES!" Please continue blessing our brothers and sisters with your Christian charity and loving gift today.

With the lives of millions now hanging in the balance, I pray you can send your gift NOW. Thank you and God bless you!

Yours in faith,

Neil Corkery
President

The chancellor of Catholic University, Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, encouraged the cheerful graduates to bring peace, work together to stabilize South Sudan and to give back to their country.

“As much as we are joyful about your success, we would like you to give back in good deeds,” Bishop Kussala said. “We would like you to pay back in helping South Sudan progress. We would like you to be people who will unite the country, and we would like you to be people to improve the economy of South Sudan. You will only do that as God-fearing people.”

Bishop Kussala also told the graduates that all they have achieved would be meaningless if they turned out to be “part of those who are destroying the country.”

“Today the ball is in your courtyard,” he said. “We want you to help us in this moment where people are scared, people are worried, people are doubtful. May you bring peace.”

Father Mathew Pagan, the vice chancellor of the Catholic University, also urged the graduates to be peacemakers in life after the university.

He told the graduates they should stick together as brothers and sisters of the same family — not divided by tribalism and ethnic groups — to contribute to the improvement of the country. “If there is no humility in you, [then] you have no fear of God, [and] that certificate will be meaningless,” Father Pagan said. He added, “We have to give to the society. If your knowledge remains in you, it will have no meaning. Education will only have meaning if we transform it, we share it.”

Among the 253 graduates was Nadia Charles, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration. “It’s my wish to serve my country now, and the country needs us,” she said. Nadia added that she intends to help educate the society on how to behave and respect others to help eliminate tribalism from their minds.

The Catholic University of South Sudan is the only accredited university in the country that has continued to hold graduation ceremonies every year despite the ongoing civil war. That accomplishment wouldn’t be possible without the generous prayers and support of Sudan Relief Fund donors like you.

Since opening in 2008, hundreds of students have attended and graduated from this institution of higher learning. These graduates are going forth to give this devastated country its best hope for achieving lasting peace and prosperity.

Dr. Tom Catena wins 2017 Aurora Prize

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Tom Catena for winning the prestigious Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. Dr. Tom is an American doctor and Catholic missionary from upstate New York who has dedicated his life to caring for the sick and suffering in South Sudan for the past 10 years. He is the only trained surgeon in the Nuba Mountains region, where he cares for hundreds of patients each day at Mother



of Mercy Hospital — with the help of caring donations from Sudan Relief Fund supporters.

Dr. Tom was selected as the 2017 Aurora Prize Laureate from more than 550 nominations submitted from 66 countries. He won the humanitarian award for his tireless commitment and selfless efforts serving more than 750,000 citizens amidst ongoing civil war. Dr. Tom is an inspiration to all. The Sudan Relief Fund is extremely proud to support his extraordinary work in service of God’s children.

SRF testifies before Congress: ‘thousand-pound bombs drop from planes to kill women and children’

David Dettoni, director of operations for the Sudan Relief Fund, was invited to testify as an expert witness before the U.S. Congress on the dire situation in the Nuba Mountains. Due to David’s extensive work history and on-the-ground experience, he was asked to speak about the grim conditions and his intimate understanding of the war-torn region.



SRF Director of Operations David Dettoni says children and other civilians are constantly dodging shelling in the hope to avoid serious injury and death.

We are thankful for the generous support of donors like you who make it possible for Sudan Relief Fund to give a voice to the most vulnerable.

Sitting alongside a distinguished panel of activists, David shared his gripping and powerful insights about how the current leader of northern Sudan, Omar Al-Bashir, embraces a corrupt religious ideology that promotes violence and hate.

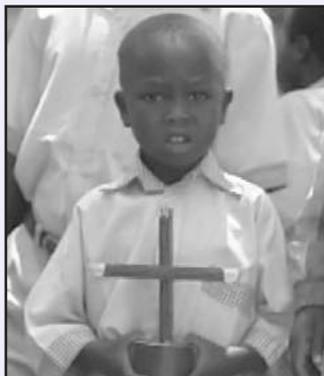
He described the ominous conditions he has seen in the disputed Nuba Mountains territory, with humanitarian access to the oppressed Nubians controlled and monitored by Bashir’s security services. The only “assistance” Bashir’s government has provided is the enhancement of military forces in the form of guns, tanks, rockets and missiles. Tragically, these weapons are used on Bashir’s own people, not to aid and protect them.

“Whenever I visit the region, I am struck by the fact the government is intentionally killing their own people,” David stated. **“I have been on the ground in the Nuba Mountains and visited the burning huts and the crying, grieving parents of a child who had just been slaughtered by Bashir’s weapons. Thousand-pound bombs drop from planes to kill women and children who are farming the fields. Innocent children lose their limbs when shrapnel from their ‘government’ tears them apart.”**

After testifying before Congress, David immediately returned to the front lines of the crisis, facilitating the delivery of urgently-needed medicine and emergency assistance made possible by SRF supporters like you.

PLANNED GIVING, LEGACY GIFTS, BEQUESTS, WILLS & ESTATE DONATIONS

Please consider remembering Sudan Relief Fund in your estate planning.



Planned giving or legacy gifts are one of the most generous ways you can help the desperately poor people of South Sudan. At Sudan Relief Fund we are blessed to have the most generous donors in the world. Please consult your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer for details on remembering Sudan Relief Fund.

SUDAN RELIEF FUND
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YOUR MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO HELP THE POOR OF SOUTH SUDAN . . .

Monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund couldn't be easier. You can make a tax-deductible gift every month by an automatic draft from your checking account or credit card. And because it's done automatically on the same day every month, it's convenient and requires no extra effort on your part. Plus you have total control: you decide how much you want to donate — and you can stop making monthly donations at any time.

Every dollar makes a difference. To sign up for monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund simply check the box on the included reply coupon, indicate the amount of your monthly gift and mail it back to us in the postage-paid envelope enclosed. Thank you.



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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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