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# CWRD UPDATE

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. 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*). It is a church born out of suffering, a church of people who experienced violent atrocities because of their faith in Christ. Today, our 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. The Vulnerable and Orphaned Children's (VOC) project and the Widows' Gardens project 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.**

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

ACTS 8:4

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# 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 nearly \$1 million 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.



The war in Ukraine has had a ripple effect in many areas including the refugee crisis and greater food insecurity around the world. Consider giving a gift to commemorate the February 24 anniversary of the invasion.

To learn more ways you can engage in the conversation, visit [covchurch.org/cwrdr](http://covchurch.org/cwrdr).

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