



CWRUPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2014

Displaced by War

On a recent trip to the Central African Republic, I listened to heartbreaking stories of people who had been forced to flee their villages because of the violence. Some had bandages on their heads and bodies where they had been cut by machetes. One bandaged woman shared how she had watched her husband get hacked to death by a machete. It was encouraging to see how CWR partner CEFA is responding to those who are suffering and had to flee their homes.

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The Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan (ECCSS) is also responding to the crisis of war. The ECCSS began in 1998 in refugee camps in Gambella, Ethiopia. Thousands had fled from their homes in Sudan to these refugee camps

because of the fighting with the north. In 2005, when the peace agreement was signed many of the refugees returned to their homes. ECCSS churches were started in many locations along with schools and other programs to serve the poor. In 2011, the Republic of South Sudan was born with great celebration. However fighting broke out last December between rival groups and the situation became so dire that once again the leaders of the ECCSS have relocated to Gambella. Refugee camps are swelling in numbers.

In the midst of these two major crises, CEFA and the ECCSS are committed to serving



A child helps distribute food aid in the Central African Republic.

those who have been displaced because of the fighting in their respective countries. Please join us as we seek to stand with these partners as they provide immediate relief as well as long-term recovery.

You can designate gifts for these disaster relief projects online or by sending a gift in the mail marked "CWR Emergency Relief." You can add an additional description for the country of your designation.

Kids Helping Kids: Refugees

The Kids Helping Kids: Refugees curriculum for children is now available for churches. This free supplemental guide will explore questions like "What does it mean to flee your home?" "How does someone become a refugee?" "What is it like to live in a refugee camp?" This twelve-part 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



"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."— JOHN 13:34-35

CWR Values at Work Around the World

The mission of Covenant World Relief is to love, serve, and work together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized.

What follows is an overview of our values and examples of how those values have been lived out through CWR partners and projects in the last year.

Transforming Individuals, Families, and Communities

We value the quality of our impact more than the quantity of people we impact (depth over breadth).

100+

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING
CLEAN WATER IN HONDURAS
FOR THE FIRST TIME

Representing the Kingdom

We seek to demonstrate the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

11

CHURCHES STARTED BECAUSE OF ONE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN **INDIA**

Strengthening Local Communities

Our programs are initiated locally and local assets are utilized. We work *with* the community, rather than *for* the community.

18

PROJECTS **PROVIDING VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND CREATING JOBS**

Working in Partnership

We collaborate with local partners, relying on their expertise, experience, and networks. We value Covenant connected relationships.

\$1.7M

DISTRIBUTED TO
65 PARTNER PROGRAMS
AROUND THE WORLD

Restoring Dignity

We affirm that all people are made in God's image and we seek the restoration of their God-given identity.

11

PROGRAMS WITH **REFUGEES**,
SHOWING RESPECT AND
NURTURING SELF-RELIANCE

Serving the Most Vulnerable

We love and serve the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, or age.

20

DISASTER RELIEF
PROJECTS IN
TWELVE COUNTRIES

Seeking Justice

We work to address the root causes of injustice through reconciliation, peacemaking, and advocacy.

25

CHILDREN OF COMMERCIAL
SEX WORKERS IN **INDIA** NOW
RECEIVING AN EDUCATION

Thanks from South Sudan

Below is a note of gratitude sent from Matthew, the project coordinator for the Vulnerable and Orphaned Children (VOC) project in South Sudan.

"We are very grateful to work in partnership with CWR while serving the poor and the marginalized people in the kingdom of God. The VOC project has gone through four consecutive phases and is heading into the fifth phase in South Sudan and the western Gambella region of Ethiopia. It is an essential project that has met the real needs of the destitute and poor people.



With his wife, Matthew celebrates receiving his master's degree in community development.

"The project has relieved many from the agonies and mitigated their sufferings. It has also gone further by changing and transforming people's lives and shaping their future destinies. The project has trained more than eighty widows and guardians in various skills, which has enabled most of them to live in self reliance. There are more than forty children with various chronic diseases that were cured by this project. There are also more than fifty orphans and disabled children who were sponsored by the VOC in various levels of schools where they are studying.

"We are grateful for your partnership!"

For more information on the Vulnerable and Orphaned Children project in South Sudan, visit CovChurch.org/cwr.

Young Community Developers

"Incredible young people!" This was the sentiment of the CWR team that recently visited the Family Development Foundation (FDF) in Monterrey, Mexico. During a meeting with some of the leaders, Ed Delgado, president of CHET (training center for Hispanic church leaders), asked four high-school students how they would engage with a new community. These students grew up in neighborhoods near FDF and became involved in the organization through its community programs. Their responses were:



- Do an assessment of the community.
- Pray and seek what God would have us do.
- Identify leaders.
- Determine the available resources, both inside and outside the community.
- Develop a strategy and plan.

The CWR team was amazed at how these high-school students, at their young age, already possess a depth of understanding and experience in community development.

From Death to New Life

Wirote's mother had begun preparing for his death, which seemed imminent. His funeral photograph had been taken and framed. Wirote was succumbing to AIDS. But in his weakened and seemingly hopeless state, he began to receive care from the Center for HIV/AIDS Affected Communities (CHAC), and his life was transformed. With medication his strength returned. He began following Jesus.

Fast-forward several years. Wirote is now the leader of the Singha Nakon support group, one of nine such groups in southern Thailand. CWR is partnering with the Sustainable Development Research Foundation (SDRF) in developing a CHAC center in Ranote. This center will provide training and medical services as well as income generation through aquaculture. During a recent visit we joined a worship service of Wirote's support community. After sharing, prayer, communion, and a string-tying service, fifteen people were baptized. Wirote said that there were several others that wanted to be baptized but the timing didn't work out for them. Over the past few years there have been hundreds from the HIV/AIDS affected communities who have been baptized and are now, like Wirote, blessing the lives of others affected by HIV/AIDS.

Wirote (left) pictured with Nujon, the leader of the Sustainable Development Research Foundation.



Gratitude and Giving Calendar

Looking for a way to use your soup-can banks with your family or church? A free "Gratitude and Giving Calendar" is available on our website to assist you. Visit CovChurch.org/cwr.