



A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY PRESIDENT OF SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

The footprint of the vicious fighting that broke out this spring in Sudan is growing, extending now from the area around Khartoum, the nation's capital, to cities in the west.

As this bloody war expands to new fronts, its destructive impact flows in all directions, including across the border into South Sudan, already struggling so mightily under the weight of its many burdens.

Refugees from Sudan, including tens of thousands of South Sudanese, are leaving the warzone in Khartoum only to find themselves in a land still grappling with the effects of devastating violence itself. Men, women, and children who fled civil war in their native country are now returning in a desperate bid to find elusive peace and dignity amidst this region's terrible turmoil.

It is overwhelming to think of the heartbreaking human toll this cycle of seemingly endless conflict claims. And yet, our faith in God shows us the light in this darkness. We see it in the stories featured in this newsletter:

- It shines through in the merciful works of Dr. Tom Catena and those who work beside him at Mother of Mercy Hospital, healing the sick in Nuba.
- God's eternal love is vividly displayed by Sister Bianca Bii in Nzara, and the Missionary of Charity Sisters in Rumbek, providing compassion, shelter, and hope to the orphans and other innocents in their care.

And personally, I see it every day in the generous support that you, our cherished donors, bestow upon us so that we can continue to help bringing the Lord's love and mercy to the people of this struggling young nation.

There is no denying that the headlines are grim. The needs, unfortunately, remain great. But our faith, and the blessings of our Lord, will continue to light the way toward a brighter tomorrow for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan.

Yours in Christ,

Neil Corkery, President



SUDAN RELIEF FUND

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SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

Eyewitness to Tragedy Refugees Flee Across Border to Escape Sudan War

Since violent conflict erupted in April in and around Sudan's capital city, nearly 70,000 South Sudanese have returned to their home country, but this time as refugees.

Having fled poverty and violence in their homeland, they are once again uprooted by the region's raging unrest, creating a massive influx of frightened refugees into already desperately struggling areas. U.N. estimates predict the number of refugees could ultimately number in the hundreds of thousands, threatening to further destabilize the region.

Matt Smith, VP of Strategic Partnerships and Development at SRF, has been in the eye of this storm, traveling to Malakal, near the northern border between the two countries. There, he witnessed the unfolding crisis and the devastation that has resulted from it.



"Refugees are coming by the boatload," Smith reports. "Most have traveled five days or more with nothing but what they can carry. The boat can only transport so many at a time, and thousands more remain stranded at the border."

"Local leaders are doing what they can to provide for the refugees," he continued. "But Malakal itself has been decimated by war and flooding during the past two years. With a severe hunger crisis looming, the region is ill equipped to supply the massive needs of incoming refugees."

SRF has offered its support with funding to aid Bishop Stephen Nyodho in the dioceses' ongoing efforts to ferry refugees across the border. But delivering them to shelter from the violence in the north is only one small step in this perilous battle for survival.

Malakal – and the nation of South Sudan as a whole – is woefully unprepared to care for the surge of refugees, as its own resources are running dry. Fuel costs are astronomical, and food is scarce, with millions suffering food insecurity and at risk of starvation this year.

"When you are caught between two raging fires," Bishop Stephen recounted to Smith, "you have to go through the one that's a little less hot."

That's the decision facing thousands of people currently fleeing from Khartoum to South Sudan. We ask that you keep them in your prayers.

MERCY SOCIETY SUDAN RELIEF FUND

The Sudan Relief Fund Mercy Society is a group of supporters deeply committed to bringing immediate necessities and long-term hope to the people of South Sudan. If your giving meets or exceeds certain levels, you will be automatically enrolled

as a member. Mercy Society members have a fast, lasting impact in helping meet the needs of those suffering in South Sudan. In recognition of their key role in helping to fulfill our mission, Mercy Society members receive exclusive benefits.

To learn more about the Mercy Society, or to make a one-time contribution to Sudan Relief Fund, visit sdnrlf.com/ways-to-give.

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MOM Hospital Gets Critical Boost

SRF Donors Fund \$300,000 in Key Supplies

The number of lives saved through the heroic efforts of Dr. Tom Catena and all those at Mother of Mercy (MOM) Hospital in Nuba is nearly incalculable.

It's not unusual for people to travel on foot for days, or drive for many hours over nearly impassable roads, to find help at Mother of Mercy Hospital. Because here, if anywhere, is the only place they might find hope and healing.

For over 15 years, Dr. Tom has tirelessly tended the sick as MOM hospital has slowly but steadily been upgraded through the generous support of SRF donors. From a facility that often had no electricity or running water, it now features important modern updates including a new operating theater and children's ward. Yet its remote location presents daunting challenges for delivering badly needed supplies.

SRF is deeply invested in Dr. Tom's vision of providing vital medical services and healing to the community and seeing that the hospital continues to thrive into the future. Your generous support has recently allowed us to provide over \$300,000 worth of essential medical supplies toward these efforts.

The timing of these gifts was a true blessing from God. Supplies have been delivered in advance of the rainy season in South Sudan, when roads become impassable and supply trucks get stuck in thick mud, unable to reach this region where Dr. Tom

is the only residing surgeon for a population of more than 1.3 million people.

But our efforts must continue. Dr. Tom has already provided his next "wish list" of equipment vital for upgrading the facility and providing more comprehensive care. These include an endoscope and a pediatric bronchoscope which can expand the treatments available to many, especially children.

With your support and God's blessing, we can continue to provide Dr. Tom with shipments to upgrade MOM Hospital, and positively impact the lives of countless South Sudanese in the years ahead.



LEAVE A LEGACY TO BE REMEMBERED FOR GENERATIONS

The dire situations for the needy and poor in South Sudan are a reality for the foreseeable future. But your love for these desperate and sick people can live on when you join the Sudan Relief Fund Legacy Society.

You can keep their communities thriving by specifying a legacy gift be made to Sudan Relief Fund as part of your estate plan, in your will or trust or by consulting with your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer.

You can also support them through a donor-advised fund. By contributing to the fund, you receive an immediate tax donation for the entire amount of your contribution.

At Sudan Relief Fund, we are blessed to have such generous donors. Please remember the poor of South Sudan in your legacy planning or by opening a donor-advised fund today. Contact Matthew Smith, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Development, at 617-604-3042 or visit sdnrf.com/legacy-society for more information.



The Lives You've Saved

Rayan's Story of Resilience

The challenges of receiving healthcare in South Sudan can easily turn an emergency into a tragedy. Fortunately for young Rayan, when it mattered most, the care she needed was there – thanks in large part to generous donations by SRF supporters.

The eldest among her three siblings in Nuba, Rayan lives with epilepsy. In November, she suffered a seizure while watching her baby sister and fell, landing in a fire pit. Neighbors ran to help, but before they could pull her to safety, she had suffered terrible burns on much of her body.

Rayan required admission to Mother of Mercy (MOM) Hospital with a severe infection.

After several excruciating weeks of wound care, Rayan has found her smile again as her body heals from receiving the right care, at just the right time. With funds provided by SRF donors, Dr. Tom and MOM Hospital can deliver the type of medical care so badly lacking across much of this remote region.

Having been touched by God's mercy for their beautiful daughter, Rayan's family are filled with joy at the progress she's made toward regaining her full health after such devastating injuries.

"We thank God for saving her life, and we thank the doctors for their amazing service," her father shared. "My gratitude also goes



to the generous donors who help us with the drugs and other essential supplies to save lives like one of my daughters. God bless you."

Hope Rises from the Dust

SRF-Funded Projects Thrive in Rumbek and Nzara

From the parched, barren soil of the world's youngest country, strong foundations are being built – literally – through the support of SRF and its donors.

The Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Rumbek have spent 20 years talking care of orphaned and abandoned children, the mentally challenged, and women who have been cast out by their families. They have toiled doing God's work relying primarily on well-wishers to provide them with what little they have.

Now, with the gracious support of our donors, SRF has allocated major funding toward food and capital construction costs for the Sisters' facilities. In addition to food stores, this will help build a kitchen and multipurpose hall to better serve those in the Sisters' care, as well as constructing a solid wall fence for security.

Likewise, SRF has partnered with local contractors to begin construction of a new facility for the orphanage in Nzara, where Sister Bianca Bii has raised generations of children at Saint Bakhita Orphanage, providing them with shelter, love, and hope for a brighter future through the darkest of days in South Sudan.

The first phase is projected to be done later this year. The project will provide two dormitories for boys and girls, a multipurpose hall, staff quarters, a kitchen/store and extra room for the cooks, a submersible water pump, a hybrid solar system and chain link wall fencing for security.

Thanks to SRF's generous donors, the orphans and other innocents of Rumbek and Nzara will soon have safe, stable places to call home.

