



# You bring hope to the suffering in South Sudan

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# Spreading the Gospel amid “staggering violence”

**H**ow do we answer Jesus’ call to preach the Gospel in a land ridden with violence, deprivation, and disease? As an old Sudanese proverb goes, *empty stomachs have no ears*.

**This is the problem you and I face in places like the Diocese of Rumbek**, which is reeling from what the March 2021 Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan report calls “staggering levels of violence.” Bands of ethnic militants are assaulting citizens, often with support from State or opposition forces. Innocent lives are being taken,

families torn apart, homes and villages burned, fragile progress shattered.

Your work with Sudan Relief Fund in South Sudan brings Christ’s love to these poor souls through collaboration with the local Church. Our partners on the ground understand where aid is most needed, and they share Christian concern for the body and soul of each person they serve. **Saving lives and souls is all part the same urgent task.**

The priests and religious members of the Diocese of Rumbek



*This pastoral work is made possible by the generosity of SRF donors.*

serve an estimated 1.6 million South Sudanese and 185,000 Catholics. Their needs are immense. So, earlier this year, Sudan Relief Fund directed your generosity toward the lifesaving pastoral work of the 32 priests and dozens of religious serving Rumbek’s 13 parishes and 170 missions.



In response, Father Nolasco sent a note to your and the entire SRF community:

*“Surely you have been to us like Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus to carry His cross. You have helped us to provide food for the Easter celebration. Thank you very much and may God bless you as we continue praying you and your ministry. I wish you a great Happiness and Joy!”*

It’s a powerful truth—by sharing in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ, you are sharing God’s merciful love. Thanks to you, a diocese scourged by violence can support its priests and religious and those they care for despite pressure to close and retreat to safer territory.

This is how you help preach the Easter gospel in a dangerous land when so many others have fled. Remaining in solidarity with our diocesan partners, we save countless more lives and bring more souls to Christ.



**“And [Jesus] said to them,  
“Go into all the world and preach  
the gospel to the whole creation.”**

**“Our hearts are with those who are suffering in South Sudan. We were delighted to find the Sudan Relief Fund as a way to help support our brothers and sisters in need. Our family is thankful for the opportunity to give in this way, and we will continue to for the success of this mission.”**

**— THE THORELL FAMILY**

This generous family lives in Richmond, VA, and have been supporters of Sudan Relief Fund for the past two years.



# ON THE AIR with the “Good News”

“This is our TV, our internet, our voice beyond the walls of our churches,” said Simon Muchiri, pastoral department coordinator for the Diocese of Rumbek. “It has brought many souls into relationship with Christ and the Church he established.”

Mr. Muchiri’s enthusiasm is directed at Good News Radio, part of the Catholic Radio Network of South



Sudan and the diocese’s primary evangelistic voice.

**Good News Radio’s message of peace is regularly interrupted due to limited and unreliable electricity.** Its soul- and life-saving ministry was imperiled. That’s when Sudan Relief Fund’s donors stepped in to purchase a backup generator and batteries to keep the signal live when the power goes out.

A trusted voice in the community, Good News Radio plays a vital role in peace-building efforts as part of a partnership with the organization Search for the Common Good. Through workshops with South Sudanese media, SCG encourages careful and accurate reporting about conflict in the region: “We have to bring together people who can work towards solutions,” says Good News Radio presenter Theresa Akol Diak.

“People here have seen so much pain, so much trauma,” said Mr. Muchiri. “We are doing all we can to bring emergency aid in, but the truth is that radio and the spoken word represent the best way to reach people with the hope of the Gospel and information they need to know.”

**“Please let your supporters know that they are helping to save lives and to save souls by supporting your courageous and necessary work here in South Sudan! Please tell them how grateful we are,” added Mr. Muchiri.**



## LIVES SAVED SPOTLIGHT:

### Naira Amin

Lubna Amin beams with joy and gratitude when asked what she’d like to say to Sudan Relief Fund supporters like you. After all, without your support of Dr. Tom Catena and Mother of Mercy Hospital through SRF, her three-year-old daughter, Naira, most likely would not be walking today.

“I was so scared when Naira got sick,” says Lubna with tears in her eyes. She found the little girl in bed one day in late 2019, the stomach pains quickly worsened and Naira began to lose the use of her legs. Lubna took her daughter to a hospital in Luwera, Democratic Republic of the Congo. No one could diagnose her. As little Naira deteriorated, her mother wondered if she would ever walk again.

**Then Lubna heard about Dr. Tom Catena and**

#### **Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba mountains.**

Against incredible odds, Lubna secured transportation to bring her daughter hundreds of miles north, through untamed and often violent countryside to reach Gidel and Dr. Tom.

The perilous journey was rewarded. Dr. Tom and his staff diagnosed Naira’s condition and successfully treated her with an experimental tuberculosis drug—all with the laboratory tests and medicine your support has provided.

Over a year later, Lubna is ecstatic to report that Naira is almost back to full health. “To see her playing today, almost back to where she was before, gives me so much happiness. I want to thank you all and I ask God to bless you!”

# Protecting a parish, building a community

**F**ather Peter Garang, pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians in Pacong, serves more than 250 families in Pacong, a small town southeast of Rumbek. He baptizes babies, shepherds converts to the Faith, celebrates Mass for the faithful. But this pastor of souls has a problem. Actually, several problems.

The Lakes region southwest of Rumbek is plagued by fighting—often between warring gangs who steal

cattle from one another. Revenge battles can last weeks, and Father Peter Garang has performed more funerals than he wants to remember.

And the parish grounds are not secure. The priest's quarters, the church, and the surrounding acreage are all subject to unsanctioned grazing, squatting, and theft of essential gear (such as solar panels). These problems have thwarted the parish's plans to grow a small crop

of essential cereals and vegetables.

A fence around Church property would solve much, but chain link fences are hard to come by in South Sudan. But thanks to your support of Sudan Relief Fund, a fence at Our Lady Help of Christians is going up.

Thanks to you, plans are under way for new crops along with a more secure women's center and primary school.



**“Thank you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ!” said Father Peter Garang. “What a blessing this is. What peace and harmony a secure fence will bring to our poor parish.”**

# A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF SUDAN RELIEF FUND



DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST,

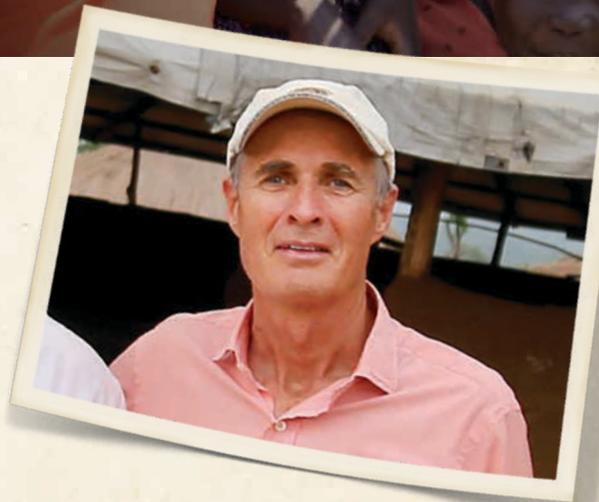
These stories of our South Sudanese brothers and sisters in Christ glow with the resilience and perseverance that can only come from those who have seen the greatest trials.

These are stories that you are a part of. You've seen with me and the rest of the Sudan Relief Fund community that whenever the South Sudanese people are given a moment free from violence and natural disasters, they build for the future and they care for one another.

**All this work bears your fingerprints:** Deliveries of lifesaving food and medicine . . . help with securing a parish campus so that a community can build and grow . . . bringing God's word and a message of hope to a region where violence remains a fact of life . . .

And your prayers. Without prayer, the best intentions can easily become misdirected, our efforts misspent. To the world, this can seem like a waste of time. But you and I know that, on the contrary, *we don't have time not to pray.*

God bless you and keep you close for everything you do in His holy name for those most in need, especially for your continuing support of Sudan Relief Fund.



Sincerely,

NEIL CORKERY, *President*

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

### *What will your legacy be?*

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. Please consider remembering Sudan Relief Fund in your estate planning. **For questions contact Brendan Gotta, Director of Stewardship, at 330.461.3356.**

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