



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

Bring the Gospel of Christ, and providing food, clean water, shelter, and medical care, to the people of South Sudan

Sudan Relief Fund donors provide first-ever X-ray machine to Dr. Tom Catena and Mother of Mercy Hospital

In a profile last year, the *New York Times* enthusiastically praised the work of Dr. Tom Catena. It told readers that Dr. Tom was not just the only doctor at the 435-bed Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains, but that he was the only doctor permanently based in a region with more than half a million people.

The *Times* further explained that under the constant bombing and shelling of civilians, Dr. Tom pries shrapnel out of their flesh, performs amputations, removes appendixes and even delivers babies. And the paper added, “He does all this off the electrical grid, without running water, a telephone or so much as an X-ray machine ...”

Well, **thanks to your generosity**, and the generosity of our other supporters, we have been able to provide for one of Dr. Tom’s, and the hospital’s, greatest needs. We have funded the purchase and delivery of an X-ray machine to Dr. Tom, which will greatly enhance the hospital’s diagnostic and treatment capabilities. In particular, the X-ray machine is one that meets the unique needs of Dr. Tom and his remote hospital — it’s lightweight, portable and powered by a rechargeable battery. It only takes an hour to charge, and then holds the charge for three days.

The X-ray machine came with its own mobile cart, laptop computer, software and protective covers. After careful consultation with Dr. Tom and researching what was available in the marketplace, the exact model to buy was determined. The X-ray machine purchased was the same make with a similar configuration as the one another humanitarian aid organization we know uses in its field clinics.

The X-ray machine was purchased in the U.S. and shipped to Kenya. It was then transported to Dr. Tom at the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains.

In addition to purchasing the machine and paying for its transportation, we also funded



For the first time since he founded Mother of Mercy Hospital, Dr. Tom has a portable X-ray machine to help him care for patients. This greatly enhances the hospital’s diagnostic and treatment capabilities — and Sudan Relief Fund supporters made it possible.

its installation and the training of hospital staff on its operation. That training should be underway by the time this issue of *Sudan Relief Review* reaches you in the mail. We are also funding an ongoing monitoring and evaluation process to track the maintenance of the machine and the diagnostic services it provides to Dr. Tom’s patients.

And that’s really what this new X-ray machine is all about — the patients. With this machine, Dr. Tom can offer those under his care radiology services for the first time since launching Mother of Mercy Hospital in 2008. The hospital is located in the disputed region of the Nuba Mountains and has been the focal point in the war being waged against the Nuba people. The ongoing conflict and bombings have caused shortages of food and medical supplies. The hospital is the only medical facility in a region covering approximately 300 miles. Dr. Tom and his staff work tirelessly through all the hardships to care for more than 150,000 people every year.

Dr. Tom and every person associated with the hospital are grateful for the support of friends like you. They realize their ability to save lives depends on the prayers and sacrificial gifts sent to the Sudan Relief Fund. If you would like to help us keep

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Dr. Tom's work going, as well as helping to continue our other lifesaving work in South Sudan, please use the reply form and envelope enclosed. God bless you for your charity and love for Christ's children in South Sudan.

Emergency Food Aid Delivery Feeds 4,000 Hungry South Sudanese

With funding provided by the Sudan Relief Fund, a shipment of emergency food aid was delivered to desperately hungry men, women and children in South Sudan recently. Trucks filled with 28 tons of food made the hazardous journey from Kenya to the capital city of Juba.

The city had exploded in violence in July, as South Sudan marked its fifth anniversary of independence, and the situation has remained dire ever since.

People have lost everything, with nearby villages and crops being burned to the ground. Food is scarce and people are starving. Several thousand civilians, many of them Christian, have taken refuge in St. Paul's Major Seminary in Juba. Many aid organizations have fled due to the chaos. But the Catholic Church has stayed and SRF is committed to doing all we can to help save the lives of our hurting brothers and sisters.

And thanks to the support of generous donors like you we were able to provide the funding needed to get emergency food aid to Juba. Once the food arrived, local religious congregations organized the distribution and personally handed out the food to 4,000 hungry South Sudanese. We made sure that some of this food was distributed to St. Paul's Major Seminary.

"What a great relief!" said Brother Bernhard Hengl, Development Director of the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference. "I still cannot believe it, that it all worked out well, in spite of the insecurity and challenges."

For security reasons, police accompanied the trucks once they reached the city of Nimule, which is three hours from Juba. They made the journey in the dark hours of the night. The government had issued an order blocking air and land exits, causing thousands of South Sudanese to be stranded in Nimule. After the trucks arrived in Juba, they were unloaded at 4:00 a.m.

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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

My heart broke as I watched a recent TV news report. It was called, "The War The World Forgot." And my heart was breaking because the story was about the ongoing war in South Sudan.

This conflict has killed an estimated 50,000 people over the past five years. Countless numbers have been displaced. And more than three million are starving.

How could such a human tragedy ever be "forgotten" by the world? It's a question I ask myself all the time, and one that has literally brought me to my knees. But even in my moments of greatest despair, a feeling of gratitude comes over me.

And the gratitude I feel is for friends like you who generously support the Sudan Relief Fund.

Your past gifts to SRF show that you haven't forgotten God's children in South Sudan. You've helped us bring them food and water, provide them with shelter and medical care, educate their children, and give them the message of Christ's redeeming love.

But with war raging, and with millions starving, could I ask for your help once again? Please say, "YES!" Please send any gift you can spare to SRF TODAY. God bless you for bringing the light of Christ to these people in their darkest hour. Thank you!

Yours in faith,



Neil Corkery
President

and then left three hours later, heading back to Kenya via Uganda.



SRF donors provided the funding necessary to get 28 tons of food to 4,000 starving South Sudanese in the capital city of Juba.

This effort was a great success. Yet there are still three million South Sudanese facing starvation as the humanitarian crisis in the country grinds on. This is why, with the prayers and generosity of many supporters, we will continue providing emergency aid, clean water and shelter to desperate families in need.

The Solidarity Teacher Training Center proves there is good news in South Sudan

“Go back a few centuries or even, in some cases, a few decades,” says Brother Bill Firman. “Italy was not a united country but independent and warring states. America had a civil war in which slavery was a significant issue.” He goes on, pointing out that France had a bloody revolution pitting the people against the aristocracy; that South Africa was governed with apartheid divisions; and that friction between Protestants and Catholics once made peace in Northern Ireland seem impossible.

“And the list goes on,” Brother Bill says, citing that South Sudan is the world’s newest nation. It’s also one of the least educated with the poorest health services and lowest standards of living. It has endured years of conflict and division, yet Brother Bill is hopeful. “Other countries have been forged out of tangled conflicts and ethnic divisions,” he explains. “Why not South Sudan?” He believes hope will spring from the next generation of citizens — if they are educated.

Brother Bill knows the importance of education. He currently serves as the Director of the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) in Yambio, which receives funding from the donors of the Sudan Relief Fund. Including his time at STTC, he has overseen operations at three schools over 24 years.

This responsibility has instilled in Brother Bill a firm belief in the value-added dimension of well-run boarding schools. They provide an environment of encouragement as students come into close contact with a diverse group of people with different customs, challenging attitudes and sometimes ideas that “appear a little strange.” These boarding schools can lead to a leap upwards in self-confidence, and, afterwards, a memory of good times that the students can carry with them through difficult situations they may face. Education can be an inner torch to light up a child’s way with hope.

Brother Bill couldn’t be more excited about the role STTC can play in South Sudan’s future. The college currently has 111 students

studying to become primary school teachers. They start the day with a joyful gathering where they pray for peace. There is a real mix of ethnicity, with the students coming from 14 different groups — including 20 Dinka, 20 Zande, 8 Nuer, 12 Lango, 5 Balanda and 33 students from the Nuba Mountains region (21 of whom are Tira).

Even STTC’s tutors are from different countries and congregations. There are two Irish Sisters, members of different congregations, and likewise two from the U.S. There is also a male, lay volunteer from the U.S. There are three Brothers from three different congregations — one each from Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda. STTC’s Principal, Sister Margaret Scott, is from New Zealand. Another Sister, from yet another congregation, is from India. Brother Bill is from a fourth, different congregation of Brothers and from yet another country, Australia.

Here are some comments from STTC students who will be graduating this year:



Brother Bill Firman (left) believes education is the key to a better future for South Sudan, and that Solidarity Teacher Training College can play a leading role in the country’s transformation. Sudan Relief Fund provides funding for the college.

“I would be grateful to work at STTC Yambio because I like the way Solidarity people live with one another — in peace as brothers and sisters” — Paul Osman

“I have gained knowledge and skills on how to handle children myself as teacher. I have also gained confidence in myself in whatever thing I am doing” — Bashir Juma

“I have learned how to keep peace within the community we are living in, seeing the example from the staff of Solidarity. All the time they are happy and love all the students.” — Kujija Kawo

“It is all about people. My most valuable experiences weren’t academic. They were all about people — social skills, respect, self-worth and empathy.” — Gabriel Nyany

“All people in Solidarity always live together in peace and harmony, loving people and agents of change. That is why I want to join Solidarity, to be the agent of change in the country.” — Ngaluku

Brother Bill emphasizes that the mission of the Solidarity Teacher Training College is all about the people, many of whom have suffered so much in their country. The people must come to view themselves as South Sudanese together rather than as ethnic rivals or competitors.

He says, “Our STTC graduates will be agents of change for the better. The living example of Solidarity tutors, not only their delivery of knowledge and skills, is bringing good news to South Sudan.”

PLANNED GIVING, LEGACY GIFTS, BEQUESTS, WILLS & ESTATE DONATIONS

Please consider remembering Sudan Relief Fund in your estate planning.



Planned giving or legacy gifts are one of the most generous ways you can help the desperately poor people of South Sudan. At Sudan Relief Fund we are blessed to have the most generous donors in the world. Please consult your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer for details on remembering Sudan Relief Fund.

SUDAN RELIEF FUND
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YOUR MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO HELP THE POOR OF SOUTH SUDAN . . .

Monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund couldn't be easier. You can make a tax-deductible gift every month by an automatic draft from your checking account or credit card. And because it's done automatically on the same day every month, it's convenient and requires no extra effort on your part. Plus you have total control: you decide how much you want to donate -- and you can stop making monthly donations at any time.

Every dollar makes a difference. To sign up for monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund simply check the box on the included reply coupon, indicate the amount of your monthly gift and mail it back to us in the postage-paid envelope enclosed. Thank you.



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YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ENABLES US TO GO FORTH AND REMAIN IN COUNTLESS PLACES IN SUDAN TO BRING HELP,
HOPE AND CHRIST'S LOVE.

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