



Prayer for South Sudan

Commemorating Independence Day July 9

God of Peace, Hear our Prayer for the People of South Sudan



After five decades of civil war that killed of two million lives, freedom came to South Sudan on 9 July 2011, giving hope and peace for the future. December 2013, the new nation erupted into armed conflict and war. The conflict has resulted in this youngest nation facing one of the worst displacement crises in the world today. As of November 2018, over half the population of South Sudan relies on aid to survive. Some 8.7 million people are food-insecure, half of them severely, and 26,000 people live in famine-like conditions. Some 1.97 million people are internally displaced, and 2.2 million South Sudanese are refugees in neighboring countries. (<https://data.humdata.org/visualization/a-journey-of-1000km/>)

“I think constantly of these suffering souls in South Sudan and ...we pray that the fires of war will finally die down, so that they can return to their homes and live in serenity” (Pope Francis)

“God makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. God breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
God burns the shields with fire.”

Psalm 46:9 (NIV)

Angelina's husband was killed in the fight in her home town. She decided to leave her home town with her three children because of constant attacks on civilians. The family walked 120 kilometers to a camp in the north, facing the risk of stepping on unexploded munitions, abduction and rape. On arrival at Bentiu the location of the UN Protection of Civilian Site, Angelina realized that they were still not safe because women were kidnapped, abducted and raped when they left the camp to go collect firewood. Families were also requested to provide ransom to kidnappers to get their daughters back. Nonetheless, Angelina and her children stayed in the camp for several months. After the signing of a ceasefire between the Government and opposition forces in December 2017, Angelina decided to go back to her village with her children hoping that the situation would improve.



- We pray that love conquer hatred and revenge be disarmed by forgiveness
- We pray for South Sudanese leaders and the people that they practice active nonviolence and work to prevent conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration.
- We pray that the leaders and the people of South Sudan will overcome all that divides them by truly seeking what unites them
- We pray for the displaced and those in need of humanitarian assistance



Angelina came back to her home with her children with nothing, only to find out that the fighting had continued. Hearing about the camp in Juba where they could receive humanitarian assistance, she decided to leave home with her children after hiding in the swamp for weeks. The family made 12 hours of an extremely hazardous journey. Throughout the journey, Angelina was worried that her children would fall sick and die because of the outbreak of deadly cholera. After a 1,000 kilometer journey on a boat and trekking, Angelina and her children were able to receive food and medical care from humanitarian workers. At the camp in Juba, Angelina faced again many of the security threats experienced in Bentiu camp. Nonetheless, she was happy that, for the first time since she left her village, she was able to earn a little money to support her family, by selling firewood and dried grass.

- We pray for families recovering from the trauma of displacement and longing for more than temporary shelter or food aid; those yearning for tools to heal and rebuild their lives
- We pray for all aid workers, women and men religious who minister to the needs of the people in South Sudan
- We rebuke the spirit of confusion in our leaders and pray that God touch their hearts so that they can embrace peace instead of war
- May all recognize their common origin and acknowledge that they are all children of God and thus treat each other with love and respect.

God of Peace and Stability



We join Pope Francis in praying for the people of South Sudan, "God the Father, touch with the Holy Spirit the depths of every human heart, so that enemies will be open to dialogue, adversaries will join hands and people will meet in harmony. May the whole human race search for peace and resolve disputes. May love conquer hatred and may revenge be disarmed by forgiveness. We ask God to make wars to cease from the ends of the earth so children and families can enjoy safety and prosperity again.

God of Justice

Because all people desire justice, we pray with the prophet Isaiah for the political leaders of South Sudan. May they learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, and plead for the widows and orphans. Turn the hearts of these leaders, who have set aside godly principles and who, in their pride, have followed a path of selfishness and greed, back to You.

God of Healing

Intervene and show mercy on the people of South Sudan who are harmed and abused by bad decisions of their leaders. Be gracious to those unjustly treated by unfair political measures; those who are lost, hurting, and are in intense misery and pain because of unjust treatment and unfair political measures. Provide for all their needs, according to Your riches. Banish hunger and famine in the land. Do not allow conflict, greed and corruption to dry up the resources with which you have so abundantly blessed South Sudan. Amen.

Photos by Paul Jeffrey