



Annual Progressive Report 2020

Sudanese Reformed Church

General Synod

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

REPORT OUTLINE

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W&D Team with some SRC leaders visiting Ebenezer SRC Gudele, Juba

1. Word & Deed Fraternal Visit

Word & Deed is an international Christian organization with gospel focus, targeting self-sufficiency under Christ and a reliance on indigenous partner organizations in the developing world. Between 6th - 13th March, 2020 a team from Word & Deed family made a historical fraternal visit to South Sudan. The team included Rick Postma, Corney Les, Nathan Neels, and Carla Neels. In their short-term mission, they visited mission station of Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) in Aweil and some SRC congregations in Juba. While in Juba they visited UN Protected of Civilians (POC) camps, Jebel. The camps are being inhabited by Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) who fled their homes in 2013 conflict in Juba. With SRC



W&D Team with some SRC leaders visiting Tree of Life SRC, Gurei South, Juba



W&D Team attending prayer and bible group at Bethel SRC, Mangateen, Juba



W&D Team visiting UN IDPs camp Jebel, Juba

congregations, they visited Tree of Life SRC, Gurei; Grace SRC, Khor Wulyang; Ebenezer SRC, Gudele and Bethel SRC, Mangateen. In Mangateen they inspected Bethel Primary School being sponsored by Word & Deed. On Sunday 8th March, 2020, the team worshipped with Bethel SRC at Mangateen and had a blessed fellowship with Bethel SRC family.

The visit was a great encouragement to all. One of the family's member who invited the team for a meal said, "my heart burst with joy that these white visitors from global Reformed family could eat our food at our home. It has never happened in our life. They are really brothers and sister in the Lord Jesus Christ". Indeed, a priceless relationship has being formed.

2. SRC & COVID19

COVID19 has presented an unprecedented challenge worldwide. With South Sudan overwhelmed by war, poverty and poor health services the challenge is even greater. The disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating particularly to humanitarian emergency responses.

Among SRC congregations only one person was infected by COVID19 and recovered from the disease. Because of the pandemic and other war effects, many members of SRC congregations are struggling on how to put food on tables.

Since March, 2020 SRC congregational worship services had been stopped because of the pandemic. The ways of meeting for worships and congregational activities changed dramatically. Members met in small groups of ten in different days of the week and at different locations. Through these small groups more than 300 new converts have accepted Christ and join these fellowships. In spite of all these situations, SRC is thankful for God's protection and providence.

In Mid-October, 2020 Church services were reopened again with lot of rules to follow. Although people are still struggling with the pandemic trauma, some SRC members have rejoined congregational fellowships.

3. Sudan/South Sudan Situation Overview

Sudan

The regime change in Sudan has improved religious freedom, freedom of press and social discrimination. Diplomatic relations between Sudan and USA have improved. Sudan is also considering normalizing diplomatic relation with Israel. The peace accord signed between government and opposition groups has given hope of peaceful Sudan. Although the future is unpredictable and unlike before, there is at the moment an open opportunity of promoting Reformed witness in Sudan. Access and travel to areas affected by war is now possible.

Pandemically, more than 26,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,500 deaths were reported.

South Sudan

In 2018 the government and oppositions signed a peace agreement with hope of ending the conflict. Significantly, the accord has led to decline of intensity of violence. However, delays in implementation of peace deal particularly transitional security arrangement and transitional structures have caused mistrust, frustration and hence sporadic fighting between government and oppositions forces in some parts of the country. Rural areas are still generally insecure.

Humanitarianly, more than million people have been affected by flooding between August-November, 2020 in areas along the White Nile. With extensive flooding crops were destroyed, livestock lost and water supplies contaminated and worsening health conditions.

Accumulative total of 2,903 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 58 deaths were recorded.

Humanitarian highlight In Numbers (based on UN sources)

- 7.24 million people facing acute food insecurity.
- 1.9 million acutely malnourished women and children.
- 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees in the neighboring countries.

There is a deep concern about the deteriorated food security and nutrition situation across the country. The situation presents an imminent threat to food security and likely looming famine as from April to July, 2021.

4. Rev. Adil departed to the Father's Home

With heavy heart SRC is mourning the death of one of her potential pastors, Rev. Adel Markon Tokry. Unexpectedly, he had a sever malaria on 27th December, 2020 just two days after celebrating the remembrance of Redeemer's birth with his congregation in Khartoum, Sudan. He was rushed to the hospital but he quickly succumbed to the disease and rested on the



Rev. Adel Markon Tokry

following day 28th December, 2020. Malaria is one of the deadly diseases in Sub-Sahara region.

It is worth mentioning that Rev. Tokry was one of SRC pastors who re-organized and re-instituted Sudanese Reformed Church on October, 2005. With great passion, he tirelessly labored in upbuilding of SRC and promoting of Reformed faith in Sudan/South Sudan. He is a father of eight (8) children.

His labor and legacy as a Reformed pastor in Sudan/South Sudan will always be remembered.



SRC pastors who reorganized and reinstated SRC
Behind: from right to left Rev. Philip, Rev. Adel, Rev. Magadam
Infront: from right to left Rev. Patrick and Rev. Kewy

5. 1st SRC Female Distinct Graduates



Dr. Nyakouth Patrick

while the war was raging on, Nyakouth Patrick Jok who is a member of Sudanese Reformed church had an opportunity to study at a university in Ukraine. She was admitted to study medicine. She had

Male literacy rate in South Sudan is 24% while female literacy is only 14%.

- **Nyakouth's Graduation**

The conflict that started in South Sudan in 2013, has reduced dramatically educational access to many children including opportunities to colleges and universities. In 2014



Dr. Nyakouth Patrick during graduation, Ukraine

been waiting for this opportunity for good two years. This rare opportunity was made possible by collective efforts of some generous members of Northland, A Church Distributed in Florida USA.

Her travel and admission to the university came to be through (Rev. Dr. Dan, Rev. Gus, Dr. Grace, Dr. William, Rev. Marc, Madam Jeneba, Rev. Brad and other members of Northland Church). Northland church through the brethren committed to sponsor her studies in Ternopol Medical University, Ukraine.

By God’s grace she successfully completed her studies of medicine last June, 2020. she is now the first female medical doctor of SRC as well as of three counties of greater Akobo of Jonglie state, South Sudan. SRC is grateful and thankful to Northland Church for their generosity.

Due to conflict in South Sudan, there are thousands of students who have good high school certificates but have no access to colleges or universities and because of poverty many parents are not able to send their children abroad to study.

- **Bazlica Rhopeal’s Graduation**

Bazlica is one of SRC women’s ministry leaders. She had an opportunity of pursuing Master Degree with Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya. Successfully, she has been awarded Master of Arts in Development Studies. Distinctively, she is 1st SRC lady to obtain such academic height. It is SRC hope that she will translate her achievement into services of God’s people particularly SRC ministry and generally communities in South Sudan/Sudan.



Mrs. Bazlica Rhopeal

6. Donated Container

In 2018 Rev. Rob and Nate from Fourth Presbyterian Church, Maryland, Washington DC visited IDPs camp in Juba. They were moved by sufferings and needs of the IDPs in Juba.



Fourth Presbyterian members Maryland, Washington DC after loading the container



Fourth Presbyterian members Maryland, Washington DC loading the container



Prayer of thanks being offered at Bethel SRC Mangateen, Juba before opening the container



Inspecting the container at Bethel SRC Mangateen, Juba before the distribution of the relief items.

Upon their return and in response to the needs they urged their church to send some non-relief items to Juba, South Sudan. 235 packages were collected and loaded in a container. The packages included:

1. 22 boxes of theological books (to establish library for pastors)
2. 76 boxes of Children's books (to establish a library for children at the camp)
3. 6 boxes of electronic for children library at the IDPs camp.
4. 22 boxes of shoes (used and new)
5. 4 boxes of used towels
6. 1 box of new fabric
7. 24 boxes of used bedding including sheets, pillows and blankets
8. 73 boxes clothing for children, women and men.

Shoes, bedding sheets, blankets, children, women and men closed were all distributed to the IDPs in the five camps in Juba. Graciously, real human needs were met.

7. Rare Pastoral Visit

Since conflicted erupted in 2013 visiting congregations outside Juba was extremely difficult because of insecurity, lack of accessibility and travel high cost. Many areas in South Sudan are only accessible by air. This year 2020 the LORD has opened an opportunity for Rev. Kewy Ismail to visit Rock of Life Sudanese Reformed Church at Apada, Aweil. The visit was a great encouragement to Rock of Life members. For the last six years they felt completely



Rev. Kewy Ismail posing for picture with members of Rock of Life SRC, Apada Aweil



Rev. Kewy Ismail with some elders and choir of Rock of Life SRC, Apada, Aweil

disconnected and isolated but with this visit they have been refreshed, given hope and comforted with God's word that they are not alone. They are re-connected again with SRC family.

8. Synod Office Construction Resumed

In 2017 SRC raised funds to build a synod office in Juba. However, by the end of the year the construction came to standstill as the country economy was collapsing. In November, 2020 some funds were donated by Justin and Daniela Lus a couple who are members of Bethel SRC Mangateen Juba. With the



Construction being resumed SRC Synod office, Juba, South Sudan

donated funds, the construction was resumed. Although the donated fund will not complete the construction but this is a breakthrough step toward the completion of the facility.

9. Highlights on SRC Strategic Plan

SRC has Ten (10) Years Strategic Plan 2018-2028. It is envisaged that the strategy will help to plant **35** churches by 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.

Currently, with daunting array of challenges facing South Sudan, SRC is focusing on four key strategic goals:

1. Promoting Reformed witness in IDPs camps and refugee camps in (Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda). 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, supporting people in re-establishing their lives including children).

In August, 2020 a total of **(402)** vulnerable households totaling **(2010)** beneficiaries were reached with basic food items in different eight camps across South Sudan.

Similarly, in October, 2020 **(295)** needy households totaling to **(1475)** beneficiaries were supported with essential foodstuffs across eight different camps in South Sudan.

The beneficiaries were identified and registered by SRC Emergency Relief Committee. SRC is grateful and thankful to Word & Deed for their contribution to SRC emergency relief response.

3. Providing counseling to those with traumatic cases caused by war, suffering, poverty and displacement. 596 individuals with traumatic cases were counselled in 2020.
4. Focusing on Juba (currently Juba is considered as SRC Reformed hub)

Highlight Focus on Juba

- Rebuilding of four SRC church buildings that were destroyed during 2013/2016 conflicts in Juba; Immanuel in Malakal, Hope in Bentiu and Redeemer in Bor.

In spite of all the difficulties brought by COVID19, this year SRC has seen a breakthrough in her ministry in Juba. The land dispute at GRACE SRC Khor Wulyang was amicably settled and SRC has been compensated with a new land (900 m²) few meters from the old site. All documents pertaining to the land have been processed and church reopened on 3rd July, 2020 and with the first worship service on 5th July, 2020.



Grace SRC, Khor Wulyang before the conflict and land dispute, 2016



Some members of Grace SRC, Khor Wulyang after reopening, July, 2020



Reopening of Tree of Life SRC, Gurei South July, 2020

On 17th July, 2020 Tree of Life SRC Gueri South has been reopened for congregational worship and activities. SRC is pleading with government authority (Munuki Block) at Gudele Block 4 to provide the necessary security so that Ebenezer is reopened.

- Looking for more lands and developing some infrastructures at those lands to order to accommodate SRC current and future activities.

This year 2020 SRC has acquired two new lands in Juba. They are Khor Wulyang (dimension 900 m²); and Kabu South (dimension 7500 m²).

- 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. This year 2020, (16) leadership workshops and seminars were conducted for different groups across Sudan and South Sudan.
- 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 availed for this project, it is hoped that one time it will come to pass.



Bethel SRC women, Mangateen Juba praying for the ministry of SRC in Sudan/South Sudan

10. SRC Prayer Requests

1. For peace to return to South Sudan.
2. Promotion of Reformed faith in Sudan and South Sudan including salvation of souls and spiritual revival.
3. Relief assistance to SRC most needy members and those around them particularly in IDPs camps around 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, Africa Renewal University, Uganda and Nile Theological College (NTC) Juba, South Sudan. For the Lord to call labors in HIS vineyard in Sudan/South Sudan.
6. Needed infrastructures: completion of SRC Synod office and establishing of multi training center in Juba (Ebenezer, Gudele Juba).
7. Safety of SRC pastors and evangelists laboring in areas of high risk and hostility.
8. Reopening of two SRC schools (Grace and Ebenezer) in Juba and continuous provision of education to IDPs children wherever SRC is laboring.
9. Building of a mission house in Juba to accommodate serving pastors.
10. Reopening and rebuilding of five churches destroyed during the conflicts of 2013/2016 two in Juba, Immanuel in Malakal, Hope in Bentiu and Redeemer in Bor.
11. SRC Strategic Plan 2018-2028 may come to pass.