

Seeing more progress in Nzara

Hospital expands services by building a modern eye clinic

Just imagine standing in a hospital where, at any given time, you are 100ft. away from patients with cerebral malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, leprosy and typhoid. Doctors and volunteers live this reality every day at St. Theresa Nzara Hospital, the only facility that provides critical level care to the 250,000 people who live in Nzara and its surrounding regions.

Serving over 20,000 patients annually, St. Theresa Nzara Hospital is a beacon of hope for men, women, and children who come through its doors seeking life-changing care they couldn't get elsewhere.

Some of the most crucial additions to the hospital in recent years have been the new maternity ward and blood bank. In South Sudan, one in five children die before their fifth birthday. With your help, SRF supports a Safe Motherhood program and expanded assistance and aid for pregnant women and babies. By helping expand staffing and stocking of key medical equipment throughout 2021, you saved the lives of mothers and newborns who would have been helpless without St. Theresa Nzara Hospital.

God has blessed Nzara with St. Theresa Hospital. But demand for outpatient, inpatient, surgery, maternity, OB/GYN emergency, HIV, tuberculosis and laboratory services had the hospital bursting at its seams.

Now, thanks to your support of Sudan Relief Fund – in partnership with Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) – St. Theresa Nzara Hospital is able to expand its facilities to include a much-needed modern eye care clinic. Last year, the hospital performed over 100 eye operations despite not being equipped to provide proper optical care. Instead of turning away patients in dire need of care, doctors at St. Theresa performed surgical eye procedures in nonsurgical facilities. Thanks to your support, the newly constructed eye clinic ensures that the hospital is equipped to provide quality care to those in need. The eye clinic has had 497 operations and seen over 3,293 patients in the last eight months.

Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala of the Catholic Diocese of Tambura-Yambio addressed his audience during the clinic's opening, saying that the Catholic Church must strive for the holistic care of its people. He explained, "We are also involved in social work because the human being is complete and requires holistic care; as such we cannot only preach the Word of God but also must extend some services to the community. Among the services we do as a Church is what we have come to open today ... the eye clinic".

St. Theresa Nzara Hospital continues to be a light in the darkness for the people of Tambura-Yambio and its surrounding regions. And through your support of SRF, the hospital is now able to provide comprehensive and preventative eye care for patients to see the grace of Our Lord at work.



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Shining light in the darkness

For most of us, the purpose of schools is to educate. But in some parts of Africa, schools are a home as much as they are a place of learning, providing shelter and food for the most vulnerable.

In Nimule (located in Torit Diocese), the missionary Brothers of St. Martin de Porres support children and orphans of their community through St. Comboni primary school. Brother James Othembi is a liaison between the two and tells us that before the school hired someone to prep food and feed the children, many young orphans were forced to prepare their own meals from the little food they had available.

Thanks to your support of SRF and our work to spread the hope of the Gospel, we have some great news to share about the children of St. Comboni! Together, we have once again been able to fund \$25,000 worth of food for the school children, which ensures that they can learn without being distracted by the gnawing pains of hunger.

In 2021, your generosity helped us complete the building of much-needed school structures. Currently, we are also funding solar panels and generators for the school. There is a total lack of electricity at St. Comboni – children are guided in the dark only by candles. Installing solar panels and generators will be life-changing for the children and teachers. Adequate lighting will give them the security to walk around without worrying about snakes and other deadly critters that hide out in classrooms and dormitories to escape the hot sun.

God has truly blessed our work at St. Comboni School, thanks to your support.



LEAVE A LEGACY TO BE REMEMBERED FOR GENERATIONS

The dire situations for the needy and poor in South Sudan are a reality for the foreseeable future. But your love for these desperate and sick people can live on when you join the Sudan Relief Fund Legacy Society.

You can keep their communities thriving by specifying a legacy gift be made to Sudan Relief Fund as part of your estate plan, in your will or trust or by consulting with your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer.

You can also support them through a donor-advised fund. By contributing to the fund, you receive an immediate tax donation for the entire amount of your contribution. Over time, those proceeds are distributed to SRF as the fund continues to grow tax free.

At Sudan Relief Fund, we are blessed to have such generous donors. Please remember the poor of South Sudan in your legacy planning or by opening a donor-advised fund today. Contact Matt Smith, V.P. of Development, at 617-604-3042 or visit sdnrlf.com/legacy-society for more information.

LEGACY SOCIETY
SUDAN RELIEF FUND



Small Miracles

Transforming the lives of homeless orphans in Juba

When Father Federico Loro Gatluak arrived in South Sudan as a missionary seven years ago, he was shocked by the vast number of orphans on the streets of the Juba, searching for food and shelter. War and famine caused millions of South Sudanese children to lose their parents and their homes. Deeply moved by their plight, Fr. Federico began his mission to help street children.

Watching the suffering of these innocents was too much for him to bear, so he and his fellow Franciscans founded St. Clare's Orphanage. It began as just a handful of children in an empty house in Juba but has since grown into a thriving home for over 100 children.

These children – often traumatized by seeing their parents killed before their eyes – receive food, shelter, trauma support, and medicine. St. Clare's is a refuge for the homeless, but its capacity is strained as police and social services bring more children they find abandoned on the streets.

In 2021, your support of Sudan Relief Fund provided Fr. Federico with tools to combat that hopelessness. He has opened a new Pastoral Center at his parish. There, university

students were able to use the internet access, which your support provides, to take online classes when the pandemic closed schools. When displaced people come to his door, he is able to offer them food and direct them towards medical care.

Fr. Federico feels called to alleviate the suffering of the people of Juba, particularly the children. With God's strength and your support, Fr. Federico is transforming the lives of orphans in Juba and wants to express *"a great thank you to every donor to Sudan Relief Fund. You grant us great help and hope every year!"*



LIVES SAVED SPOTLIGHT:

Brave girl faced death

Eleven-year-old Rimaz, her brother, uncle and five others started their long walk to a cross-border market at 7:00 AM. An hour later, they were met with unspeakable violence.

Armed bandits riding camels attacked the group, instantly killing two. In a matter of minutes, more than half of Rimaz's friends and family lay on the ground – two were dead, while Rimaz and her brother were both shot in their arms.

Thinking she was dead, one merciless gunman came down from his camel and cut Rimaz's left ear with a knife. She bravely kept silent while fading in and out of consciousness. Rimaz knew that making any sound would mean her certain death too. They could only wait to be saved...



A while after the gunmen left, her brother stood up carefully to ensure there was no one around. He then yelled to Rimaz to run. She yelled back, but Rimaz couldn't walk. Her brother ran an hour home to get help for her. Thankfully, help arrived in time to take Rimaz to the Reka clinic. From there, she was transferred to Mother of Mercy Hospital where she was put in the loving care of Dr. Tom Catena and his trauma center. Funded by SRF, Mother of Mercy is the only trauma center in a 300-mile radius. Rimaz endured two surgeries and is physically on the mend, though the mental scars of that day will last her lifetime.

She reflects on the horror of that day, "I feel very bad for two of my friends who were killed, but I thank God for sparing my life. And I also thank God for this hospital; for the surgery and for treating me".

A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF SUDAN RELIEF FUND



DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST,

We face many challenges in South Sudan. But with your support, Sudan Relief Fund has been able to bring life-sustaining resources (and even joy) to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have enclosed our newsletter to update you on the inspiring progress that your generosity has created, which would not have been possible without your dedication and love. Thank you!

In this issue, I really wanted to focus on the amazing things our partners on the ground have accomplished for the innocents of South Sudan – the children who need physical, as well as spiritual, nourishment. Your support has helped the missionary brothers of St. Martin de Porres build a school that not only educates the children of Torit Diocese, but also feeds them. And there's even more exciting news coming from the school at St. Comboni – I urge you to find out inside!

Working with the poor and sick in South Sudan is humbling. But nothing is more eye-opening than seeing the little miracles that happen every day in its clinics and hospitals. A lack of resources, equipment and medicine means doctors and nurses have had to completely rely on their skills to keep the sick alive. Thanks to your support and the grace of our loving Savior, SRF (along with our Catholic medical partners) has built additional, modern health care facilities that have helped prevent disease and save lives.

For all that you do to help us share God's love through compassionate, life-changing missions in South Sudan and beyond – thank you and God bless!

Yours in Christ,

NEIL CORKERY, *President*

MERCY SOCIETY

SUDAN RELIEF FUND

The Sudan Relief Fund Mercy Society is a group of supporters deeply committed to bringing immediate necessities and long-term hope to the people of South Sudan. If your giving meets or exceeds certain levels, you will be automatically enrolled as a member. Mercy Society members have a fast, lasting impact in helping meet the needs of those suffering in South Sudan. In recognition of their key role in helping to fulfill our mission, Mercy Society members receive exclusive benefits.

To learn more about the Mercy Society, or to make a one-time contribution to Sudan Relief Fund, visit sdnrlf.com/ways-to-give.



P.O. Box 7084
Merrifield, VA 22116
1-888-488-0348
www.sdnrlf.com

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