



MID-YEAR REPORT 2023

Sudanese Reformed Church

General Synod

P.O. Box 412, Juba, South Sudan, E-mail: srchurches@yahoo.com

Sudanese Reformed Church (SRC) originated in Khartoum, Sudan in February 1992. Progressively, 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 church plants in different towns and IDPs and refugee camps with a membership of 6000+.

1. Ebenezer's Land Reclaimed

Ebenezer SRC was planted in early 2016. As a result of this church plant a land (70X100m²) was allotted to SRC by State Government of Central Equatoria State to accommodate the church plant activities. Beside the church plant, SRC planned to start a Christian school to provide educational services in the area. In July 2016 a heavy fighting erupted in Juba between government and opposition forces and because of rampant insecurity, killing and looting the area was completely deserted. The church plant came to halt. In 2018 the church



Word & Deed Visiting Team together with some SRC pastors exploring the reclaimed land Gudele Juba, March 2022

plant was restarted and a shade erected and later six classrooms were constructed to start a primary school with assistance from word and deed. Unexpectedly after the construction of the classrooms some Army Generals came under gun-point and grabbed the land, dismantled the built church building, classrooms and all property looted. Consequently, the church plant and school project came to standstill.

By God's grace and after tedious and time-consuming dialogue with South Sudan People Defense Force, Juba Security Unit, Munuki Block Council and chiefs of Gudele Block IV Quarter Council, the land was finally confirmed as SRC land. SRC was requested to pay a financial compensation to the party that graphed the land in order to relinquish it to SRC. On 7th February 2023 the above-mentioned bodies involved in resolving the land dispute agreed and decided to give back the land to SRC. On 15th June 2023 the land was formally given back to SRC. It was a great joy and gratitude to the Almighty God who has called SRC to promote Reformed faith in Juba and beyond.

SRC would like to convey her great appreciation and gratitude to those who have been praying for SRC ministry both locally and overseas. SRC hopes to rebuild and revitalize the church on October 2023 and reconstruct nine (9) classrooms in a hope of re-opening the school in February 2024 God willing.

2. Rebuilding Church Building Destroyed in South Sudan

2013/2016 conflict in South Sudan affected the labor of Sudanese Reformed Church. Many of SRC members were displaced and others fled to the neighboring countries for refuge. While fleeing they lost all their properties. Moreover, some SRC church buildings were burnt down, dismantled and congregational properties looted and some lands grabbed at gun-point. In spite of all these situations, SRC members have been sharing their faith and promoting Reformed faith wherever they fled to.

Now with some normality and relative stability in Juba and other towns of South Sudan, SRC is planning to rebuild some church buildings, revitalize church plants, and worship services. The main objective of this rebuilding initiative is to provide spaces where to promote Reformed faith, discipleship, provide Christian counselling, encouragement, and give hope to those who are traumatized by war and its effects in the country. Each building will be rebuilt with corrugate iron sheets, tik (wooden poles), timbers and ground floor plastered with cement.

The church buildings SRC hope to rebuild in the next six months (July-December 2023) are:

1. Ebenezer Sudanese Reformed Church, Gudele Block IV Juba South Sudan.
2. Christ the King Sudanese Reformed Church Gudele West Block VI Juba South Sudan
3. Cornerstone Sudanese Reformed Church, Kabu South Juba South Sudan
4. Providence Sudanese Reformed Church, Hai Burtani Juba South Sudan
5. Redeemer Sudanese Reformed Church, Bor South Sudan



Building sample of proposed Providence Sudanese Reformed Church, Hai Burtani Juba



Building sample of proposed Ebenezer Sudanese Reformed Church, Gudele Juba

3. Greater Sudan Situation Overview

a. Sudan Situation Update

The heavy fighting that started on 15th April 2023 in Khartoum, Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohammed Hamdan Daglo, known as 'Hemedti and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by General Abdel Fattah Al Burhan has continued uninterrupted despite several cease-fires made. The fighting has quickly engulfed other major towns of Sudan. So far, several thousands of civilians have been killed or injured and more than four (4) million people displaced to safer areas in Sudan and to neighboring countries like Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. An unprecedented humanitarian crisis is unfolding.

These ongoing military clashes have resulted in collapsed health system, rule of law, looting, attacks, scarcity of critical commodities, sexual and gender-based violence, damage to infrastructure and a full-blown humanitarian catastrophe.

According to IOM's assessment as 15th May 2023:

1. Over 936,000 people have been newly displaced by the conflict since 15th April 2023, including 736,200 people displaced internally and 200,000 who have crossed into neighboring countries
2. The conflict is threatening the main planting season, while prices of basic goods have risen dramatically, heightening the risk of food insecurity in the period ahead.
3. Between 125,000 and 180,000 South Sudanese and 45,000 Sudanese are fleeing to South Sudan.

b. South Sudan Situation Update

People of South Sudan continue to be affected by many effects of war and political unrest. Humanitarian situation continues to worsen, driven by several factors ranging from many years of conflict, inter-communal violence, insecurity, displacement, poor health and acute poverty. South Sudan political situation remains extremely fragile with a lot of uncertainties and unanswered dilemmas.

The latest Sudan conflict has caused unprecedented influx of returnees and refugees to South Sudan creating a dire and difficult humanitarian situation. Flow of food commodities to northern towns of South Sudan which heavily depend on imports of goods from Sudan has been disrupted causing high food prices complicating further the situation of thousands of vulnerable people who are in those areas. Thus, affecting the already South Sudan struggling economy.

UN Highlights May 2023

- More than 9.4 million people need humanitarian assistance in 2023.
- 7.7 million people projected will face severe acute food insecurity.
- Sudan conflict has forced hundreds of thousands to flee to South Sudan.

4. GKSA General Synod

Post-COVID19 has made it possible again for churches to come together for fellowship and major council assembling. By God's grace, the General Synod of the Reformed Churches in South Africa (GKSA) was held in Potchefstroom from 30 January to 4 February 2023. It was a blessed and successful synod in which delegates were able to discuss, deliberate and decide on matters pertaining the life and the mission of Reformed Churches in South Africa (GKSA). SRC has been in ecclesiastical relationship with GKSA since 2012. SRC was represented at GKSA Synod by Rev. Patrick Jok as fraternal delegate.



Rev. Patrick Jok, SRC fraternal delegate to GKSA General Synod



Proceedings of GKSA General Synod 2023

5. SRC Strategic Plan 2018-2028

SRC has Ten (10) Years Strategic Plan 2018-2028. In the strategy SRC hopes to plant **35** new churches, leads **15900** souls to Christ and teaches **1590** believers toward maturity in Reformed faith. It is envisaged that those brought to the light of gospel may impact spiritual, social, educational, economic, and political fabric of communities where they live and serve.

SRC is focusing on five key strategic goals:

1. To promote Reformed witness by planning churches in IDPs camps, refugee camps, major towns in South Sudan; Khartoum, and Nuba Mountains in Sudan.
2. To teach and equip believers through seminars, workshops, conferences, and formal theological training for pastors, teachers and social workers to fulfil their calling.

3. To initiate developmental projects by establishing schools, medical centers and fund-generating projects and constructing decent churches buildings for congregational worship.
4. To promote public advocacy and social justice through dialogue, reconciliation, trauma healing and peace.
5. To do 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).

Special Focus on Juba (the capital city of South Sudan)

- To revitalize and rebuild four SRC church buildings dismantled and looted during 2013/2016 conflicts in Juba and to plant couple of churches at suburb of Juba as the Lord blesses his vineyard.
- To look for more lands and develop some infrastructures at those lands to accommodate SRC current and future activities.
- To establish a network of Reformed congregations with a sense of being a covenantal community with a distinct Reformed identity (DNA).
- To start seven primary and four secondary schools for purpose of providing education to the IDPs children and the inhabitants' children of the areas where SRC is laboring within Juba.

6. SRC Humanitarian Response

Sudan conflict started in April 2023 has caused an influx of South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese refugees to South Sudan, a country that is itself still being affected by consequences of civil war. This situation raises fears of further destabilization. South Sudan is a landlock country and the northern states of South Sudan depend on Sudan. The economic consequences as a result of war in Sudan are already being felt.

Therefore, SRC in partnership with word and deed has made an emergency response to assist the neediest affected by this conflict in Khartoum, Sudan and main northern towns of South Sudan (Renk, Bentiu and Malakal).

SRC in partnership with word and deed has responded by providing emergency cash and vouchers assistance to address to the humanitarian needs of the returnees and refugees in transit sites in Renk, Bentiu and Malakal. SRC has provided assistance to 1400 individuals with cash and vouchers.

7. TLT Launched in Juba

SRC in partnership with Resonate Global Mission (RGM) Eastern and Southern Africa launched and introduced Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) last year in November 2022 attended by representatives from nine (9) different denominations in Juba. It is an in-service training that consists of seven (7) manuals covering basic Christian teaching and intended to be completed

within 18 months. The first manual “Caring for God’s people” was taken last February attended by 80 participants from seven Christian denominations in Juba and it was facilitated by Rev, Katola Mutunga & Rev. Jared Kaka Bosire from RGM Kenya. Participants are always expected to make their action plans that would impact their ministries where they serve.



Juba TLT “Care for God’s People” March 2023 at Bethel SRC Mangateen

8. Leadership Development

Currently SRC has one student studying at Mukhanyo Theological College, South Africa one at Knox Theological College, Uganda and three at Nile Theological College Juba South Sudan totaling to five (5) students of theology. They are being prepared and equipped in hope that they shall become SRC pastors in the future. One of the challenges SRC is facing in the congregations is how to identify and select those who are really called to the ministry. It is SRC prayer that the Good LORD will call laborers to His vineyard.



SRC students of theology during their annual retreat January 2023. Juba. South Sudan

9. Honoring Mrs. Priscila Amos

Mrs. Priscila Amos is a member of Sudanese Reformed Church. She accepted the Lord through SRC first church plant at Jebel Aulia Khartoum Sudan in 1993. She has been a committed member of SRC. She served in women ministry at Dar Salam Sudanese Reformed Church, Khartoum (1996-2005), Immanuel Sudanese Reformed Church, Malakal (2008-2011) and Grace Sudanese Reformed Church preaching center at IDPs



Mrs. Priscila Amos in the middle decorated with flowers

Jebel camp Juba (2013-2020). She is now serving with women ministry at Bethel Sudanese Reformed Church, Juba. She was honored for her long service in Sudanese Reformed Church together with other nine (9) women from nine different denominations by South Sudan Council of Churches Women of faith Desk at occasion held on Friday 3rd March 2023 at Atlabar South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.

10. SRC Schools Highlights

SRC in Juba has two primary schools and one secondary school started with a gracious assistance from Word and Deed.

1. Early this year (27) pupils of Bethel Primary School and (5) pupils of Grace Primary School sat for South Sudan Primary Examination. All of them sustained and passed the examination.
2. In this school year, Bethel Secondary School has enrolled 11 senior four students. The enrolled candidates will sit for South Sudan Secondary School Examination by the end of the year.
3. With assistance from Word and Deed, SRC is currently constructing three permanent classrooms for Bethel Nursery and three permanent classrooms for Bethel Secondary School.



Bethel Primary School P8 candidates who sat for South Sudan Primary School Examination February 2023



Enrolled 1st year students Bethel Secondary School, March 2023

11. Fostering information sharing in the mission

One of the purposes of ICRC is to encourage denominations to share and cooperate in mission fields. RPCNA and SRC are both members of ICRC. RPCNA serves in Northern Bhar el Ghazal State while SRC serves in six states of South Sudan plus Sudan. Late last May, Rev. Vince Ward a former RPCNA missionary in Aweil area stopped in Juba while on his way to Aweil, he connected with Rev. Patrick Jok of SRC. They had a good time together sharing information, encouraging and praying for one another.



Rev. Vince Ward together with Rev. Patrick Jok, in the middle Mr. William Wol at ACROSS compound, Juba South Sudan

12. SRC Synod Building

The construction of SRC synod office was starting in early 2017 with local contribution and because of financial scarcity and worsening economy in South Sudan SRC has not been able to finish the building up to date. What is needed to finish SRC synod construction is sum of USD\$25,000: this estimated cost includes electric wiring, windows, plastering, tiles, painting and ceiling.



Incomplete SRC Synod building Juba, South Sudan

13. 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, discipleship, and success of church plants in South Sudan and one in Nuba Mountain in Sudan in 2023.
3. Relief assistance to most vulnerable particularly in IDPs camps in Juba, Malakal, Bor, Bentiu, Aweil and Wau where SRC labors.
4. 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, and for the Lord to call more labors to HIS vineyard in Sudan/South Sudan.
5. Needed infrastructures: completion of SRC Synod office in Juba, construction of multi training center, Gudele Juba, and construction of mission house in Juba to accommodate serving pastors.
6. Safety of SRC pastors and evangelists laboring in areas of high risk and hostility.
7. Reopening and rebuilding of seven (7) churches destroyed during the conflicts of 2013/2016 four in Juba plus Immanuel in Malakal, Hope in Bentiu, and Redeemer in Bor.
8. Starting of fund-generating projects to increase sustainability and self-sufficiency. If funds are availed SRC is hoping to build four shops in Juba before the end of 2023.
9. SRC Strategic Plan 2018-2028 may come to pass.
10. Provision of one (1) mission vehicle to keep the mission moving forward.
11. Initiating and establishing of Gospel Radio ministry.
12. Two missionaries to serve with SRC in the areas of leadership development and education.

Glory to God