These prayer resources are for you to use and adapt as part of a Sunday church service, prayer meeting or in a small group.

The first part is an introduction for you to read or present. This gives an overview of the situation in South Sudan including background details of the situation and current statistics. The second part is a ‘call and response’ prayer activity that you can adapt to suit your group.

Photos: Rachel Luce, Anna Chivers, Autumn Petersen/Tearfund
PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE YOU. I DO NOT GIVE TO YOU AS THE WORLD GIVES.

JOHN 14:27

INTRODUCTION

(Alternatively, or in addition, you could show the South Sudan prayer Powerpoint here)

The situation in South Sudan remains volatile. Since fighting broke out late last year, more than 1.3 million people have been displaced by the crisis, of which over 350,000 have fled to neighbouring countries.

On 15 December 2013 violence erupted in the capital, Juba, and quickly spread. The UN has since declared it a level 3 emergency, the same as Syria. On 2 January President Salva Kiir declared a state of emergency in the states of Jonglei and Unity and ordered the national army to fight dissident rebels.

At the beginning of May 2014 both parties signed a peace agreement. The deal is the second attempt at a ceasefire in nearly five months of conflict. However, fighting is still continuing in some parts of the country.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned that already a third of the country’s population is facing ‘emergency levels of food insecurity’, while some areas of the country could be at risk of famine.

Despite the worsening situation, God is at work in South Sudan, and he cares deeply for the people caught up in the fighting. A huge banner in Juba International Airport proclaims these words from Jeremiah 29:7:

‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.’

Let’s lift up the people of South Sudan to God, calling out for peace to prosper in this troubled nation.

(At this point you could choose to use one of the prayers for South Sudan - which can be downloaded from the Tearfund website. This can be read by an individual or the group as a whole.)
PRAYER ACTIVITY: PEACE AND HOPE

This is a call and response prayer. An individual (Leader) reads out the first line and everyone else (All) is invited to read the response.

(Leader) Lord, we pray for peace in South Sudan.

(All) We pray for wisdom and mature hearts for the leaders of South Sudan to honour and adhere to the peace agreement, to lead and govern well and resolve their differences. We ask that this will result in real and lasting solutions to the conflict so that no more lives are threatened.

[Pause for reflection]

(Leader) Lord, we ask you to give hope to the thousands of families displaced from their homes and now living in refugee camps.

(All) We pray for those who feel helpless and weak. We pray for hope for a better future. We ask you to comfort the people of South Sudan with your arms of compassion.

[Pause for reflection]

(Leader) Lord, we pray for Tearfund staff, partners and other relief workers as they try to reach people most in need.

(All) Lord, we pray for the safety of Tearfund’s team in South Sudan and who have remained throughout the conflict. We ask you to guide them in their thinking and actions so that they have strength and courage to carry on.

[Pause for reflection. End]
SOUTH SUDAN PRAYER POINTS

Here are some prayer points to share with prayer groups, during a time of open prayer on Sunday or at a small group meeting. You could also display them on your church noticeboard/in a newsletter.

PLEASE PRAY...

FOR PEACE
~ For an end to the violence.
~ For the peace talks to continue and result in a return to normal life for the people of South Sudan.

FOR COURAGE AND STRENGTH
~ For people affected by the violence; particularly people who are sick, separated from loved ones or homeless.
~ For Tearfund staff, who are all working tirelessly, but particularly those working in Uror county where Tearfund is running emergency feeding programmes.

FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE
~ For the estimated 7 million people who are at risk of severe food insecurity this year; that they will have enough food available for themselves and their families.
~ For the farmers of South Sudan where the planting season has just ended; that there will be a prosperous harvest later in the year.

FOR WISDOM
~ For Tearfund’s emergency programme in Central Equatoria which includes the distribution of seeds and tools so people can grow food for themselves. Distribution finished in May and the next planting season begins next year.
~ For the successful transportation and distribution of food supplied by Tearfund and other organisations working in South Sudan.

FOR HEALTH
~ For the recent cholera outbreak in South Sudan. With tens of thousands of people still in UN camps the risk of cholera spreading in future months is high.

GIVE THANKS
~ For the many people in South Sudan who have kindly welcomed displaced people into their homes – generously sharing food and drink with them in these desperate times.

We would love to hear about how you have used these resources, or read any prayers you have written for the people of South Sudan. Please email praying@tearfund.org

www.tearfund.org/southsudan