

sudan sunrise

RECONCILIATION - EDUCATION - COMMUNITY BUILDING

From the Executive Director

Why Sudan Sunrise?

We are admittedly a slightly quirky non-profit! Schools, wells, books, relief.... just what is it that we do?

Sudan Sunrise is driven by the premise that the people who have suffered, most often, have the best understanding, drive, and vision to see solutions where no one else can.

But the folks who have vision don't generally have the resources to turn their visions into reality. That's where we come in: partnering with folks at a grassroots level to take dreams of a better future and help make them real.

Twelve years ago, South Sudanese in Kansas City had a crazy idea, "The North have been our enemies, but we have to help them." That crazy idea became three relief efforts that elicited healing words, "Forgive us for killing you" spoken in Darfurian refugee camps.

When Manute Bol asked for Sudan Sunrise's help to build a school in his home town for children of varying tribal and religious background, every block was built by a Christian and a Muslim working together on a two-man press. And we continue to press on with Manute's dream of schools for children regardless of their tribal, regional or religious background.

Sometimes the initiatives have a reconciliation component (we really love those!), and sometimes it is simply needed help (like clean water for people who drink out of a river).

We've helped Christians who risked their lives to take aid to Muslims and Muslims who have risked their lives to take aid to Christians. We've helped Dinka take aid to Nuer, and Nuer to Dinka. But you will see now two initiatives emerging with a strategic reconciliation component.

As I write this I am planning to meet tomorrow with Bishop Andudu to discuss how the rebuilding of the two Episcopal Churches in Yida might be an expression of the unity of Nubans. And soon we will be sending Rudwan Dawod and a small team to Torit to plan, with the help from young Muslims, how the rebuilding of the Catholic Cathedral can be an expression of peace, reconciliation and religious freedom. Thank you for making this strategic work possible!

With appreciation and best wishes

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Daniel Deng Kuot Ministry



Over the past few months, Daniel Deng Kuot led a team of more than 25 South Sudanese young people to take a message of hope and encouragement to internally displaced persons (IDP's) in five locations. IDP's suffer from sickness, displacement and illiteracy, but loss of hope can be as fatal as any disease. Daniel's team found the internally displaced very concerned about a disease that is killing their cattle and an unknown issue that is causing infertility among the refugees. In Puluk, the level of literacy is shockingly low, and there are no books available even in the Dinka language.

Yida Refugee Camp

Tom Friedrich

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Thanks to your ongoing support, Sudan Sunrise was able to raise \$321,209.65 for the year of 2015. Working with a small staff and large network of unpaid volunteers, the overwhelming majority of this money was able to go directly to Sudan Sunrise's projects in South Sudan rather than overhead or administrative costs. With increased violence and instability in South Sudan, your continual generosity is deeply appreciated by us here at Sudan Sunrise, and those you are serving in South Sudan.

Current State of South Sudan



According to a UNICEF report earlier this year, South Sudan currently has the highest rate of uneducated children in the world at 51% (or 1.8 million children). Nine out of ten children do not finish primary school and one in five children suffers from acute malnutrition. Additionally, the Fund for Peace Fragile States Index has listed South Sudan as a level-three emergency state, the highest possible rank, and describes it as having the highest political, social and economic volatility in the world. While these statistics are daunting and heart-breaking, Sudan Sunrise has continued the good fight, and our project initiatives are gaining traction and making a difference. Because of recent developments in South Sudan and the increased violence, our work is more important than ever. With that in mind, there are a few specific projects that we'd like to bring to your attention.

Torit Cathedral Project



In late January, three churches were burned to the ground in Yida refugee camp. The Christian and Muslim refugees from the Nuba mountains live in peace in this camp in South Sudan. Reports from Yida suggest these were the acts of outside agitators who have expressed their solidarity with ISIS. Sudan Sunrise will have a meeting this week with Bishop Andudu, whose diocese lost two churches in the fires, regarding the rebuilding of these churches. Nuban Muslims in the US have shown interest in supporting the rebuilding of these churches to demonstrate that Nubans stand united against the radicals' attempts to provoke division.

(Photo courtesy of: <http://www.kadugli.anglican.org/index.php?PageID=churchburning>)

Walk to End Genocide, 2016

WASHINGTON DC
**WALK
TO END
GENOCIDE**[®]
May 1, 2016 a project of JWW

The second annual "Walk to End Genocide" will take place in Washington, DC on May 1. Organized by the Darfur Interfaith Network of DC, the Walk to End Genocide is designed to create awareness regarding current situations and to remember past genocides. If you are in the DC area please register, and invite your friends!

Not only is this a united stand against genocide, but it is also an interfaith fundraiser that benefits victims of oppression. In 2015 Sudan Sunrise was honored to be the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the "Walk to End Genocide" of which \$2,500 is helping provide clean water for Wunthou, and \$2,500 to help feed children at the Manute Bol School in Turalei, many of whom are refugees from the ongoing violence. You can find information at: <https://dc.walktoendgenocide.org/>



Sudan Sunrise has just received a moving letter inviting us to Torit to work on plans to restart the initiative led by Rudwan Dawod to use Muslim volunteers to rebuild the Torit Cathedral. Because of his leadership in this initiative, Rudwan was imprisoned in Sudan and tortured for helping to rebuild Christian churches. Rudwan has spoken openly of his experiences and why he believes he was and is continuing to do the right thing by being a part of religious reconciliation. This effort was cancelled following the death of Bishop Johnson Akio, but now with Pope Francis' call for Christian-Muslim reconciliation, this initiative has now been revived. In a country with a history of religious genocide and ongoing warfare, this is a beautiful effort to forge peace between communities. We are hopeful that in the coming weeks, Sudan Sunrise and Rudwan will be in Torit to assess how to best proceed.

Well-Drilling in Wunthou: Lost Boys Education Operation

"They are drinking river water, and even the school has no clean water," explained Abraham Boll Makur Acien. Thanks to Abraham, a Lost Boy who lives in Austin, Texas, his home village of Wunthou is about to start drilling its first well, as part of the Lost Boys Education Operation (a Sudan Sunrise project). In addition to a generous gift from a friend of Abraham's, funds for this well are coming from a special grant from the Darfur Interfaith Network of DC, Jewish World Watch, and Dominion High School's Walk for Water. The next step for the Wunthou-Boma school and community will qualify for World Food Program food donations, so the school can begin a free school lunch program. With the rate of education increasingly dropping in South Sudan, this project is becoming even more important as children have less of an opportunity for education.

Please visit our website at www.sudansunrise.org.

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