



Image 1 Uganda Refugee Camp, Images 2&3 New Arrivals in Kakuma Camp - images courtesy ACT Alliance 2014

Standing with our Partners in South Sudan

January 16, 2014

You may be aware that conflict in the world's newest nation, South Sudan, continues to escalate. Over the past three weeks, more than 10,000 people have died, reports of human rights abuses have been widespread and an estimated 352,000 men, women and children have been displaced, with 62,000 seeking refuge in United Nations bases across South Sudan. In addition, 32,000 people have taken refuge in neighbouring countries, with 3-4000 people arriving daily in Uganda.

The conflict, which erupted in mid-December between supporters of President Salva Kiir and those of former deputy Riek Machar in the capital, Juba, has spread to more than half the country. Ceasefire talks mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development have so far failed to cease hostilities.

UnitingWorld continues to be deeply concerned about this situation. We are in constant communication with our partner, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, which is located in regions currently experiencing the most conflict.

We stand with South Sudanese Church leaders who have released a statement expressing their deep concern for all those affected.

We join them as they urge warring parties within South Sudan to:

- immediately cease hostilities
- open corridors to allow humanitarian relief to reach refugees
- take all possible measures to bring about reconciliation

"We believe dialogue is the best and only justifiable way to resolve grievances." South Sudanese Church leaders said on Tuesday. "Violence is not an option!"

The Church within South Sudan commits itself to

participating in ethnically mixed peace delegations to villages and communities, actively working toward nation-building and implementing locally-initiated solutions.

The future for Uniting Church partnerships within South Sudan

UnitingWorld maintains its abiding commitment to the people of South Sudan. More than 23,000 Sudanese people have migrated to Australia in the last decade and Sudanese communities within the Uniting Church in Australia are strong.

Our Training Midwives in South Sudan project, a partnership between UnitingWorld and the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency has already provided training for 22 young women through the Leer Midwifery School. The second cohort of midwives began their education last year and are due to return to their studies in February if the situation is stable.

"The Leer Midwifery School has continued to train students through periods of instability in the past. Right now the safety of students is the first priority but when the environment allows, their training will continue," says UnitingWorld's Peter Keegan, Manager for Livelihood and Peace Programs (Africa).

"Now more than ever we are seeing how critically important this kind of training is. It's only through development – ensuring that people have access to basic services like maternal and child health care, education, clean water, and adequate food - that a firm foundation will be established for real and lasting peace in South Sudan.

UnitingWorld remains committed to our partnership with the country. We will stand with our sisters and brothers as they work for peace, and when the time is right, continue to invest in their efforts to build a new nation."



Please pray for the people of South Sudan

Let us pray that God gives our leaders wisdom and understanding. May peace prevail in South Sudan.

That the doors will open into new ways of communication between Dinka and Nuer people, that they remember their first relationship as one family who are always in need of one another. As Bishop Desmond Tutu said, "you don't choose your family, they are God's gift to you, as you are to them". So let us continue our prayer for the healing and reconciliation in South Sudan, and in particular for the Dinka and Nuer people.

Let us pray for a complete end to the violence and that God will bless, protect and comfort all the people of South Sudan. Proverbs 23:18 "For surely there is an end and our expectation shall not be cut off".

Pray for the peace talks. Pray for all hidden agendas, and that any attempts to deliberately lead violence to destroy a particular community will come to nothing.

May God bring peace, justice and reconciliation. (2 Chronicles 7:14) "If my People, who belong to me, humble themselves, pray, seek to please me, and repudiate their sinful practices, then I will respond from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land"

Let us pray that the Love and the True Light will shine to all.

In the name of our loving Father, Amen.

*Condensed version of prayer by: Rev. Amel Manyon.
Uniting Church, Dinka Faith Community,
South Australia, Adelaide.*

If you or your congregation would like to contribute to humanitarian assistance for the people of South Sudan we have the capacity to send your donation to our partners on the ground.

Visit our [website to find out more](#) or call UnitingWorld on 1800 000 331.



UnitingWorld is an agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.



Gracious God,

We lift before you the people of South Sudan who are in the midst of a political and security crisis.

Two years ago, we rejoiced with them as they gained independence and became the world's newest nation.

Now our hearts are heavy as we hear the news of deep conflict.

We mourn with those who have lost loved ones in this current unrest, with the children and adults who have become traumatized again and again, for those who are injured, imprisoned and hiding.

God of reconciliation, send your Spirit of unity and peace to speak to the hearts of those who are inciting violence. Keep our church partners and mission personnel safe and be their 'rock' as they look to you for strength and guidance. Be with our partners the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency.

Strengthen them with the power of your Holy Spirit as they witness to the strong love of Christ, advocating for peace and justice.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*Source: Based on a call to prayer for South Sudan,
Presbyterian Mission Agency.*

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