



2023 ANNUAL 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 re-organized and instituted as Reformed denomination. As of now, 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 Land Reclaimed and Reopened

SRC mission in Juba has been struggling with some of her lands being grabbed by men in uniforms in spite of the fact that SRC has all the legal documents pertaining to those lands. This year by God's providence and His grace, SRC has fully reclaimed and recovered her land at Gudele Block IV (100x70=7000m²) that had been grabbed after 2016 conflict in Juba. After tedious and time-consuming negotiation with the land grabbers, Juba security office, Gudele chiefs and local authority the land was finally and formally handed over to SRC on 15th June 2023. It was received with great joy and gratitude to HIM who has called SRC to the noble task of advancing Reformed faith in Juba and beyond. Hence, SRC would like to convey her heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for those who are always praying for the success of her mission in South Sudan and Sudan.

In the land reclaimed SRC is currently constructing nine (9) classrooms with assistance from **Word & Deed** in hope of starting Ebenezer Nursery & Primary school in February 2024. It is worth mentioning that **Word & Deed** has given some assistance to fence the reclaimed facility.



The reclaimed land newly built fence with assistance from Word & Deed

2. Greater Sudan Situational Update

A. Sudan Update

The conflict that erupted on 15th April 2023 in Khartoum, Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) continues to force thousands of people to flee to safe areas in Sudan and neighboring countries like Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Up to date several thousands of civilians have been killed or injured and more than seven (7) million people displaced. These ongoing military clashes have resulted in collapsed of health system, rule of law, looting, attacks, scarcity of critical commodities, sexual and gender-based violence, damage to infrastructure, inter-communal violence and a full-blown humanitarian catastrophe. The situation remains tense and unpredictable. With other global crisis Sudan is unforgotten country.

According to IOM's assessment as 21st December 2023:

1. Over seven million people have been displaced since the conflict erupted with some entering South Sudan, where resources to respond to their needs remain very limited.
2. More than 400,000 people have crossed the border of Sudan to South Sudan, majority are South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese seeking refuge.

B. South Sudan Update

The effects of war and political instability continue to affect People of South Sudan. Humanitarian situation continues to worsen, driven by several factors ranging from many years of conflict, inter-communal violence, insecurity, displacement, high inflation, poor health and acute poverty.

On August 2022 the Revitalized Agreement was extended for two years which is due to end on February 2025 with general election to be conducted in December 2024. This is to give room for the implementation of central aspects of the agreement: unification of forces and their redeployment, drafting of the permanent constitution and the electoral process. Evidently and beyond doubt, there is lack of progress towards a permanent constitution and transitional security arrangement. These are the critical pending issues. South Sudan political situation remains extremely fragile with a lot of uncertainties and unanswered dilemmas

On the other hand, the latest Sudan conflict has caused unprecedented influx of returnees and refugees to South Sudan creating a dire and more 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 living in those areas. Thus, affecting the already South Sudan struggling economy.

UN Highlights 15th December 2023

- More than 9.4 million people need humanitarian assistance including 2.2 million women and 4.9 children.
- 7.7 million people projected to face severe acute food insecurity 2024.

3. Joint Fraternal Visit

Through ICRC, SRC is being connected and integrated into Reformed global family. From 3rd to 13th November 2023 SRC received and welcome a joint fraternal visit from Word & Deed, United Reformed Church of North America (URCNA) and Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA). It is the first joint fraternal visit of its kind. While in Juba the team paid visits to IDPs camp located at suburb of Juba, toured SRC schools, worshipped and fellowshiped with SRC congregations.



The visiting team praying with one of IDPs families at POC camp Jebel, Juba



The fraternal team visiting Rock of Life Sudanese Reformed Church at Apada Aweil



The fraternal team visiting Mercy Sudanese Reformed Church at Wau (SRC church plant)



John Otten and the team inspecting SRC schools in Juba built with assistance from Word and Deed



The team giving biblical teaching during one day leadership conference at Bethel Sudanese Reformed Church, Mangateen Juba



The team having conversation with Prof. Julia Duany one of the well-known civil servants in South Sudan

Fellowshipping with some Bethel SRC, Mangateen members after Sunday Worship Service



Participants of One-Day Leadership Conference conducted at Bethel Sudanese Reformed Church, Mangateen, Juba



Bethel women's ministry giving some gifts to fraternal visitors during Bethel Sunday Worship service.

The furthermore, the visiting team accompanied by Rev. Patrick Jok visited Aweil/Wanjok where RPCNA has mission station and Wau where SRC has a church plant. After their return from Wau and Aweil, they conducted one-day leadership conference attended by SRC pastors, elders, deacons, evangelists, women, youth and children's leaders. It was hosted by Bethel Sudanese Reformed Church, Mangateen and attended by 63 participants who heartedly expressed their satisfaction and joy for such rare enlightening leadership conference. They hope that a similar leadership training will be conducted again in the nearest future at least for a week or two.

4. Revitalizing frozen congregations

2013/2016 conflict in South Sudan has greatly affected the labor of Sudanese Reformed Church. Many 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 has seized these situations as an opportunity to advance Reformed faith where her members are and fled to.

Currently with some relative stability in Juba and other major towns of South Sudan, SRC is planning to revitalize the frozen congregations and to rebuild some of the church buildings that were destroyed during the conflict. The main objective of this rebuilding initiative is to provide spaces where to promote Reformed faith, worship, discipleship, Christian counselling, encouragement, and give hope to those who are traumatized by war and its effects in the country. SRC hopes to rebuild the church shades with semi-permanent materials (corrugate iron sheets, tik (wooden poles), timbers with ground floor plastered with aggregate and cement.

SRC had hoped to build the below mentioned congregational shades in 2023 however the fund raised by the congregations were very limited and run short even to build one shade. Based on the estimation proposed in 2023 one shade in Juba would cost USD\$5000 while outside of Juba cost USD\$7000.

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

5. Cementing Christian Unity

To cement Christian solidarity and unity, SRC exerts all effort to build ecumenical bridges with other Christian churches without compromising her uniqueness as a Reformed Biblical denomination.

On Sunday 30th July 2023 the Moderator of South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical (SSPEC) Rev. Thomas Tut preached and fellowshiped with Bethel SRC Mangateen Juba. He was accompanied by Rev. Tut Kony the former Moderator of SSPEC. SSPEC is one of the churches that SRC has a close ecumenical linkage with in South Sudan and Sudan.



Rev. Thomas Tut, SSPEC Moderator and Chairman of SSCC preaching during Bethel Sunday Worship Service

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 SSPEC whose Moderator visited Bethel is member-church of South Sudan Council Churches. Rev. Thomas Tut is the current Chairman of the SSCC.



Rev. Thomas Tut and Rev. Tut Kony with congregational members after Sunday Worship Service

6. Proposed First SRC Decent Church Building

All SRC shades have been built with iron sheets or thatch. Bethel SRC Managateen hopes to move from shade built with iron sheets to a structure built with permanent materials. Bethel is one of [Sudanese Reformed Church](#) congregations in Juba. She is situated at Mangateen. She was planted in late 2010 at Jubanabari (Thongpiny) and in 2011 she was relocated to Mangateen. It is the second SRC church to be planted in South Sudan and first in Juba. In 2013/2016 conflicts in Juba, she was greatly affected in which the erected shade was burnt down and all property looted.

Now Bethel is planning to raise fund to build a new church building. This building once constructed it will be the first SRC decent church building. The main objective of this proposed church building is to create a decent and better space where to preach, teach, worship, fellowship, serve, and to give hope through the message of the gospel in Mangateen and the surrounding areas.



The current Bethel shade built in 2015



First Bethel shade built in 2011 and burnt down in 2013



7. SRC Schools Snapshots

In 2023, SRC in Juba has two primary schools and one secondary school 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, (23) 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 finished the classrooms will provide better space for teaching and learning.



First batch of Bethel Secondary School who sat for South Sudan National Examination Mid-December 2023

8. Leadership Development

In November 2023 Isaac Abui has completed his studies at Mukhanyo Theological College, South Africa and he is back to South Sudan. He will be examined by Juba Classis in her next assembly and if he sustains his exams, he will be eligible for call to one of SRC congregations.

Currently SRC has one student studying at Knox Theological College, Uganda and three at Nile Theological College Juba South Sudan totaling to four (4) students of theology. They are being prepared and equipped in hope that they will 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.

9. SRC Strategic Plan

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 planting 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 church 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 burnt down during 2013/2016 conflicts in Juba and to plant three churches at suburb of Juba.
- 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 Christian educational services in the areas around Juba where SRC is laboring.

Assessment Table of SRC Strategic Plan 2018-2028

| S/No. | Strategic Objective | Gained | To be gained |
|-------|---|--------|--------------|
| 1. | Gospel Outreach and church planting | 25% | 75% |
| 2. | Leadership training and development | 15% | 85% |
| 3. | Primary, secondary and vocational schools | 27% | 83% |
| 4. | Local fund generating projects | 0% | 100% |
| 5. | Health clinics | 0% | 100% |
| 6. | Africa Redeemer College | 0% | 100% |
| 7. | Gospel radio ministry | 0% | 100% |
| 8. | SRC Synod building in Juba | 75% | 25% |

Some SRC strategic goals are not yet reached and this is due to several factors ranging from lack of called potential leaders, financial scarcity, limited infrastructure and logistical difficulties posed by war and political instabilities in Sudan and South Sudan. In all these SRC is thankful to the Lord for what He has bestowed and in the way He has been blessing the ministry of Sudanese Reformed Church in 2023.

10. SRC Synod Office

SRC synod office construction was started in early 2017 with local contribution. 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 office construction is sum of USD\$25,000: this estimated cost includes electric wiring, windows, plastering, tiles, painting and ceiling.



**Unfinished SRC Synod Building, Mangateen Juba South Sudan
December 2023**

11. Prayer Requests

1. For peace to return to South Sudan and Sudan.
2. To advance Reformed faith in Sudan and South Sudan including salvation of souls, spiritual revival, discipleship, and success of church plants in South Sudan and in Nuba Mountain in Sudan in 2024.
3. Relief assistance to the 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 Knox School of Theology, Uganda 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/evangelists.
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. Construction of Bethel Sudanese Reformed in Mangateen, Juba proposed church building (Bethel is 2nd SRC church plant in South Sudan and first in Juba).
9. Starting of local fund-generating projects to increase sustainability and self-sufficiency. If funds are availed SRC is hoping to build four shops in Juba 2024, building one shops costs USD\$15,000.
10. SRC Strategic Plan 2018-2028 may come to pass.
11. Provision of one (1) mission vehicle to keep the mission moving forward.
12. Starting of Gospel Radio ministry.
13. Establishment and starting of Africa Redeemer College in Juba (with two schools: Theology and Education).
14. Two missionaries to serve with SRC in the areas of leadership development and education.

**“Praise be to His glorious
Name forever;”**

Ps 72:19b