



CWRUPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 2015

Priscilla's Long Journey to Safety

Priscilla Nyakek Deng was making a dash with her husband and two small sons to reach the United Nations camp for internally displaced people when someone shot her husband. The children saw his body and fell over it wailing. It was December 24, 2013. Priscilla was pregnant with twins.

"I never thought I would make it. I thought we would die. But God gave me strength."

She forced her children to leave their father's body so they could make it to safety. They arrived at the camp but stayed only one day, fearing nearby mortar shelling. On Christmas, Priscilla's family, along with an orphaned boy who was paralyzed, continued their journey to escape the violence in South Sudan and find refuge in Ethiopia.

She had been walking for a week when she gave birth to twin boys.

Priscilla stayed in an abandoned village that had become a stopping point for

refugees. Two weeks later, she set off again. She walked another three weeks, surviving with her children by eating leaves and tree bark. She saw many fellow travelers die of hunger, thirst, and disease.

Violence was a constant threat. "There was a lot of shooting," Priscilla said through an interpreter following a worship service at a church built by the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia (ECCSS) in the Lietchour refugee camp.

The United Nations reports that pro-government militias in South Sudan have been responsible for killing thousands of refugees, including children, and looting whatever possessions refugees manage to carry with them.



Priscilla also had to protect her family from lions, wild dogs, and crocodiles that claimed the lives of other refugees. "I never thought I would make it. I thought we would die," she said. "But God gave me strength. When I got tired, I prayed."

When she finally reached the Burebiey Refugees Reception Centre in Gambella, a crossing point from South Sudan into Ethiopia, and saw that her family would be safe, she wept. At the

center, she was assigned to the Lietchour camp.

Life in the camp remains hard. Obtaining food and other necessities is difficult. Priscilla said she was grateful for the assistance from the ECCSS and Covenant World Relief, which included food, a tent, mosquito net, and blankets. "They saved my life."

Support more families like Priscilla's at CovChurch.org/cwr.

—Stand Friedman

Kids Helping Kids: Clean Water

The Kids Helping Kids: Clean Water curriculum for children is now available. Children in your church can learn about the worldwide water crisis and make a difference. This free guide can be used to supplement your regular Christian formation time with children in just 5-10 minutes.

Resources available now at CovChurch.org/cwr



You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. —GALATIANS 5:13

Breaking the Water Jug in Honduras

LAST YEAR I visited Los Limones, a very remote community in the mountains of Honduras. We listened to the desperate pleas for help to provide access to water. An elder in the village said, "We have slaughtered a lot of chickens to serve people who come here to investigate our water situation, but nothing has come of it." Time after time their hopes were raised only to be dashed when they were told that their village is too remote and therefore it was too costly to provide access to water.



This April, I returned to Los Limones to celebrate the completion of their water system. Although most of the funding came through CWR and our partner Water 1st, all of the labor was carried out by the community themselves. They even contributed some of the materials including sand and gravel. There was great rejoicing in this amazing accomplishment. Every household now has a sink with clean

running water and a latrine.

During the ceremony a woman got up on the stage holding her clay water jug. With a shout of joy she tossed her jug proclaiming, "I never have to carry water again!" I now have a piece of that broken water jug in my office to remind me of this special occasion when the whole community of Los Limones gathered to celebrate and give thanks to God for the precious gift of water.

—Dave Husby

Relief and Recovery Continues

THE DEVASTATION after the earthquake in Nepal is hard to fathom and the monsoon season is looming and threatening more loss and destruction. Your gifts to Nepal relief are providing life-saving assistance including temporary shelter, water and sanitation, pots and pans for cooking, food, blankets, soap and hygiene items, and medical care. CWR will be working in India and Nepal following this disaster for months and possibly for years to come, depending on the amount of funding. Continue to give for Nepal earthquake relief and recovery online or by mailing a gift to CWR.



CWR at Your Church

CWR IS AVAILABLE TO VISIT YOUR CHURCH, preach on Sunday, lead a Bible study or Christian formation class, meet with your mission committee, or host special events. Contact us now if you would like to schedule a visit.



PROJECT BLUE
COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

1 in 10

people in the world do not have access to **clean water**.

1.8
BILLION

people use drinking water sources **contaminated** by human waste.

840,000

people **die from diarrhea** every year as a result of unsafe drinking water. **Over a third are children.**

In less than
10
YEARS

almost **half of the world's population** will be living in water-stressed areas.

Learn more and get involved at
CovChurch.org/projectblue



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

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