



2024 Mid-Year Report

Sudanese Reformed Church

General Synod

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Sudanese Reformed Church (SRC) originated in Khartoum, Sudan in February 1992. In October 2005 SRC was distinctively re-organized and instituted as Sudanese Reformed Church. Up to date 30th June 2024, SRC has two classes (**Khartoum & Juba**) with sixteen (16) instituted congregations plus 18 church plants across South Sudan and Sudan with a total membership of 6000+.

1. Ebenezer Nursery and Primary School Re-opens

After eight-year of struggle with land grabbers, Ebenezer SRC Gudele land (70x100=7000m²) was reclaimed last year 2023. Subsequently, a concrete fence and nine classrooms were constructed in the reclaimed SRC property. In February this year 2024 Ebenezer Nursery and Primary School was re-opened. SRC in Juba is raising fund to build a church with iron sheets, wooden poles and timbers in the property.



Ebenezer constructed concrete fence and nine classrooms.

It is to be noted that having a church and school in one of the three blocks of Juba City Council is an incremental achievement of SRC labor in Juba and a great gain in SRC continuous growth. It is worth mentioning that **Word and Deed** has made a pivotal contribution to consolidate SRC presence in Gudele area. SRC is greatly thankful to **Word and Deed** for the meaningful stand in raising SRC ministry to play her Reformed witness in South Sudan, Sudan and particularly in Juba, the capital city of South Sudan.

2. Fraternal Visits

SRC is a young Reformed denomination advancing Reformed faith in midst of other Christian denominations that have better resources and capacity in Sudan and South Sudan. Intentionally, it has been her prayers to seek Reformed biblical churches to relate to so that she is able to build her Reformed capacity. In God's providence, her prayers are being answered and fulfilled through International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC).

David Nkala, the OPC General Secretary for Diaconal Ministries together with two ministers from Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) paid a fraternal visit to Juba between 17th - 19th February 2024. For David Nkala this was a fourth time to visit SRC in Juba. For Rev. Lee Shelnutt and John Alexander Pettett from ARPC it is their first fraternal ecclesiastical visit to SRC in Juba, South Sudan. While in Juba they visited Internal Displaced Persons



David Nkala, Alex and Lee together with some SRC leaders visiting Tree of Life Sudanese Reformed Church, Gueri, Juba

(IDPs) camp in Juba, four SRC congregations' sites (Grace, Tree of Life, Ebenezer and Bethel). In Bethel, and Grace, they inspected SRC schools. On the following Lord's Day Rev. Lee Alan Shelnutt preached and taught God's word at Bethel. They worshipped God and fellowshiped with Reformed family. It was indeed a great celebration of our shared Christian Reformed unity in Christ Jesus. Warm-heartedly, SRC appreciates their sacrifice, love and faith in visiting Reformed family in Juba, South Sudan.



The fraternal team visiting IDPs camp in Juba



Alex visiting IDPs camp in Juba for first time



The fraternal team together with Pastor Deng Akol visiting Grace Sudanese Reformed Church Khor Wulyang, Juba

3. Situational Update Greater Sudan

South Sudan

The general situation in South Sudan has not yet improved to the better. People are still being affected by war effects and political instability. Humanitarian situation continues to worsen driven by many factors ranging from many years of conflict, inter-tribal violence, insecurity, displacement, poor health, poverty and hyperinflation. In the whole country it is only Juba the capital city where there is some relative stability. The rest of the country is unsafe. In 2024 it is projected that the following areas will be affected by massive flooding: Jongeli, Unity, Upper Nile, Northern Bhar El Gazal and Lake. It is likely that flood will be compounded by ongoing insecurity, conflict and limited access to basic services.

Furthermore, the conflict which started in Sudan last year 2023 has caused unprecedented influx of South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese refugees to South Sudan worsening the already dire humanitarian situation.

UN Highlights April 2024

- More than 9.4. million people need humanitarian assistance in 2024.
- 7.7. million people projected to face severe acute food insecurity.
- 4 million South Sudanese refugees in the neighboring countries.

Sudan

Last April 2024 marked one year since the conflict started in the Sudan. It is a conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The ongoing conflict has resulted in more than forty thousand estimated deaths and displaced more than 11 million with civilian population bearing the brunt of the power struggle between the SAF and RSF. With the situation being

overlooked by crisis in Gaza and Ukraine, Sudan continues to spiral into chaos with humanitarian situation worsening every day. It can be assessed that with the global geopolitical context, Sudan is unforgotten country.

UN Highlights April 2024

- More than 26 million face acute hunger.
- More than 11 million displaced internally and to the neighboring countries.

4. Building Ecclesiastical Relations

2024 marks a milestone of SRC ecclesiastical relations with three Reformed denominations who are members of ICRC. SRC was invited as a fraternal delegate to Free Church of Scotland (FCS) General Assembly, United Reformed Church of North America (URCNA) General Synod and Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) General Assembly. SRC delegated Rev. Patrick Jok to represent SRC in those three major Reformed ecclesiastical assemblies. It is SRC prayers that the Good LORD will continue to bless ICRC member churches in bearing a true testimony to our fallen world. And may the Good Lord who has called SRC to this noble task of the gospel bless the partnership that SRC has with FRC, URCNA and OPC in HIS vineyard.

Free Church of Scotland Assembly

FCS General Assembly was convened between 20th – 23 May 2024 in Edinburgh, Scotland under the theme “A healthy Gospel Church for every community in Scotland”. SRC conveyed her warm heartedly greetings to the General assembly and extended invitation to FCS leadership to visit SRC in Juba, South Sudan. This is the second time SRC has been invited as fraternal delegate to FCS General Assembly. The first one was on 2018. It was a blessed and refreshing General assembly. After the assembly Rev. Patrick Jok was invited to visit some FCS congregations at Isle of Lewis and Inverness.



FCS Moderator Rev. Callum Macleod and Stated Clerk with Rev. Patrick Jok at FCS General Assembly, Edinburgh Scotland



Rev. James Maciver and Patrick Jok at Stornoway, Isle of Lewis



Rev. Paul Murray and Patrick Jok at Kinloch, Isle of Lewis



Rev. John H. Terostra and Patrick Jok at North Harris Free Church, Harris



Rev. Patrick Jok at Free North FCS, Inverness

United Reformed Church of North America General Synod

SRC was invited and represented by fraternal delegate to the General Synod of URCNA which was convened between 17th – 22nd June 2024 in Escondido, USA. This is the first time SRC is represented at URCNA. It is worth mentioning that this connection has been made through ICRC. Briefly this is how the genesis of the connection evolved:

1. In 2018 SRC forwarded a request for ecumenical tie to URCNA through her Committee for ecumenical Contact with Churches Abroad.
2. In October 2022 SRC delegates met with URCNA delegates at the sidelines of ICRC proceedings in Windhoek, Namibia in which SRC asked for denominational coaching and mentoring.
3. Last year three of URCNA delegates led by Rev. Richard Bout and Rev. John Van Ayke visited Juba, South Sudan.



URCNA Foreign Mission Committee meeting with Rev. Patrick Jok during the proceedings of URCNA General Synod

As a result of this relational development, SRC was invited and accorded with a fraternal delegate to URCNA General Synod 2024. Rev. Patrick Jok conveyed SRC brotherly greetings to the Synod and formally requested the General Synod for denominational coaching and mentoring. At sidelines of the General Synod proceedings the URCNA foreign mission committee met with Rev. Patrick Jok to keep and continue the conversation of the request for coaching and mentoring.

Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Pertaining to SRC and OPC relations, SRC was invited as fraternal delegate to OPC General Assembly 2024 that was held between 19th – 25th June 2024 in Seattle, Washington US. It is the first time SRC is invited to attend OPC General Assembly. The brotherly invitation coincided with SRC marking her 10th year of ecumenical relationship with OPC.

Fraternally, SRC in Juba South Sudan has been visited by OPC ministers: David Nkhla, Dr. Charles Jackson, Rev. James Benjamin Hopp, Rev. Douglas Clawson and Rev. James Folkerts. SRC commends their great sacrifice, love and faith by visiting SRC in Juba, South Sudan. In addition to these visitations, OPC has sent relief fund to internal displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan as well as bibles to support SRC Reformed labor in Sudan and South Sudan.



OPC GA Moderator John V. Fesko with Rev. Patrick Jok during OPC 2024 General Assembly

5. SRC Schools Development

With the reopening of Ebenezer Nursery and Primary School, SRC has now three primary schools and one secondary school. All these schools have been started with a gracious assistance from **Word and Deed**. Below are some snapshots of SRC schools' progress.

1. In early December 2023 (28) pupils of Bethel Primary School and (10) pupils of Grace Primary School sat for South Sudan Primary Examination.
2. In Mid December 2023, (27) candidates of Bethel Secondary School students sat for South Sudan National Examination Certificate. This is the first batch of Bethel Secondary School to sit for South Sudan National Examination.
3. With kind assistance from **Word and Deed**, SRC is currently constructing three permanent classrooms for Bethel Nursery and three permanent classrooms for Bethel Secondary School. Once the constructions are completed, the classrooms will provide better space for teaching and learning.
4. Ebenezer Nursery and Primary School was reopened in February 2024.



Bethel Secondary School classrooms under construction



Bethel Secondary School classrooms under construction



Bethel Nursery classrooms under construction

6. Highlights of SRC strategic Plan

In order for SRC to achieve the purpose why she exists, a written Ten-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2028 has been developed. In the strategy SRC hopes to plant new congregations, leads 15900 individuals to Christ and teaches 1590 believers to Christianity maturity in Reformed faith. It is envisaged that those reached by Reformed witness may impact spiritual, social, educational, economic and political fabric of their communities.

SRC focuses on fives strategic goals:

1. To advance Reformed faith by planting 35 new congregations in different major areas of South Sudan and Sudan.
2. To teach and equip believers to fulfill their God's given calling.
3. To initiate developmental projects e.g. schools, medical centers, fund generating projects.
4. To promote public advocacy and social justice through dialogue, reconciliation, trauma healing and peace.
5. To provide life-saving support by doing acts of mercy and compassion.

Focus on Juba:

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

1. To revitalize and rebuild four SRC church buildings burnt down during 2013/2016 conflicts in Juba and to plant three new churches at suburb of Juba.
2. To look for more lands and develop some infrastructures at those lands to accommodate SRC current and future activities.
3. To establish a network of Reformed congregations with a sense of being a covenantal community with a distinct Reformed identity.
4. To start seven primary and four secondary schools for purpose of providing Christian educational services in Juba where SRC is laboring.
5. To initiates fund generating projects to increase local income and financial sustainability.

7. Rebuilding SRC congregational buildings Burnt down in South Sudan

Currently, all SRC congregational shades have been or are being built with iron sheets or thatch. Out of SRC shades seven (7) shades were destroyed or burnt down during 2013/17 conflicts in South Sudan. Now with slowing down of the intensity of the conflict SRC is raising fund to rebuilt some congregational buildings in Juba and outside of Juba. The main objective of this rebuilding is to provide better spaces where to promote Reformed preaching and teaching. It has been planned that each building will be rebuilt with corrugate iron sheets, tiks (wooden poles), timbers and ground floor plastered with cement. Furthermore, SRC hopes to put a permanent structure at Bethel SRC Managateen. This proposed building once constructed will be the first SRC decent church building and huge breakthrough her ministry.

8. SRC Synod Building

SRC started the construction of SRC Synod office in 2017 and due to financial scarcity, the building has not yet been completed. SRC is praying that this office might be completed soon to provide a decent space for SRC office work. What is currently needed to finish the building is sum of USD\$25,000. The estimated amount would cover the cost of electric wiring, windows, plastering, tiles, painting and ceiling.



SRC General Synod Office under construction in Juba

9. Prayer Requests

1. For peace to return to South Sudan and Sudan.
2. Advancement of Reformed witness in Sudan and South Sudan.
3. Relief assistance to the most vulnerable particularly in IDPs camps in Juba, Bor, Bentiu, Aweil and Wau, Nuba Mountains and Khartoum where SRC labors.
4. Leadership development of SRC future pastors including those who are pursuing theological studies at Knox School of Theology, Uganda and Nile Theological College, Juba South Sudan, and for the Lord to call more labors in His vineyard in Sudan and South Sudan.
5. Availability of resources to complete SRC Synod office in Juba and construction of leadership training center in Gudele Juba.
6. Protection and safety of SRC pastors and evangelists serving in areas of hostility and high insecurity.
7. Rebuilding and revitalization of seven churches destroyed during the conflicts of 2013/2016 in South Sudan (four churches in Juba and three outside of Juba. The estimated cost of each building is USD\$7000.
8. Construction of Bethel church building in Juba.
9. Initiating of local fund-generating projects to support pastors, church planting and evangelism.
10. SRC Strategic Plan 2018-2028 may come to pass.
11. Provision of one mission vehicle preferably Land Cruiser pick-up to keep the mission moving forward.
12. Starting of Gospel Radio Ministry in Juba.
13. Establishment and starting of Africa Redeemer College in Juba (with two schools: Theological and Education)
14. Two missionaries to serve with SRC in Juba in the areas of leadership development and education.

**"For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations."**

Ps 100:5