



2022 Mid-year 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. First SRC Secondary School

One of SRC key strategic goals is to influence the sphere of education through Reformed witness. Joyfully, in May 2022 SRC has started Bethel Secondary School (BSS) in Mangateen Juba with three classes (Senior 1-3) and ten volunteer teachers from SRC congregations in Juba. It is the first secondary (high) school of its kind to be initiated and started by SRC in her mission. BSS has so far enrolled 103 students. It is registered by Central Equatoria State Ministry of Education as faith-based school. With great acknowledgement the venture has been made possible with financial backing and supportive favor from **Word and Deed**. Three classrooms are now under construction. BSS is temporally using the uncompleted Synod office in Juba, and it will move to its new building once the construction is completed.



Foundation of Bethel Secondary School, Juba

2. Reformed Mutual partnership

Through International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC), SRC has connected to Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). Both denominations are members of ICRC. It is worth mentioning that some of the purposes of ICRC is to encourage cooperation among the member churches in the fulfillment of the gospel missionary mandate and to present a Reformed testimony to the world. Encouraging cooperation between OPC and SRC is being



Participants of Leadership Training conducted at IDPs camp, Juba in partnership with OPC

practically realized. OPC is laboring in mission field in Uganda while SRC is laboring in South Sudan and Sudan. In February 2022 Rev. Charles Jackson, Principal of Knox School of Theology, Mbale Uganda, Rev. James Folkerts OPC missionary in Karamojong area of Northern Uganda, Andrew Ojullo a South Sudanese who teaches at Knox and David Philip Nakhla OPC General Secretary for Diaconal Ministries at OPC Headquarters USA came for the second time to Juba to enhance and boost the reciprocal cooperation and fraternal relationship that began in 2021.

Between 16th -21st February 2022 the OPC team was in Juba on mission. They conducted two leadership trainings one in the IDPs camp Jebel and the other one at Bethel SRC Mangateen. The leadership training at Bethel brought together SRC pastors/evangelists/elders from Malakal, Bentiu, Wau and Aweil. The training has been a great teaching experience and fellowship. With this profound meaningful cooperation in the mission fields, OPC Mission Uganda has pledged to sponsor four (4) SRC prospective students at Knox School of Theology, Mbale Uganda.

Reciprocally, Rev. Patrick Jok from SRC was invited by OPC Uganda mission to attend and speak at Uganda Pastoral Conference conducted on 29th May 2022 at Mable, Uganda. It is SRC prayers that the GOOD LORD will continue to bless OPC and SRC ecclesiastical relationships in HIS vineyard in Uganda, South Sudan, and Sudan.



Participants of Leadership Training at Bethel, Juba conducted in partnership with Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)



Participants of Uganda Pastoral Conference conducted at Knox School of Theology

3. Norris' Encounter with his trainees

Rev. Rob Norris is a Teaching Pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Maryland Washington DC, and Chairman of World Reformed Fellowship (WRF) Board. He was connected to SRC by Rev. Flip Buy of Reformed Churches of South Africa (GKSA) two years before the independence of South Sudan. He has been passionate to train and equip future Christian leaders for the church in South Sudan and Sudan. Despite turmoil and instability in South Sudan which have been impeding his vision, he has trained two SRC leaders at Mukhanyo Theological College (MTC), South Africa, that is Stephen Andrew and Deng Akol. After successful completion of their studies, they came back to South Sudan. Deng is now a Pastor of Grace Sudanese Reformed Church Khor Wulyang Juba, Finance Secretary of SRC Juba Classis, and Inspector of Synod Education Department while Stephen is Assistant Pastor at Bethel SRC Mangateen Juba, Executive Secretary of SRC Juba Classis, and Synod Mission Secretary.



Rev. Norris with Stephen and Deng



Rev. Norris with Juba Classis members

To check his labor Rob came to Juba between 20th – 23rd May 2022 where he met face-to-face the two pastors that he has sponsored in their training at MTC. It was a great excitement for him to see that the ones that he has sponsored and trained have come back home to promote Reformed faith.

In his meeting with SRC Juba Classis members, the members conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Norris and Fourth Presbyterian Church in supporting SRC leadership development. Deeply joyful, Rev. Norris has pledged to sponsor two new SRC prospective students at MTC. Hopefully, the two SRC prospective students will be enrolled at MTC 2023 intake.

4. First Decent Toilet Facility

In March 2022 South Sudan Red Cross formally opened four stances toilet facility built for Bethel Primary School, Mangateen Juba. It was opened and handed over to SRC by Deputy General Secretary of South Sudan Red Cross. It is the first decent toilet facility SRC could own in three decades of her labor. Rev. Kewy Ismail, Chairman of Juba Classis and Pastor of Tree of Life SRC Gueri South in Juba, communicated SRC family joyful appreciation and thankfulness to South Sudan Red Cross for having supported SRC with a new toilet facility. He affirms that the toilet will be used well for the welfare of the school and Bethel congregation.



The newly Bethel Toilet Facility



Ceremony of the opening and handing over of the facility to SRC

5. Greater Sudan Situations Update

SUDAN

Sudan three decades serving President Omar al-Bashir was toppled by popular uprising in April 2019. He was replaced by Army General Abdel Fattah Burhan, as head of the state. In August 2019 the military and civil leaders signed a power sharing agreement intended to make election in three years. Abdel Fattah became the president of sovereign council meanwhile Abdalla Hamdok the Prime Minister under a power-sharing agreement. Unfortunately, military-civilian relations did not go well that led to the resignation of Hamdok amid political deadlocks. Consequently, Sudan pro-democracy movement denounced the agreement and protests have started again with intensity stressing that power be handed over to civilian government and military back to the barracks. Daily protests are still prevalent in Khartoum and other major towns of Sudan.

The deadlocks of the political agreement on returning to a transitional path between the military and civilian has led to political instability, economic collapse, humanitarian crisis, and insecurity in the country. The combined effects including the global supply shocks has already created disastrous impact. Attempted dialogues between political parties, coalitions, prominent leaders, and military are not yet yielding any fruits.

In the absence of political solution, crime, lawlessness, intercommunal conflicts, looting, burning villages, destruction, displacement, and lands grasping are rising. The risk of a new outbreak of violence all over the country is looming high. The future looks dim.

Sudan Humanitarian Highlights based on UN records, March 2022: -

- 11.7 million Sudanese facing severe food insecure.
- 1.3 million refugees.
- 3.3 million internal displaced persons (IDPs) caused by communal conflicts in Dar Fur and Southern Blue Nile.

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan became independent on July 9, 2011. Renewed conflicts in December 2013 and July 2016 have worsened the economic and humanitarian situations. Living conditions continue to be impacted by violence and displacement. Public expenditures on key social sectors including health, education, water and sanitation, and agriculture and rural development are very limited and completely non-existent in some areas. High poverty is being reinforced by ongoing intercommunal conflict, displacement, and floods.

The signing of a revitalized peace agreement in September 2018 and subsequent formation of Government in February 2020 have contributed to recovery and peacebuilding in Juba and some state capitals. However, the country continues to face risk of these gains being reversed, with increasing incidents of subnational violence in 2021 and early 2022, flooding, the COVID-19 pandemic, and external shocks. The humanitarian situation is already dire.

Based on UN assessment, the unprecedented floods (May-November 2021) the most devastating since 1960s have affected 9 out of 10 states of South Sudan, impacting 1.2 million people and displacing more than 300,000 people. Areas flooded during 2021 in Unity and Upper Nile remained flooded throughout the dry season. With rainy season the worse is expected.

Since the start of the Ukraine crisis, increased global fuel prices, depreciation of the local currency and obstacles to trade, combined with seasonal factors, have led to an increase in fuel and food prices in South Sudan.

Thus, South Sudan still suffers from fragility, economic stagnation, and instability.

Humanitarian Snapshots based on UN records February 2022

- 8.9 million people need humanitarian assistance.
- 4 million people remain displaced and affected by the humanitarian crisis.
- 1.6 million Internal Displaced persons (IDPs). The IDPs do not have adequate access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure and healthcare services, with a high level of food insecurity.
- 2.2 million refugees in six South Sudan neighboring countries. Women and children continue to be the most affected.

6. Wietse Groenveld from the Netherlands

Wietse Groenveld is a Deacon of Ede congregation in the Netherlands. He came to Juba on mission with ZOA South Sudan. ZOA is an International NGO serving in South Sudan. While in Juba he came accompanied by one of ZOA staff to attend Bethel Sunday worship service. This is his second visit to Bethel congregation in Juba. His visit and fellowship were appreciated. It is worth mentioning that Ede congregation is sponsoring two SRC students at Mukhanyo Theological College (MTC) and one of them is hoped to finish his studies by end of this year.



Groenveld greetings some congregational members after Sunday worship service at Bethel Mangateen Juba

7. Resonate Team in Juba

COVID19 has dramatically reduced travels and face-to-face meetings across the globe. With some rules being soften, two Resonate Eastern Africa Team came to Juba between 20th – 25th May 2022 to visit SRC. They are Mr. Jonny Kabiswa, Resonate Partnership Coordinator Manager and Mr. Otineo Oguok, a leader of Nairobi Transformation Ministry. They came to explore the possibility of reviving the partnership that existed between SRC and Resonate which came to standstill because of COVID19 pandemic. While in Juba they visited some SRC congregations and IDPs camp. They also met some SRC Juba Classis members and attended Bethel congregational worship service. The visit was welcome and appreciated.



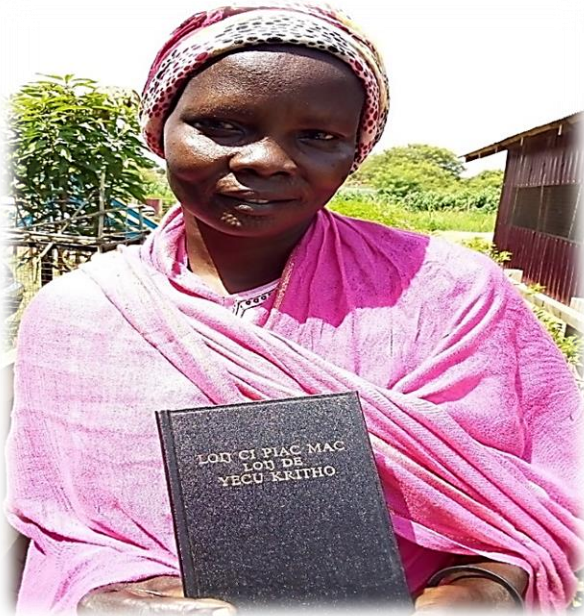
Jonny & Otineo with some SRC pastors in Juba



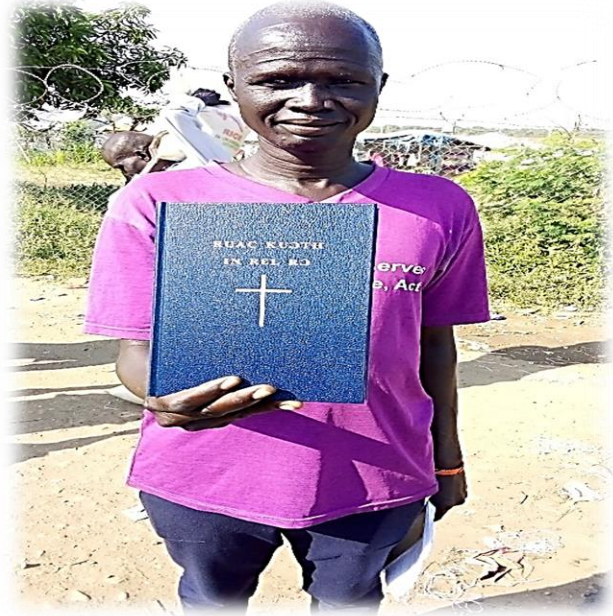
Jonny with two elders at Jebel IDPs camp Juba

8. Bibles Distribution

Despite all the situations in South Sudan and Sudan, Sudanese Reformed Church continues to grow steadily. One of her limitations in her labor is lack of bibles so that people can read God's word for themselves. Hence, SRC has proposed Bibles Distribution Project for 2022 to bring hope, comfort, peace, and strength that come through the light of God's word in scripture.



A woman received a bible in her Dinka language, Mangateen Juba



A young man in IDPs camp Bentiu received a Bible in Nuer language

In response and with passionate kindness **Word & Deed** has donated some fund toward SRC bibles distribution project.

The number of beneficiaries of bibles distribution project is 370 adults. Each of (370) adults have received a bible in nine (9) different areas of South Sudan. The bibles are in English and Arabic versions plus five (5) indigenous languages (Dinka, Nuer, Bhari, Shilluk and Azandi).

9. Wau Church Plant

Wau church plant is an initiative of Rock of Life Sudanese Reformed Church Apada Aweil. The church plant has been named **Mercy Sudanese Reformed Church**, Wau. Evangelist Santino Malong was sent to Wau in November 2021 with support from Juba Classis. Rev. Patrick Jok visited the church plant in February 2022. His visit was a great encouragement to



Mercy SRC Wau during Sunday worship service

the newly converted members of **Mercy**. **Mercy** SRC is still in her early stage of growth and lack a lot of things including land. The members worship under a tree in one of the houses of the new converts. They need encouragement and prayer support so that they may grow in the Lord.

10. Justin and Daniela's Farewell

Justin Lus came to South Sudan to work with Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). Justin joined Bethel Sudanese Reformed Church in 2012. Daniella Lus also joined Bethel when she got married to Justin. They were committed and active members of Bethel. They had contributed with their God's given gifts to Bethel congregational growth. In early 2021 they moved to Grace Sudanese Reformed Church, Khor Wulyang where they became members till the date of their departure to Canada.

Before their departure Bethel and Grace organized a humble farewell party to appreciate their faith and to entrust them to God's caring hands as they go back home after many years of service in South Sudan. The farewell party was a colorful fellowship and blessing to all. One of the SRC elders commented, "Justin and Daniela, your faith has encouraged us. Go back home but we will miss you and you will always be remembered".



Justin and Daniela receiving some gifts



Some gifts being presented to Justin & Daniela by Bethel women's ministry

11. SRC Flood Emergency Response

Combination of severe flooding, high levels of food insecurity, diseases, economic crisis, and portraited violence continue to drive people's humanitarian needs in South Sudan. In August – November 2021 South Sudan has experienced unprecedented floods. Heavy rains have caused rivers to overflow their dikes and banks, flooding vast areas and settlements across the country. This flooding has caused widespread devastation to livelihoods, submerging schools, health facilities and thousands of houses, and displacing families.

The most affected hard-hit areas were Jonglei, Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Warrap and Central Equatoria.



A single mother received plastic sheet, mosquito nets, food items Malakal IDPs camp



A widow received plastic sheet, mosquito nets, food items Malakal IDPs camp

With prompt generous response, **WORD AND DEED** donated some fund to provide some essential household items such plastic sheet, mosquito nets and basic food items to most affected areas in South Sudan.

With the fund donated by **WORD AND DEED**, SRC targeted the most affected areas of South Sudan that is Bentiu, Bor and Malakal.

128 households (780 individuals) in Bentiu, Bor and Malakal were provided with cash vouchers to provide them with plastic sheets, mosquito nets, basic food items and female dignity kids.

The whole project was carried out and completed between months of February to April 2022. The impact of the project for the beneficiaries is reflected in the food security stabilizes in the intended areas. 128 households had their immediate risks to health reduced and the psychosocial impacts of the flood have been lessened.

12. SRC Schools Feeding Program

After opening two schools in Juba, SRC has observed that many children come to schools without food or money to buy food. Due to 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. Therefore, SRC has developed a project to provide some feeding for the pupils during school's hours.

Hunger and malnutrition are serious risks to children's health and education. SRC schools feeding program has been introduced to provide a daily hot meal to pupils. The overall aim is to provide daily hot meal to 450 pupils at Bethel Primary School and 400 pupils at Grace Primary School. Each child will have a plate of rice or maize flour with beans or lentil per a day. The nursery pupils will have a rice with milk once a week.



Nursery Kids taking their meal

Through the School Feeding Program carried out in partnership with **WORD & DEED**, SRC has been supporting 850 pupils with school meal five times a week totally to 22 days a month. Having food at school every day for every child makes better nutrition, health, and readiness to learning. The whole project is scheduled to run for a period of one (1) year as from 1st May 2022 – 30th April 2023.



Enjoying God's provision and grace

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 eleven church plants in South Sudan and one in Nuba Mountain in Sudan in 2022.
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 eight churches destroyed during the conflicts of 2013/2016 five 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 available SRC is hoping to build four shops in Juba before the end of 2022.
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.



Rev. Charles Jackson and Rev. Patrick posing for a picture at Knox Mbale, Uganda