

South Sudan Situation Update

Trinity South Sudan Ministry (TSSM) The Boma Assistance Group for South Sudan March 31, 2021

A Saint Has Gone to Heaven

From tributes received for the family. Beloved Presbyterian missionary, Rev. Bill Anderson, died recently in Clinton, SC. With his wife Lois, Bill worked in Sudan (with brief stints in Kenya and Uganda) for almost 50 years and at the request of Sudanese Christian leaders, he founded the Nile Theological College in Khartoum and the Giffin Bible School. Upon the country's division, he watched his work multiply: NTC has an Arabic-language track that continues in Khartoum and an English-language track that serves the churches in South Sudan from its campus in Juba His collaboration on the monumental DAY OF DEVASTATION, DAY OF CONTENTMENT history of the Church's 2,000 years in Sudan, and his valuable historical, theological, and biographical series FAITH IN SUDAN, put that history in reach of theological students and all faithful people.... He and his wife Lois were spiritual Fathers and Mothers to many.... He was a good and faithful servant. Bill Anderson is now at the side of his beloved wife, Lois, and daughter, Zelda, in the Church Triumphant. A very happy day in Heaven, for sure.

Humanitarian Snapshot:

South Sudan Population: est. 10-12 million
People in Need: 8.3 million, 70-83% of population
Internally Displaced: 1.8 million
Refugees: 2.3 million
Total Displaced: 4.1 million, 34-41% of population
Acutely Food Insecure: 5.8 million, 48-58% of population

Source: OCHA February 28, 2021

Situation in Pibor Area, our major ministry focus area:

During the week of March 15th, peacemaking teams of the South Sudan Council of Churches visited Pibor emphasizing solidarity and peace. This program lasted for two days and involved the community and church leaders. The Council will provide the same program in Bor and Akobo. This reinforces the peace agreement which was completed in January.

The rainy season has begun early. It has been raining heavily for the past three days. The Chief Administrator has been encouraging people to move to higher ground before the flooding begins.

Source: Rev. James Aleyi Zeelu, General Secretary, Eastern Jonglei Presbytery

Southern Jonglei and Pibor Communities Recommit to Peace

Following a January 2021, three-day peace conference among the communities of Jonglei State and the greater Pibor area in Juba, the rival groups agreed to bury their differences and embrace peace. The communities of Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) recommitted to peacefully coexist among themselves in a peace celebration in Pibor.

A second recommitment by representatives of Lou Nuer, Dinka Bor and the Murle, was made during a 10- day grass-root peace conference concluded in Uror County of Jonglei State on March 24th. The delegates agreed on the return of all those abducted from all the communities, end violence, allow for free movement of traders, and punishment of those found in defiance of peace conference resolutions.

Jacob Lokocho Nyaphi, a representative of the Murle community, said: "The peace conference was fruitful. We were 17 from the Greater Pibor area, 17 from Greater Bor, and over 20 from Greater Akobo. We reviewed the implementation of the Juba peace conference. We resolve to stop cattle raiding, collect abducted children, and community integration." Source: Radio Tamazuj, March 28

Major Refugee Problem:

On March 24, the Kenyan government declared that it would close two refugee camps; Kakuma which houses our Shalom Education Program and a Presbyterian Church Theological Institute which manages our program on site. A much larger problem is how to handle the 410,000 refugees who are in the two camps. The reason is that the major population of both is Somali and the Kenyan government, which has no diplomatic relationship with Somalia, believes that much of the Islamic terrorism originates in those camps.

Kenya's Interior Minister has given the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) 14 days to submit a plan for compliance and stated that there is no room for discussion. UNHCR has responded that they will keep engaging in dialogue.

Education:

Save the Children donated 1,120,000 textbooks to South Sudan's Ministry of Education. These will be distributed to six states including Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity but not the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Many of the children who will receive the textbooks in those three states are served by the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

According to the Minister of General Education and Instruction, schools are not likely to open before May because of the Covid 19 virus upsurge in South Sudan. Since the first batch (132,000 units) of Covid 19 Vaccine arrived on March 26, South Sudan is behind in combatting the disease. Source: Radio Tamazuj, March 25

Government Matters:

- The South Sudan Minister for Presidential Affairs, Nhial Deng Nhial, sent out a letter in

that read that it was not feasible to hold the scheduled elections in 2022 due to delays in implementing the provisions of the peace agreement. The signatories to the peace agreement have responded saying that to delay the elections is not within the scope of the government because the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, specifies the date. However, it must be recognized that the prerequisites to conduct an election have not been completed. Source: Radio Tamazuj, March 29.

- White House Statement: "The situation in and in relation to South Sudan continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared on April 3, 2014, must continue in effect beyond April 3, 2021. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664," a White House statement said.

Trinity South Sudan Ministry Team