



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Sudanese Reformed Church

General Synod

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Sudanese Reformed Church (SRC) originated in Khartoum, Sudan in February 1992. Subsequently, in October 2005 SRC was re-organized and instituted as Reformed denomination. Up to date SRC has two classes (**Khartoum & Juba**) with sixteen (16) congregations plus 18 preaching centers in different IDPs and refugee camps with a membership of more than 6000.

1. Fraternal Visits

A. Ecumenical Guest from OPC

With great joy and open heart SRC family in Juba received fraternal visitors between March 12th - 17th 2021. The fraternal guests came from OPC Uganda mission and OPC General Headquarter USA.

The fraternal visitors were Rev. Llyod Charles Jackson OPC missionary and Principal of Knox School of Theology, Rev. Henry James Folkerts OPC missionary in Uganda, David Philip Nakhla OPC General Secretary for Diaconal Ministries at OPC Headquarters and



From right to left Andrew, James, Nakhla and Jackson



Nakhla, Andrew, James, and Jackson at **Ebenezer** SRC Gudele Juba



Andrew, Jackson, James, Nakhla at **Grace** SRC Khor Wulyang Juba

Andrew Ojullo a South Sudanese who labors with Knox Theological College. While in Juba they visited Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) at Jebel camps (these IDPs were displaced by conflict in 2013 and they are being protected by UN forces). They also visited three SRC congregations in Juba: **Bethel**, **Grace**, and **Tree of Life**. On the Lord's Day, they worshipped and fellowshiped with **Bethel Sudanese Reformed Church** Mangateen Juba. Joyfully, the fraternal historical visit and fellowship were a great learning and blessing to both OPC and SRC.



Brethren with IDPs at Jebel camp



Brethren praying with one of IDPs families

It is to be noted that OPC and SRC are members of International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC). Ecumenically, ICRC is a global Reformed body that encourages ecclesiastical fellowship and unity among the member churches to present a Reformed testimony to the world. Such visits demonstrate meaningful and fruitful growth in the ecclesiastical relationships in ICRC global family.

B. Deacon Groenveld in Juba

Wietse Groenveld is a Deacon of Ede congregation in Netherlands. He came to Juba on mission with South Sudan ZOA. On Sunday 23rd May 2021 he paid a short fraternal visit to SRC and worshipped with **Bethel Sudanese Reformed Church** Mangateen Juba. Amidst COVID19 restrictions he was determined to fellowship with some SRC members and hear about their labor in the Lord’s vineyard in Juba. SRC family in Juba commended his great faith, love, and courage. It is worth mentioning that Ede congregation is sponsoring two SRC students who are currently studying at Mukhyano Theological College in South Africa. The love of God goes beyond geographical boundaries and cultural divide.



Groenveld with Mrs. Adeng, Bethel Women’s Ministry Chairlady and Elder Khamis Eko

2. Sudan and South Sudan Situation Highlights

Sudan and South Sudan are the region where **Sudanese Reformed Church** presents a Reformed witness.

Here are some highlights of the situations in the two Sudanese countries:

Sudan

Overthrow of President Omer El Bishar's regime has brought a lot of changes including religious freedom and hope of return to democratic system of governance. Unfortunately, the agreement between military and political parties' leaders did not go smoothly. The tension between civilian and military resulted in Sudan's military seizing power in October, arresting dozens of officials in the country's transitional government, including Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. The military thought that the coup was necessary to maintain Sudan's stability amid infighting between the army and civilian parties in the ruling Sovereign Council.

The political stalemate has brought mass protests and civil disobedient campaigns across the country. Although Abdallah Hamdok was reinstated as Prime Minister after an agreement was reached, however the working-relationship continues to deteriorate. The unstoppable demonstration in Khartoum and other towns, reduced household purchasing power, impact of increased conflict, tribal clashes, protracted displacement in parts of Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile, interrupted access to banks, reduced access to income from daily labor and small business for urban poor households and increased prices of goods due to shortages of essential commodities have continued unabated. All these situations combined have affected the livelihood of Sudanese people. The political crisis in the country is still raging on. Thousands of Sudanese continue to protest in the streets demanding a complete civilian government. Sudan future holds a lot of uncertainties.

South Sudan

South Sudan in July 2021 marked ten years of independence and eight years of protracted civil conflict. As peace is concerned, there has been very little progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) that was signed in 2018. Positively, unity government has been formed including the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly. Negatively, a key component of the agreement has not been implemented that is the security arrangements and the formation of unified forces. The slow progress on the implementation of the peace agreement has resulted in recurrent violence, continuous internal displacement, and insecurity in rural areas. The humanitarian situation, food insecurity, and worsening economic conditions remain dire. This year the country has experienced unprecedented flooding that has also caused more displacement and washing away of farms and loss of cattle stock. These crises have greatly affected the people of South Sudan. Hope for peace to return to South Sudan seems bleak. Juba the capital city is relatively secure and stable.

3. Church Plants

By God's grace in 2021 SRC for the first time since the conflict erupted in South Sudan has initiated two church plants outside



Malong Dut (in red T-shirt) with new converts in Wau

of Juba. The first endeavor is **Church plant in Wau**. The outreach and first seeds have been planted by Evangelist Santino Malong Dut. He comes from **Rock of Life Sudanese Reformed Church** Apada Aweil. He has been passionate to go and start Reformed witness there. Wau is a capital city of Western Bhar El Ghazal State and a key hub-town in Bhar El Ghazal Region. The other **church plant is at Ayod**. Ayod is a capital town of Ayod a county of Jongeli State. The church plant is being spearheaded by Elder John Pay one of SRC converts at IDPs camp in Juba. He felt called to take Reformed faith to his hometown Ayod.

4. Pastoral Visits

With eruption of civil war in South Sudan two years after independence, visiting areas outside of Juba has been extremely difficult. This came because of high risk of insecurity and expensive logistical cost to reach areas beyond Juba. By God's grace and the slow intensity of violence, this year some SRC leaders have carried out two pastoral visits to the congregations that were never visited since the conflict of 2013.



Immanuel SRC church building, Malakal



Rev. Kewy and Eliza visiting **Immanuel**, Malakal



Rev. Kewy Ismail and Elder Khamis visiting **Hope** SRC, Bentiu



Rev. Kewy Ismail and Elder Khamis visiting **Hope** SRC, Bentiu

The congregations visited were **Hope Sudanese Reformed Church**, Bentiu (visited by Rev. Kewy Ismail and Elder Khamis Eko) and **Immanuel Sudanese Reformed Church**, Malakal (visited by Rev. Kewy Ismail and Eliza Ashout). Mrs. Ashout is Juba Classis Women's Ministry Chairlady.



Rev. Mugadam with Elder Gatluak Tut and Elder Tom Tima Bethel Juba



Rev. Mugadam with some Bethel congregational members Juba

At the level of the two Sudanese states, Rev. Mugadam Sharfaldin Hassan, Pastor of **Savior Sudanese Reformed Church**, Khartoum visited SRC congregations in Juba as from 19th July to 13th August 2021. Rev. Mugadam visited Juba last in 2012 a year before the eruption of war in South Sudan. In turn Rev. Kewy Ismail Pastor of **Tree of Life Sudanese Reformed Church** Juba visited SRC congregations in Khartoum between November-December 2021.

Furthermore, congregations in Juba were also pastorally visited. Blessedly, it is to be underlined that such pastoral visits bring encouragement, boost Christian unity, raise hope, ignite faith and light of promoting Reformed witness in the areas where SRC labors. To be Reformed is to be intentionally missional and pastoral.

5. Leadership Development

Although SRC is still lacking well-trained Reformed pastors, indicators show that there is some progress in the leadership development. SRC in partnership with her sister-related churches are exerting all efforts to



SRC students of theology 2021

raise trained leaders who will promote the cause of Reformed witness in South Sudan and Sudan. Early this year two SRC candidates were admitted to Nile Theological College to pursue BA in theological studies.

On the other hand, and with great joy three SRC students have completed their theological training late 2021. Two graduated with BA Theology from Mukhanyo Theological College, South Africa. Thankfully, they were sponsored and supported in their theological studies by Fourth Presbyterian Church Maryland Washington DC. SRC appreciates heartedly the generous support Fourth has given to SRC students during their studies. The third one graduated with Diploma from Nile Theological College. He was supported locally by SRC **Juba Classis**.

6. Eligible candidates for SRC ministry

Three SRC candidates who have successfully completed their studies this year were examined by **Juba Classis** on 8th December 2021. All of them passed their exams and were declared eligible candidates for the ministry of the Gospel at **Sudanese Reformed Church**. If they show commitment and zeal in the ministry, they will be the best SRC trained leaders with Reformed flavor.



Eligible candidates for SRC ministry

7. SRC Schools Highlights

Word and Deed with great passion has assisted SRC to start a new primary school at Khor Wulyang Juba. The school is called Grace Nursery and Primary School. It bears the name of congregation where the school is situated. With generous assistance from Word and Deed SRC built seven classrooms with semi-permanent materials (Temporary Learning Space). The school



Newly constructed Grace Primary School, Khor Wulyang Juba

with formally opened on 17th May 2021 with nine teachers and three supporting staff and 312 registered pupils. On 8th June 2021 the school was visited by Inspector of Education of Kator Block Council, Juba City Council.



Bethel Primary School pupils parading, Mangateen Juba



Grace Primary School pupils during Tuesday school worship service, Khor Wulyang Juba

The older and first school is Bethel Primary School, Mangateen Juba. It was started in 2017. The total number of pupils registered for 2021/22 were 514. It is the highest number Bethel could have since its inception. Progressively, this year Bethel has Primary Eight. The classroom for primary eight was also built with assistance from Word and Deed. Early next year 2022 primary eight pupils who are 40 in number will sit for the first time for South Sudan Primary Examination. This examination qualifies a person to enter Secondary School (High School).



Four stances' toilets under construction, Bethel



Proposed four stances' toilets for Bethel

These two SRC schools are facing three challenges: (1) running water (2) toilets and (2) pupils' feeding. Juba has no running water system; thus, water is daily bought from the water-tankers.

Responsively, early 2021 South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) approved SRC request to build a toilet facility for Bethel Primary School. Responding to the dire need SSRC early December 2021 started the construction of four stances toilet facility worth of (USD\$12000). It is hoped to be completed early February 2022. If completed this will be the best toilet facility SRC could own in her history.

With dire humanitarian situation and worsening economy, many families are not able to provide enough feeding to their kids while in school. Because of lack of enough feeding many pupils in the schools have little physical strength to cope up with their learning during school hours.

Although the schools are still in their foundational stage, the projects are relatively sustainable. The schools through the fund raised by school fees payment have regularly paid teachers' monthly stipends and the daily operational cost without an outside financial help.

In 2022 SRC hopes to open 1st Secondary School (High School) in Mangateen Juba. If started this will be the first SRC high school.

8. Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian situation in South Sudan continues to be dire and challenging to already exhausted population. Lack of political will to implement the signed agreement is preventing return of peace to the country. Hope of return of peace is always being shattered by the political dilemma. Moreover, this year many areas in the country have been hardly hit by unprecedented floods that have displaced hundreds of thousands and washed all the farms and loss of many cattle.

SRC with support from Word & Deed and OPC has responded by meeting some of the basic needs of the people who are vulnerable in the target areas where SRC labors. The beneficiaries who were targeted and served were composed of the most vulnerable groups like children, single female headed households, widows, disabled and aging persons.

Key Relief Response outputs achieved

- a. 291** households totaling to **2253** beneficiaries (**1163** adults & **1090** children) were reached with basic food items.
- b. 193** households totaling **1486** beneficiaries (**756** adults **730** children) benefited from cash transfer in Malakal, Bentiu, and Bor.
- c.** The basic food items provided to the beneficiary were rice, maize floor, beans, cooking oil and female dignity kits

9. SRC Synod Office

SRC Synod building construction was started early 2017 and because of scarcity of financial resources the construction process has been very slow. This year SRC has roofed the building.



SRC General Synod building under construction

It was a heavy burden roofing it but at the same time it is a distinctive achievement in SRC infrastructural growth. With roofing the building still needs electric wiring, windows, plastering, tiles and painting to come to its final construction phase.

10. Cementing Christian Solidarity

Although SRC maintains and guards her uniqueness as a Reformed Biblical denomination, she also builds ecumenical bridges with other Christian churches. During 2021 SRC leaders paid friendly visits to some of the denominational leaders that are serving in Juba.

SRC leaders visited Presbyterian Church of South Sudan & Sudan (PCOSS&S) office in Juba and had a friendly meeting with their newly elected leadership. In a friendly response the Moderator of PCOSS&S visited on the last Sunday of August 2021 SRC. He preached and attended **Bethel** SRC worship service Mangateen Juba.

Furthermore, the newly appointed Catholic Archbishop of Juba Stephen Amayo was visited as well as the newly elected Presiding Bishop James Lagos of African Inland Church (AIC). Christian solidarity is necessitated by uncertainties that overcloud the country.



Visiting PCOSS&S leadership, Moderator Rev. James M. Choul with pink shirt



PCOSS&S Moderator (in the middle with pink shirt) visiting Bethel SRC Mangateen Juba



Elder Khamis & Eliza Ashout visiting the newly appointed Catholic Archbishop (middle), Juba



Ashout, Patrick, Khamis visiting the newly elected Presiding Bishop of AIC (pink shirt)

SRC is an affiliate member of South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). SSCC is a national ecumenical council that brings together seven member-churches and three affiliate member-churches. SSCC is a forum for collective action and consultation on matters of common interest. The churches visited are members of the council.

11. SRC Strategic Plan Snapshots 2018-2028

SRC has Ten (10) Years Strategic Plan 2018-2028. It is envisaged that the strategy will help to plant **35** new churches, leading **15900** souls to Christ and disciple **1590** believers toward maturity in Reformed faith so that they may impact social, educational, economic, and political fabric of community that they serve.

SRC is focusing on four key strategic goals:

1. Promoting Reformed witness in IDPs camps, refugee camps, major towns in South Sudan; Khartoum, and Nuba Mountains in Sudan. Through these endeavors hundreds of souls have been saved and joined SRC family.
2. Doing acts of mercy and compassion to the most vulnerable groups like children, single female headed households, widows, disabled and aging persons (providing life-saving support and supporting people in re-establishing their lives including children).
3. Providing counseling to those with traumatic cases caused by war, suffering, poverty, and displacement.
4. Focusing on Juba (currently Juba is considered as SRC Reformed hub)

Focus on Juba

- Rebuilding of four SRC church buildings that were destroyed during 2013/2016 conflicts in Juba.

- Looking for more lands and developing some infrastructures at those lands to accommodate SRC current and future activities.
- Establishing a network of Reformed congregations with a sense of being a covenantal community with a distinct Reformed identity (DNA).
- Providing education to the IDPs children and the inhabitants' children of the areas where SRC is laboring.
- Preparing, planning, and setting up mission strategies that would strengthen the capacity of SRC to make significant Reformed witness in her mission fields in Sudan and South Sudan. This includes training and leadership development.
- Establishing multi-training center to train and develop potential leaders for future leadership in hope of making more impact on communities in South Sudan and Sudan. The land where the center shall be built has been identified in Juba. Although no necessary funds have been availed for this project, it is hoped that one time it will come to pass.

Key achievements of SRC Strategic Plan

- a. Construction and opening of Grace Primary School at Khor Wulyang, Juba. The school temporal learning space (TLS) was built with a generous assistance from Word & Deed.
- b. Initiation of church-plants in Wau and Ayod.
- c. Graduation of two SRC candidates from MTC and one from NTC.
- d. Roofing of SRC synod office in Juba.

12. Prayer Requests

1. For peace to return to South Sudan and Sudan.
2. Promotion of Reformed faith in Sudan and South Sudan including salvation of souls, spiritual revival, and discipleship.
3. Relief assistance to most vulnerable particularly in IDPs camps in Juba, Malakal, Bor, Bentiu, Aweil and Wau.
4. Diaconal support to SRC 36 pastors and evangelists who are laboring among the IDPs in South Sudan. They continue to hang on with Christian Reformed witness despite all hardships. They are making heroic sacrifices for the cause of Reformed faith.
5. Leadership development of SRC future leaders including those who are studying at Mukhanyo Theological College (MTC) South Africa, and Nile Theological College (NTC) Juba, South Sudan. For the Lord to call more labors to HIS vineyard in Sudan/South Sudan.
6. Needed infrastructures: completion of SRC Synod office and establishing of multi training center, Gudele Juba.
7. Safety of SRC pastors and evangelists laboring in areas of high risk and hostility.

8. Rebuilding reopening of SRC school (Ebenezer Primary School) in Juba, starting of first SRC secondary school (High School) in Mangateen Juba and continuous provision of education to IDPs children wherever SRC is laboring.
9. School feeding for SRC schools in Juba.
10. Construction of a mission house in Juba to accommodate serving pastors.
11. Reopening and rebuilding of five churches destroyed during the conflicts of 2013/2016 five in Juba plus Immanuel in Malakal, Hope in Bentiu and Redeemer in Bor.
12. Success of eleven church plants in South Sudan and one in Nuba Mountain in Sudan in 2022.
13. Starting of fund-generating projects to avail financial support to the serving SRC pastors and their families. SRC is hoping to build four shops in 2022 in Juba.
14. SRC Strategic Plan 2018-2028 may come to pass.
15. Provision of one (1) mission vehicle to keep the mission moving.



Rev. Philip Gease greetings his congregational members shortly after Lord's Day Worship Service Faith Sudanese Reformed Church, Khartoum

Glory to God