

HOPE IN A LEPER COLONY:

With SRF, you bring
lifesaving support to
the sick and outcast
in South Sudan

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A glimmer of hope for Malo's leper colony



Nurse Noeleen Loughran pulls back the curtain on Kadoum's hut. Broken reeds and bamboo make up the makeshift walls. In the half dark, she can see the cot on which the ageing woman sleeps and the buckets and rags that are her only worldly possessions.

The hut is no place to live. But Kadoum is grateful to have shelter at all. Like the other lepers in the Malo colony, she has been driven out of one place after another, rejected by family and friends. That's how she came to be sickly and destitute. Like many of the other lepers, she is missing fingers and toes—and is

vulnerable to malnutrition, parasitic infections, and worse.

She is one of 500 people, including 75 families, who live here. Every day these poor souls live under the weight of an unmistakable message: *Stay out of sight,*

the world has told them, *we have nothing for you.*

But Sudan Relief Fund supporters have not turned away the lepers of Malo. Your generosity provides Kadoum and her fellow lepers with relief supplies such as beans, maize, oil, sugar, salt, nutrition biscuits, tea, and soap. And your support allows Nurse Noeleen to offer compassionate care, tending to their basic needs—hand dressings, wound care, medicines and more.

Nurse Noeleen lives in Rumbek, serving the many refugees returning to South Sudan.



The people of the leper colony have so much joy and happiness at receiving some help. Thank God for all the help you give us here.



Nurse Noeleen and SRF have big plans: a health clinic, a water well, and permanent houses for the lepers of Malo. With your help, we are replacing these flimsy, makeshift shacks with real homes—homes that are clean and protect people like Kadoum from the elements.

Leprosy is curable. There is no need to languish and die in misery because of this insidious disease. But it's taken your generosity with SRF to bring a glimmer of hope into these forlorn lives.

And if we can bring clean water, a clinic, medical supplies,

and opportunities for schooling into these lives, that glimmer of hope will grow bright as the sun.

Powering up the grid

South Sudan is plagued by crises of infrastructure: water, roads, hospitals, electricity. But with aid from SRF donors, St. Paul's Major Seminary in Juba is slowly but surely restoring physical *and* spiritual infrastructure in South Sudan.

That starts with keeping the lights on. SRF is working with Br. Bernhard to connect both the seminary and Catholic University to the Juba electric grid. This project will ensure uninterrupted study for the university students and seminarians who will help lead South Sudan tomorrow.

And here's more good news: Construction is underway for a new convent, entirely funded by SRF, for the Schooling Sisters of Notre Dame. These incredible nuns will work with women and girls at the massive Holy Trinity parish in Juba run by the Franciscans.

Thanks to you, thousands of girls, university students, and seminarians in Juba will receive formative education—and have light to study by.



Grace in remote corners

South Sudan never featured in Fr. Avelino Bassols' plans. But after 25 years in the priesthood, he suddenly felt God calling him there.

Once he began his ministry in South Sudan, it all made sense. "The joy of these people who had not seen a priest in their village for years, and the devotion of the altar servers . . . filled me with awe," he says.

At Ave Maria Parish in Source Yubu, the needs are immense. Fr. Avelino found the health clinic in ruins. Sick parishioners often suffered and died untreated because they could not make the nine-hour drive to the nearest functional hospital. One borehole in the parish was the only local source of water during the dry season—and the handpump broke frequently.

Fr. Avelino has become one of SRF's most valued allies on the ground in the past four years. He has helped build a new health clinic and a solar-powered water pump and tank.

Fr. Avelino is clear about what sustains his mission. "Without the donations we receive, the work here would be impossible," he says.

"SRF donors take part in this great work of evangelization, bringing development and peace to these people and building up the Kingdom of God in this very remote corner of the world."



I knew that this was my call. I have never been happier in my entire life." – Fr. Avelino

LIVES SAVED SPOTLIGHT:

Unexpected delivery

When Nasrin Mubarak first became pregnant, she tried to do everything right. The 22-year-old from Achrun Hills made sure to go in for wellness checkups with the one birth attendant in the region. She was careful to rest and eat healthily.

But once she went into labor, everything went wrong. She labored at home for 48 hours to no avail. In desperation, she was taken to the local clinic. They could do nothing for her. They lacked the resources to provide the urgent care she needed.

Nasrin was scared that she and her baby were going to die. Women and children die in childbirth in South Sudan all the time.

And she would have died, too, if an outreach program hadn't found a truck to drive Nasrin to Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains. There, sustained by the support of Sudan Relief Fund donors, Dr. Tom Catena

performs lifesaving procedures at the only referral hospital in a 300-mile radius.

Nasrin was in agony and nearly unconscious when she finally arrived, but within minutes Dr. Tom performed an emergency C-section that saved the lives of Nasrin and her healthy newborn son, Kuku Mitiyas.

"I thank God for the gift of Dr. Tom and the generous donors who keep the doors of Mother of Mercy Hospital open. God bless you all!" says Nasrin. "If not for the lifesaving surgery and the needed medication, our lives would have been lost, mine and my baby's."

Nasrin and Kuku lived. But only because friends like you have invested Mother of Mercy hospital and Dr. Tom with the means to provide lifesaving care in times of crisis.



A brighter future for orphans of war

For the Franciscan friars in Juba, there was no thought of putting their work “on pause” when Covid-19 reached the South Sudan capitol. “We could not stop our work with the St. Clare’s Orphanage and the street children program,” explains Fr. Federico Gandolfi, OFM.

In recent years the number of children living at St. Clare’s has doubled, from twenty-seven to fifty-five. Several little boys and girls who have been orphaned by the war have seen their parents killed before their very eyes.

Caring for these children is a constant struggle. Food and water, school supplies, bedding and mattresses are continually needed. The generosity of SRF supporters like you is what keeps the orphanage afloat.

For the boys and girls of St. Clare’s, that means a safe and loving home, nutrition, and education.

“I would simply like to thank you for Sudan Relief’s support for our mission here in Juba,” Fr. Gandolfi says. “Thanks to you, we are able to help give a better life to hundreds of people.”

St. Clare’s Orphanage still faces an uphill battle to survive—it urgently needs a minibus that will allow for transporting students without paying exorbitant car rental rates, and it needs a nurse on staff.

But every single person at St. Clare’s has already faced an uphill battle to survive. They’re fighters. And with the generous donors of Sudan Relief Fund in their corner, they’ll finish the race for sure.

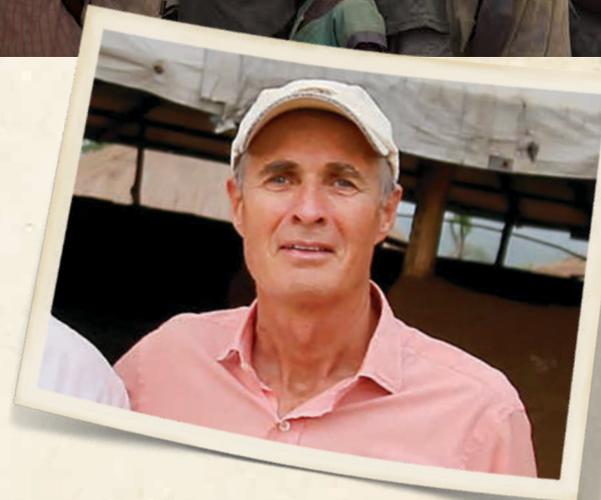


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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF SUDAN RELIEF FUND



DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST,

If you've never been to South Sudan, something you might not fully understand about the country is just how relentlessly hot it is. In Juba, the average high temperature in July is 89 degrees Fahrenheit. In January, the average daily high is 98.

Truth be told, it's not just the heat in South Sudan that feel relentless. The violence can feel that way too. So can the systemic poverty. You fear that the children born today will experience all the same grief and trauma as those who are bent with age.

But the thermometer doesn't tell the whole story. There are moments when the cool evening breeze feels like a benediction. When the laughter of children at play echoes down dusty streets. When the countryside bursts forth with abundant new life after the rains.

This is a place where people can flourish. Where people can live lives of love and joy. As the stories in this newsletter show, courage and kindness can have a transformative effect. Even in what is to many a forgotten corner of the world.

But quite frankly, none of this happens without you. So as you read about these lives touched and transformed, please remember the part you are playing. And please know you have my continual gratitude.

Sincerely,

NEIL CORKERY, *President*

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

What will your legacy be?

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 in your estate plans. Please consider remembering Sudan Relief Fund in your estate planning. **For questions contact Brendan Gotta, Director of Stewardship, at 330.461.3356.**

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