**South Sudan Situation Update**

**Trinity South Sudan Ministry**

**The Boma Assistance Group for South Sudan**

**Mid-August 2021**

**Our Ministry**

1. **Education**

School has restarted at the Kondako Presbyterian Elementary School in Pibor. A full class of 389 boys and girls is enrolled. Attendance has been sporadic over the past 18 months because of government directed closure in response to the Corona 19 virus. Pray that the school will remain open this year.

As a result of a special gift from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia, we will be able to provide a set of BIG BOOKS for each of the teachers at the school.

Of the 37 students who took the exams to enable them to go to secondary school, ALL 37 PASSED. The school standing was 4th in the nation and one of the students was 4th among all those who took the exam nationally. That gives us great confidence in the quality of education our students are receiving.

On the other hand, we have a problem in that there is no secondary school available. These students who excelled do not have a direct path to further education. Let’s pray that God will reveal a path.

1. **Theological Education**

McCreery Theological Institute has graduated its first class since the conflict began in 2013. Most of that work was completed in a temporary facility in the refugee camp in Ethiopia. Our ministry has assisted the school with supplies, salaries, and food for about two years and will continue in 2021.

Nile Theological College has experienced problems with the batteries associated with its Solar Power Supply. We provided funding to replace the battery bank so that the students will have reliable light for study at night.

1. **Evangelism**

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church responded with extraordinary support for our ministry by donating **$14,066** for the purchase of Talking Bibles (TBs). Talking Bibles International (TBI) responded by agreeing to match our purchase of 100. Thus, the ministry will immediately purchase 100 to be matched with 100 by TBI.

We expect to take the 200 on our next mission trip where the team will go to Juba. There are multiple people groups in Juba so the TBs will be in multiple languages. The additional funds will be placed in a designated account to buy TBs for future mission trips.

1. **Peacemaking**

Our peacemaking continues through multiple efforts. Currently we are working with the Eastern Jonglei Presbytery (EJP-Pibor) and an Expatriate Group of South Sudanese from the Eastern Upper Nile (EUP) area on specific peace plans for each of those areas. This is underway in EJP and in planning for EUP.

Another channel is through the Coalition of Advocates for South Sudan which advocates among the Diaspora and in South Sudan.

Lastly, we are developing a concept to work through the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan in an effort to cover the bulk of the geographic area east of the White Nile River.

**Pibor**

Pibor Primary Health Care Centre is under renovation. Rehabilitation work on a section of the Pibor Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC), the main referral facility in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), began in July.



Labor and Birth Training in Pibor by Live Well [Photo: Facebook]

Speaking to Radio Tamazuj, Dr. Abdelrobu Mohamed, the GPAA health ministry director-general, said: “Currently, the Pibor PHCC is being renovated. The renovation is done by a local organization called Live Well. We have also received a donation of theatre equipment. As soon as the renovation finishes, we will have a fully operational center for surgeries in Pibor for the first time.” Access to basic health services has been lacking since the GPAA inception amidst recurring floods and inter-communal violence*. (Radio Tamazuj)*

**Political**

1. **United States.**  Six years after Washington gave $5 million to set up a war crimes court, nothing has happened.For several years, the United States championed the establishment of a criminal court in South Sudan to hold war criminals accountable for atrocities committed against civilians during the country’s devastating 2013 civil war. But the Biden administration appears to be giving up on the court in the face of South Sudan’s persistent refusal to set up a tribunal that could potentially uncover serious war crimes. In recent weeks, the U.S. State Department has signaled it is planning to reallocate most of the funding it had earmarked for the court, sending some back to the U.S. Treasury and another portion to other programs in South Sudan. (*Foreign Policy magazine, July 20, 2021)* Comment: Justice often is stymied before a new government is installed – especially when the leadership is guilty.

# President Salva Kiir buys himself a private army

According to our information, Kiir requested several months ago that 100 hand-picked soldiers from the [South Sudanese People's Defense Forces](https://www.africaintelligence.com/search?sqe=IlNvdXRoIFN1ZGFuZXNlIFBlb3BsZSdzIERlZmVuY2UgRm9yY2VzIg2) (SSPDF) be sent abroad and trained to become what will be a new special forces unit. These soldiers returned to Juba last week after spending six months abroad, including in Ukraine. All the members of this unit are, like Salva Kiir, from the Dinka ethnic group. This is also the case for the majority of the SSPDF generals. Africa Intelligence 14/07/2021Note: Keep reading. He may need this protection.

1. **People’s Coalition for Civil Action**

On July 30, a group announced the formation of the People’s Coalition for Civil Action. On August 2, the group announced its plans for peaceful resistance to the government seeking to replace it with one which sought to pursue the aspirations of the people. Massive civil resistance, strikes, sit ins, protests, and popular uprisings were to be its methodology. Later that same day, some leaders were arrested, others were reported to be in hiding, and the SUDD Institute was shut down.

Was it genuine? There is a strong feeling that General Akol Koor, the head of the National Security Service, who seeks to succeed President Kiir was instrumental in this. While a change of government is most desirable, General Akol is not the man to make the changes that the people want.

1. **Rebellion in Riek Machar’s Party**

It is no secret that there is strong dissatisfaction with Vice President Machar’s leadership both militarily and politically. Insiders say that the people no longer respect him because they see him as a lackey to President Kiir who has abandoned the goals of his own party. Earlier this week, a group of military generals declared First Vice President Riek Machar had been ousted as head of the SPLM-IO and as Commander in Chief of the Sudan People's Liberation Army-in Opposition (SPLA-IO). Fighting broke out on Saturday morning between the two groups but was reported to have ended about three hours later. Machar says that he is in firm control, but is he? Some see this as an effort to weaken Machar’s group and lead to the same change noted above.

**Humanitarian**

1. **The Delta variant of coronavirus** is driving the pandemic forward in Africa at record speeds, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned recently. Infection numbers have increased in Africa for six weeks running, rising by a quarter week-on-week to almost 202,000 in a recent week. *(WHO)* Note: Probably this is a very conservative effort considering the limited ability to gather such data in some African nations.
2. **WFP humanitarian operations** continue to be hampered by roadside attacks. On 15 July 2021, a 10 truck WFP convoy carrying 70 metric tons (mt) of food and other relief got stuck in the mud**.** While stuck in the mud, the convoy was ambushed by a heavily armed group. The badly-beaten drivers were rescued, and a rescue mission to recover the trucks was initiated. **There is help coming**. On August 2 it was reported that the UN Mission will now provide security escorts to protect humanitarian convoys delivering aid assistance across South Sudan. *(OCHA)*

**South Sudan Ministry Team**