



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

Sixteen tons of medicine and supplies delivered to SRF-funded hospital

“You don’t realize how much of an impact you’ve already had, how many lives you have saved,” said Dr. C. Louis Perrinjaquet when asked if he had anything to say to Sudan Relief Fund’s donors.

Dr. Perrinjaquet, known as Dr. PJ to friends, recently helped deliver sixteen tons of medicine and medical supplies to Mother of Mercy Hospital, where he has helped Dr. Tom Catena serve displaced Sudanese since 2011.

“You should have seen the truck, almost overfilled with lifesaving equipment and medicine,” said Dr. PJ. “Difficulty finding the right truck is a good problem to have, one that we didn’t have when I arrived eight years ago.”

Having served as a volunteer in Honduras for years before a collapsing security situation forced him to look for other places to serve, Dr. PJ is inspired by the work being done by Dr. Tom and the rest of the SRF-funded team at Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountain region.

Even though Dr. Tom still personally treats hundreds of patients per day and is the only surgeon with a 300-mile radius, there is a sense of optimism at the hospital. Last year, they celebrated the tenth anniversary of the hospital and of Dr. Tom’s arrival. And by financing the medical school tuition of three Nubans and other forward-thinking projects, Dr. Tom and his team are planning for long term sustainability even though the immediate needs are still great.

Malaria remains the deadliest disease in the region and hydrocephalus (enlarged craniums, usually of young children) continues to be a major problem. Dr. Tom



Dr. PJ and Dr. Tom oversee a critical operation at the Mother of Mercy Hospital.

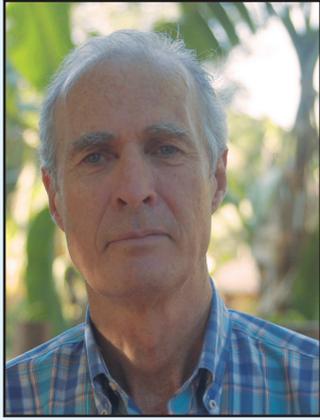
recently received special training in a procedure to treat hydrocephalus, and the latest delivery of supplies and medicine is being put to immediate use.

“Dr. Tom’s dedication, positive attitude, and work ethic are truly inspiring,” said Dr. P.J., who has assisted in some of the surgical procedures to cure hydrocephalus. “The parents are beyond grateful when they see their beloved children begin to heal from this terrible condition.”

“Only recently have people stopped diving into trenches and foxholes when they hear a loud noise. There are still some raids, but it is better than before. It’s too soon to say for sure, but we might be close to turning a corner here,” said Dr. PJ.

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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

You and Sudan Relief Fund's key partners again directly saved thousands of lives in 2019. Your support of our heroic partners has brought medicine to hospitals and medical clinics in refugee camps, has made surgery possible for hundreds, including curing eyesight of dozens of refugees blinded by cataracts, has opened even more schools, and has delivered food and other emergency aid to many who would not be alive today without it.

Even more important, your support has helped spread the Gospel. We continue to fund cars and motorcycles for priests to reach remote sections of their parishes, build churches, fund seminarians, and provide key pastoral assistance throughout the region.

To put it simply, you are a big part of the reason for the hope that many in the Nuba Mountains and South Sudan have today. Your generous solidarity, and the fact that last year's peace treaty has continued to hold, have allowed some to begin planting crops and learning skills that will lead to sustainability and healing.

Still, as much as I would love to say that South Sudan has turned an important corner and things are returning to normal... I just can't. Things remain unstable and millions cannot return home. Basic institutions are not in place, security and the basic necessities of life are still out of reach for so many without your help.

This is why we together work to expand and supply Mother of Mercy hospital in the Nuba Mountains, to expand the Blue Sisters' care facility, allowing them to offer shelter and healing to more women and school to more orphans and other children.

We are still fighting for the lives and dignity for our beloved friends alongside Bishop Kussala, Dr. Tom and Dr. P. J., the Blue Sisters, and the rest of our heroic partners.

So, I cannot say for sure that we are through the worst of it. But still, there is hope—more than many have felt in a long time. On their behalf, I thank you for your sacrificial generosity.

Yours in faith,
Neil Corkery, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. A. Corkery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

[Medicine and Supplies ... continued from Page 1](#)

Despite some improving conditions, the situation remains very precarious, and much more work has to be done across a truly massive area.

"We need to pray and hope that as things begin to stabilize people have a chance to rebuild. For now, we can continue to fund healthcare and education and lay the building blocks for a brighter future," said Dr. PJ. He reports of plans to build schools and a communication infrastructure, and to achieve greater food stability by planting new crops.

"The Nubans are a proud people, with good reason," said Dr. PJ. "They want to be independent and see an opportunity with the recent increasing security. For them, as for Sudan Relief Fund, sustainability is the goal."

Now is the time to stand with Dr. Tom, Dr. PJ, and Sudan Relief Fund as together we build on the progress already made at Mother of Mercy Hospital, to make it sustainable and even better equipped to serve those in need.

Steps toward sustainability and independence

Although the political situation remains unstable, Sudan Relief Fund's partners in South Sudan are making moves toward sustainable development beyond the most urgent needs. The key? Fostering enterprise and skill training.

Recognizing the potential in the increasing demand for coffee, Bishop Kussala has directed every parish in the Tombura-Yambio Diocese to plant coffee crops in order to generate revenue. Coffee grows easily in the region, and a local teak company run by South Africans in Yambio purchases the beans from producers, processes them, and sells them to buyers near and far.

Another example of enterprise development can be found even in such an unlikely place as the Rimenze refugee camp near Makpandu. Microfinance loans provided by Sudan Relief



Local parish coffee production is providing sustainable income

Fund, in partnership with Solidarity of South Sudan, help men and women to sew products for sale in various markets.

Developing marketable skills not only provides income, it provides a sense of hope and purpose, which in turn helps people begin to heal from traumas suffered during the civil war.

“Blue Sisters” give the gift of love

More than 150 years removed from the American Civil War, it is difficult for citizens of the United States to imagine the disruption and chaos of a war within a nation. Families destroyed, villages burned to the ground, and lawlessness that threatens the most vulnerable are all common. For many women, the toll has been especially harsh, where there isn't even time to mourn the loss of a husband or child before having to run for your life.

Such is the plight of some two million refugees in South Sudan and another 2.3 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries due to continuing instability. Providing for their most basic needs—from food and clean water to basic medical care, hygiene, and shelter—will continue for the foreseeable future.

Yet, even when these most basic human needs are met, there is a factor that is in especially short supply: love. Love and solidarity are what enable survivors to begin to heal, to regain their sense of self in a community, so that they can in turn learn to stand again on their own and even help others.

The blue habits of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary have become beacons of hope for many women who suffer terribly from the loss of loved ones, and who often only escaped with a child and the clothes on their back.

The “Blue Sisters,” as they have become known by a grateful community, are becoming famous locally for their joyful smiles and radical readiness to serve women and children in need.



Serving in the region more than two decades before it was known as South Sudan, the Sisters were originally organized by the Comboni Missionary Sisters. They have joyfully accepted Bishop Eduardo Kussala's call to provide permanent assistance to women of all ages who have lost everything and have nowhere to turn.

“Several of them remain still in a state of shock, barely aware of their reality,” said Sister Ester in a recent interview with Catholic News Agency. She is the superior of the small community based near Yambio. “Our ministry is to help them to recover from the consequences of the terrible suffering they have endured,

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through love, patience, prayer and therapy."

Your partnership with the Blue Sisters is invaluable. Together, you and Sudan Relief Fund are funding a renovation of the facility that houses the Sisters and gives shelter to the women they serve.

The sisters run a kindergarten that is attached to St. Comboni primary school. Here, the Blue Sisters are educating over 400 children, many of whom are orphans whose parents were killed in the civil war.

"Thanks to the significant financial help of the Sudan Relief Fund, we are a few months away from finishing a brand new facility, where the sisters, our experts and volunteers will be able to provide the best treatment possible to our women," Sister Ester told CNA. "Our goal is to gradually integrate these women into society with the adequate spiritual and mental stability, and with a clear plan for their future."

The sisters serve women and their children, some of whom were conceived in rape. As Sister Ester told CNA,



"the connection with their children, surprisingly, is a significant part of the healing process, and not part of the trauma, as some tend to believe."

The Blue Sisters are grateful to you and Sudan Relief Fund for allowing them to serve women most in need!

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

What will your legacy be?

*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 in your estate plans.



SUDAN RELIEF FUND

P.O. Box 7084 • Merrifield, VA 22116 • 1-888-488-0348
www.sudanreliefund.com

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