

TODAY'S NEWS

Entrance | Missionaries | Mission Field

Riek Machar

Machar has not come to Juba citing logistical problems and different interpretations of how many of their security forces are allowed to be brought to Juba.

Economy

Inflation rate is above 200% and the exchange rate of the South Sudanese Pound fluctuates between 25-30 per \$1 and even rising to 40. A fifty kilo bag of maize flour will feed a family of four for one month and cost one month's salary. There will be no money for school fees or medical care.

Education

Poverty impacts all facets of life. Parents are forced to choose between paying schools or buying food for the family. Teachers are forced to choose whether to continue teaching with little or no salary or to cultivate their gardens and sell the food to support their families.



Stepping off the plane

Mike Sluder, Director of Connectional Ministries, Holston Conference says, "The most important thing you can do is step off the plane." These are members of an earlier short term volunteer mission team who came to meet with the local UM churches and schools for ten days for purpose of going back home and promoting the needs and the work being done here in Yei South Sudan. They like others before them and after them stepped off the plane and into the lives of people. We are now part of God's story and action in South Sudan. We know the people's faces and names. We know their stories. We share their joys and sufferings. Everyone may not be able to come to South





Entering God's Future

Jesus told Peter to "follow me". We follow Him together into God's future.

- In relationship with God
- In relationship with each other
- Together as the family of God.

An African proverb says "we are never tall enough to see the future". We cannot see the future but enter it in faith because God is there calling us to follow Jesus and come. We bring the past into the present where God will change what needs changing and form it to serve the people today and offer it to God for tomorrow.

The word most often spoken to describe the current reality is "unpredictable". We follow God who is trustworthy and faithful into an unpredictable tomorrow. Jesus said "I am with you even to the end of the age". We are not alone. The psalmist said "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, your rod and staff are with me...". The United Methodist Church is following.

Sudan but you can be a part of God's future by the support of your prayers and contributions. There are many challenges today here in this land and nation. They are struggling to become a democratic and independent country. Their culture is thousands of years old and must adjust to the demands of these times. For example there are over 60 tribes which must form a national identity out of their individual tribal identities. The main struggle today is to implement the peace accord and form a transitional and national government. An inflation rate of over 200%, the devaluation of the local currency by 84%, high prices for food, late rains, poor harvests and insecurity are complicating factors. These factors have caused us to adjust the pattern of our work. Rather than us going into the field we are bringing the people from the field to us for training. Rick Machar, the leader of the opposition, is scheduled to arrive in Juba on April 18 and be sworn in as the First Vice President and begin working with President Salva Kiir to form a transitional government. This new government will begin to deal with a weak and poor economy and the issue of 28 states formed by unilateral action of the President. Pray for peace and unity.



Following Jesus Today

Following Jesus today and making disciples today is done by training pastors, church chair ladies and youth in Bible studies, in agriculture, nutrition, health, sanitation, education, financial management, and animal husbandry. Providing a safe place for some vulnerable children. The daily challenges require that the work process is adjusted to the prevailing reality and context. Thank you all for your prayers.

Grace and Peace

Fred and Libby Dearing