

# TEACHING TEACHERS AND HEALERS

How Sudan Relief Fund-supported schools are lifting up the next generation

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## Teaching teachers and healers

**S**ister Margaret beams when asked about the students and graduates of Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio.

“We had one girl who came to us without word of English. Within a couple of years, she became headmistress of a school.

Now her English is so strong, she has become a journalist,” Sister says, relating one of the many successes she’s seen since coming from New Zealand as a missionary to serve as Deputy Principal in Yambio. “We’ve been so blessed, but we feel there is so much left to be done.”

120 students learn in six classrooms at the Yambio campus, sharing a full

library computer lab. Their instructors are religious men and women from six countries, who prepare them to succeed in their comprehensive exams and earn a nationally recognized teaching certificate after a two-year program of study.

Students come from all over South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains. And in a society where women are expected to forego education, the school can



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proudly say that one in four graduates are women. Seventy percent of the more than 2,000 graduates are employed as teachers.

Sudan Relief Fund donors are also helping train young men and women to be nurses and midwives at the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau. Founded in 2010, the Institute has graduated 227 students, a third of whom are women. CHTI graduates now comprise more than twenty percent of all certified nurses and twenty-five percent of midwives practicing in South Sudan.

Your generous support of these schools doesn't just save lives and educate more children. It begins to develop the entire country—as more working professionals heal and lift up their communities, South Sudanese youth can start to aim higher and accomplish more. They are thus better equipped to rebuild communities and contribute to the healing of the nation.

Education is key to escaping poverty and pursuing a life of purpose. We ask that you consider giving as generously as you can to help Sudan Relief Fund strengthen these peace and prosperity-growing schools.



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## LIVES SAVED SPOTLIGHT:

### Mercy for Nawal

Every year, South Sudan's maternal mortality rates are always among the worst in the world. But little changes—perhaps because reported statistics cannot truly convey the urgency of the situation.

You can instantly see in Nawal's youthful, hard-won smile, both the depth of the problem and the hope so sorely needed. And we have you to thank for this hope.

Only recently, the lives of Nawal and her now healthy twins hung by a thread. When eight month pregnant with her son and daughter, Nawal was carrying stones for a construction project to earn a little money for food. One morning, she collapsed in extreme pain. Her babies were coming early.

A friend brought Nawal to Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains, where Dr. Tom Catena and his team can deal with complications in childbirth. Because of your support of Sudan Relief Fund, the recently updated



maternity ward was equipped to save the lives of Nawal and her babies.

Twelve hours after she collapsed, Nawal was holding her twins, who weighed a combined five-and-a-half pounds. The babies would not breastfeed, so Dr. Tom's team cared for and fed them. After five days of close monitoring and love from Nawal, her son and daughter finally latched.

Nawal tearfully expressed her gratitude: "Without this hospital and their donors, my twins would have perished at birth."

Mother of Mercy Hospital is well named. To have this specialized care available for neonatal emergencies in such a remote area is an amazing blessing—and it's the direct result of your generous support of Sudan Relief Fund!

# Dr. Ahmed's unwavering dedication



**H**undreds of miles away from Mother of Mercy Hospital in El Gigaiba, where Dr. Ahmed Zakariah has established a hospital serving dozens of patients every day. But to fully appreciate this blessing, you need to consider Dr. Ahmed's story.

As a volunteer at Mother of Mercy, young Ahmed showed exceptional intelligence, resilience, and concern. His talents also earned him an invitation to study medicine abroad on a scholarship, but the Nuban native was reluctant to stop tending to the needs of his people. "If I run, who will come?" Dr. Ahmed recalls thinking.

Instead, he completed his medical studies remotely under Dr. Tom's direction. Over eleven years, Dr.

Ahmed was jailed by Sudan's Islamic government and hindered by injuries suffered during a bombing raid. But today, the young doctor directs a small hospital with a surgical theatre, maternity ward, and twenty beds for patients. Your support of Sudan Relief Fund has helped supply this hospital since its founding.

Dr. Ahmed has never wavered from his commitment to save lives in the land of his birth. Here, he heals and brings hope every day, his patients often traveling for days down long, hot, dusty roads in search of healing. The greatest difficulty, he says, is

keeping supplies on hand to meet the ongoing need. Your generosity reminds him of the goodness that exists in the world.

"As human beings, we have to respect each other. We are the same. One humankind. And I hope one day we can live in peace." In the meantime, Dr. Ahmed strives to better people's lives one day at a time, one patient at a time.

## A last refuge from tribal violence

**T**ribal violence again descended upon the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio in June, with many killed and more forced to flee their homes and villages. Those who escaped found refuge in three parishes of the western deanery of the diocese: St. Mary Help of Christians in Tombura, St. Francis of Assisi in Gamunakpe, and Ave Maria Ngoboko in Source Yubu.

2,500 of our brothers and sisters in Christ are now displaced and defenseless, clinging to parishes that keep at bay, for now, tribal warriors who would attack the innocent.

These parishes now need as much rice, sugar, beans, cooking oil, and hygienic items as we can provide. Your support of SRF's presence in the region provided immediate emergency aid. But the truth is that the violence shows no sign of abating, and these young families, elders, and orphans need help today.

"These dear souls are terrified," said Fr. Avelino Bassols, rector of Ave Maria Parish in Source Yubu. "They've been

traumatized yet again, many just as they were starting to begin a life at home once more. Whatever you can give today to Sudan Relief Fund will help provide them lifesaving refugee kits and all the necessities to ensure that their basic needs are met, and their dignity affirmed. Thank you for whatever you can do!"



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# How your prayers can Lift Up South Sudan



“Our mission is a three-stranded rope—prayer, presence, and resources,” said Neil Corkery, president of Sudan Relief Fund. “Take any one of these away, and the rope is immediately weaker, prone to snap under the weight of the challenges we face.”

Prayer comes first. It has to, given the difficulties of operating in a nation without trustworthy governance, security, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Every one of your Sudan Relief Fund partners—Bishop Kussala, Dr. Tom, Nurse Noeleen, Fr. Avelino, Sister Anne Wandia, Sister Orla Treacy, and all the rest—came to this mission by saying yes to God. But this yes is the just beginning of a journey, steered and sustained through prayer.

The beautiful and resilient people of South Sudan desperately need our help. Years of internal and external conflict have ravaged this nation, creating thousands of refugees, widows, and orphans.

Holy Scripture could not be clearer: “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (James 5:16). You enable all of our aid, relief, and building efforts, and we could not be more grateful. So we invite you to join in prayerful solidarity with our partners and the souls we serve through **Lifting Up South Sudan**, as we share new and urgent prayer requests each week. Simply visit [sdnrlf.com/prayer-group](http://sdnrlf.com/prayer-group) to sign up.

As a **Lifting Up South Sudan** prayer partner, you’ll receive requests to pray for the needs of an orphanage, or a specific child who needs healing. Maybe next week you’ll pray for strength for volunteers who are toiling in a remote hospital in the mountains of Nzara. We’ll also share praises and updates. Together in prayer, we will be a powerful force that can move mountains in this troubled region.

Thank you for joining us in prayer, Lifting Up South Sudan!

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—James 5:16



# A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF SUDAN RELIEF FUND



DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST,

This newsletter powerfully and plainly shows the reality on the ground in South Sudan.

In Western Equatoria, tribes have again fallen into armed conflict, driving thousands from their homes to the nearest Catholic parishes. This crisis testifies both to the fragility of South Sudan and the resilience of the Church founded by Christ—the Church that has always risked much to care for those most in need.

Not far away, two schools founded by our partners Solidarity with South Sudan are forming a new professional class to improve life in many communities and regions.

Up in the north, a young mother today holds her preemie twins—a boy and girl who are now gaining weight and strength because you, Dr. Tom Catena, and his staff remain ready to heal and serve even in the most remote areas.

And Dr. Ahmed—Dr. Tom's close friend and greatest student—is saving lives in a hospital he founded. A hospital that you provide with medicine and supplies today.

These heroic efforts wouldn't be possible without your generous support. But just as important are your prayers—I hope you will join me and hundreds of other supporters in the **Lifting Up South Sudan** prayer campaign. By raising our intentions to our loving God in one voice, we can bring His blessings to a region in direst need.

God bless you, and thank you again for your profound kindness and generosity.



Sincerely in Christ,

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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