

Crisis in South Sudan

On December 15th, 2013, a portion of the army loyal to the former South Sudanese vice-president Riek Machar began fighting the Presidential Guard (loyal to President Salva Kiir) in Juba resulting in many casualties. The South Sudanese President accused the former vice president of attempting a coup. Many politicians were arrested for their involvement in the attempt, but the vice-president is still on the run and a significant portion of the armed forces remain loyal to him.

His forces attacked and captured Bor town, capital of Jonglei State. They then lost it to pro-government forces and then, when joined by the Nuer White Army, they later retook it. More than 10,000 civilians are believed to have died due to the conflict. The United Nations reports that about 100,000 civilians are displaced from within Bor County alone and currently seeking safety in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Awerial County which is across the river from Bor town.



“Following the political and military events of mid-December when targeted violence erupted in Juba, capital of South Sudan, conflict has steadily escalated. Now, more than four months later, we are witnessing events that have all the hallmarks of genocide. The split in South Sudan’s army—the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA)—has been largely along ethnic lines, primarily between the Dinka, the largest tribal group in the South, and the Nuer, the second largest tribal group. As a consequence of this split, what appeared initially to be a vehement demand for governance reforms—but without evident military goals—has developed into a full-scale military rebellion, with violence escalating into something like “symmetric warfare” between two forces that are comparably trained and armed.” The Daily Beast, April 29, 2014

Now, six months later, the region remains unstable and many people are afraid to return to their homes. After decades of conflict, the only hope is the love and grace of Christ that can bring unity to the people and peace to the nation.

Urgent Prayer Requests

- We are currently without a working vehicle making it very difficult to see patients unable to travel to the clinic in Bor town. This is an extremely urgent need.
- As the rainy season arrives, bringing with it increased illness and malaria outbreaks, please remember the health of the MCH staff so that they may continue to serve.
- Please pray for peace and security to return to the region.
- Pray for children born in the midst of this crisis. The conditions and lack of food have increased the already rampant incidence of infant mortality.
- Pray for PCC to provide the much needed healthcare and spiritual support to our brothers and sisters in South Sudan



Some of the staff at Memorial Christian Hospital at a meeting to determine the best way to serve the community during this time of crisis.

Memorial Christian Hospital Opens Clinics in Bor Town and IDP Camp

In response to the lack of security and vacated population around Werkok and Memorial Christian Hospital (MCH), the MCH staff have postponed reopening the hospital and instead have opened temporary clinics in Bor town at Mission Garden of Christ (MGC) and at the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camp at Awerial. The Bor town clinic opened in April and the IDP camp clinic in May. MCH is not doing surgeries at this time, but is being kept very busy with the urgent healthcare needs of the community.

Unlike Werkok, security in Bor town has improved and some people are returning to their homes from the IDP camps and the other places to which they fled. Schools and businesses are now opening in Bor town. Due to this differential in security it is obvious that for the moment Bor is the best place for the staff to serve the health needs of the people. Please pray with us that this “fragile” stability in Bor town continues and that stability also returns to the whole area so that all the people may return to their homes. The team has also rented a building for a temporary clinic in the Displaced Persons Camp across the river and are serving the needs of 100,000 displaced people who have relocated to that area.



Abraham Bol, a nurse with Memorial Christian Hospital, pictured here receiving patients at the temporary MCH clinic in Bor town.

South Sudan Trip Report

David Bowman just returned from South Sudan after a successful 10 day trip. This was Mr. Bowman’s 15th trip to South Sudan in the 10 years since founding PCC. This trip was unique in many ways compared to previous trips. Bor County, where MCH is located, was “ground zero” for the main battles between the rebels and the government.



Dr. Gai greets David Bowman when he arrives at Mission Garden of Christ, the location of the new temporary clinic for MCH.

God answered your prayers by protecting the hospital when rebels were using Werkok as a base camp to invade Bor. The village of Werkok was burned to the ground but Memorial Christian Hospitals is still standing and the rebels never even ventured into the hospital. MCH was preserved intact and all of the staff reached safety and now are serving the traumatized people of Bor County. This is a direct answer to your prayers for the hospital.

Security still remains a concern for people traveling to the area, but David, along with Deng Jongkuch and Kevin Kinsinger, put faith in God and traveled to South Sudan in spite of the risk. They knew that it was important to see first hand the struggles that the MCH staff are facing and to demonstrate love and support from the PCC community.

When PCC built the hospital 10 years ago, the goal was to hand it over to South Sudanese when the time was right. Even in the midst of this crisis, plans are coming together for the Sudanese to take more responsibility and move toward that goal. David encountered a spirit of mutual agreement when discussing the transition process with MCH employees and Pastor Stephen who will manage the hospital under the organization of Mission Gardens of Christ (MGC). PCC will take supporting roles and continue raising funds for the hospital. PCC is in a process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding that will serve to guide the transitional process in the future.