



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

South Sudan & Ethiopia

A CHURCH'S RESILIENT RESPONSE

After the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, the people of God were driven out of Jerusalem by persecution. According to Acts 8:4, "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." Imagine the courage it took to preach the good news of Jesus while fleeing persecution and mourning loved ones who were lost to violence. What kind of people would do this? The people of the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia!

In 2022, the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia (ECCSSE) celebrated its 25th anniversary (*pictured above*). It is a church born out of suffering, a church of people who experienced violent atrocities because of their faith in Christ. In a region marked by mass killings, torture, and war crimes, more than 400,000 people were killed, and 4.6 million people were displaced. After 22 years of civil war, Sudan divided and South Sudan became a new nation in 2011. Today, millions remain in refugee camps, and resilient brothers and sisters of the ECCSSE continue to trust in the Lord, preach the gospel, and meet the broad needs of their people. The ECCSSE has planted more than 400 churches, as well as numerous



relief and development projects in partnership with CWRD.

The 25th anniversary celebration was a joyful occasion. Thousands of people gathered in Gambela, Ethiopia, where the ECCSSE first began. It was also a celebration of the partnership between the ECCSSE and the Covenant Church in North America. Adam Edgerly, director of CWRD, had the joy of representing the Covenant there, along with Pastor James Tang, global personnel; Josef Rasheed, regional coordinator of Africa; his wife, Rochelle; as well as Harper Edgerly, Adam's daughter. Pastor Mathew Jack Moses, president of the ECCSSE, said our presence was encouraging to the leaders of the church, and bringing our family members on the trip communicated to them that we all are family.

The trip also included visits to ministries where CWRD partners with

the ECCSSE, including the Vulnerable and Orphaned Children's (VOC) project and the Widows' Gardens project, both of which are part of the ECCSSE's holistic response to the impact of the war. Through activities that equip children to succeed in school and offer vocation and agricultural training to widows of the war, the ECCSSE is meeting the spiritual, social, psychological, and physical needs of those who have been most impacted by the conflict's atrocities.

As CWRD, we believe that a commitment to long-term partnership is crucial to transformational work, and we are particularly grateful to join with the ECCSSE that beautifully reflects the early church in Acts. Join us in celebrating this partnership as well as the work God is doing through all of our global partners.

"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."

ACTS 8:4

Thank you to all of the Covenant churches that participated in CWRD Sunday in the fall!

We are thankful for your support and ongoing commitment to Covenant World Relief and Development. CWRD Sunday is typically highlighted on the third Sunday in November, but churches can highlight CWRD or one of our partners any time of year!

SCAN HERE
TO ACCESS
CWRD SUNDAY
MATERIALS.



Ukraine Update

TRAUMA COUNSELING
AND WINTER HOUSING



Since the early days of the war in Ukraine, the Covenant has responded to the crisis generously, donating more than \$900,000 to relief efforts in the region. Through our partnerships with Medical Teams International, World Relief, and the International Federation of Evangelical Churches, CWRD provided immediate emergency medical care, hygiene kits, food and transportation, and trauma counseling for Ukrainian refugees who fled into Poland, Moldova, and other nearby countries.

In June, we traveled to Poland and Romania with Hope International Ministries (HIM) to visit refugees in the region and to evaluate the evolving crisis. In addition to providing emergency aid to families fleeing the violence, CWRD is

currently partnering with HIM to provide children's camps, trauma counseling workshops for Ukrainian refugee women (pictured above, left), housing in western Europe, and construction of emergency homes for displaced people within Ukraine. For families who lost everything due to the war, these small, simple structures (pictured above, right) will keep them warm and dry in the winter weather.

The impacts of the war continue to be felt beyond the borders of the crisis, specifically in countries dependent on Ukraine and Russia for wheat and other resources.

Beginning on Giving Tuesday 2022, Covenanters were invited to respond to the rise in food insecurity in our world. To join in the response, visit covchurch.org/hunger.

\$557,100

IN GRANT FUNDING
SINCE 2013

9

TOTAL
GRANTS

10 years

OF SERVICE



PICTURED:
IN OCTOBER, OUR
TEAM HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO TRAVEL TO
LEBANON AND
PERSONALLY
THANK SOME OF
THE STAFF FOR
THEIR WORK.
SOME FACES
BLURRED FOR
PRIVACY.

Medical Teams International

Since 2013, CWRD has partnered with Medical Teams International in the Bekaa region of Lebanon delivering crucial care to refugees fleeing conflict in Syria. CWRD has provided \$557,100 in grant funding to help establish and strengthen health systems as well as provide health education and medical screenings among refugees from Syria in the Bekaa Valley. After nearly a decade of service in this region, the MTI project has concluded. Many of the MTI staff will remain in the area, working with a variety of organizations. We are thankful for the amazing work of MTI over the past ten years and are currently evaluating other partners in the region as we seek to continue our care and commitment to Syrian refugees.



**More people are
displaced from
their homes
today than at
any other time
in history.**



Covenant churches have an opportunity to respond to the crisis by participating in the newly revised Refugee Journey. Engage in the story of refugee families from Syria and Sudan and hear how they are similar to and different from Ukrainian refugee stories.

**To learn more, visit
covchurch.org/refugeejourney.**



Covenant World Relief
and Development

PARTNERS IN TRANSFORMATION



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Learn more and give at covchurch.org/cwrld.