



# Report

## Celebrating the Spirit of Christmas in Sudan!



For the last three years, we have seen large numbers of South Sudanese, many of them former parishioners prior to the independence of South Sudan, returning to Khartoum after fleeing conflict and violence in the South. The dream of a peaceful and prosperous future for this newest of the world's countries has, for the time being, faded and vanished. Those returning to our parish – mainly Shilluk people from Upper Nile – have harrowing tales to tell of what they have seen. Many come with the few belongings they could carry before they ran for their lives. The fighting continues between majority Dinka government forces and the Nuer militias loyal to the deposed Vice-President Riek Machar. As ever in these inter-tribal conflicts, it is the poor of whatever tribe who suffer the most and are left with nothing.

The need for reconciliation and forgiveness is more crucial than ever. In our own parish, members of all the warring parties in the South are present in our Mass centers. We need to continue to focus on working for conflict management and on building peace among them. Our churches and parish centers will be packed with Christians who will come to celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior whom the prophets foretold as the Prince of Peace. We pray for the courage to put our own selfish interests and partisan affiliations to one side – whatever our tribe or color or race – and to embrace with openness, sincerity and generosity our brothers and sisters with whom we share life's journey. On behalf of all in St. Stephen's Parish in Khartoum, may I wish you all a very peaceful and blessed Christmas.

*Fr. Paul Hannon, M.Afr.*

## In Support of Widows!

In the City of Bukavu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many widows are faced with not only the sad loss of their husband but other losses that affect their identity and ability to be self-sufficient. They are now single parents and must raise their children and provide food, shelter, medical care and emotional security.



*The widows of Bukavu with their sponsor and chaplain.*

The Fraternity of Our Lady of the Resurrection in Bukavu came to the aid of the widows knowing that they lacked the skills or a trade to make a living and support their families. The Fraternity initiated the Stockbreeding Project to give employment and financial independence to each widow to care for themselves and their children. The work entails breeding pigs and tending to the cows and sheep in order to obtain milk for their children.

Your support of this project helped purchase pigs and material to build cages for the pigs.

The goal of this project is to “reduce the heavy pain of these widows”. The photo above is evidence of the joy that has lifted the pain by your generosity to each widow and their children.

## The Importance of Water!

I think we would all agree that water is crucial to our human survival. No one knows this better than the communities around Lumezi Parish in Chipata, Zambia.

The parish covers a total of 109 miles with over 1,600 households. For many, farming is the primary source of income and farmers depend on rain which is at a tipping point due to the ever-increasing effects of climate change.



For the last few years, the region has experienced erratic rainfall which is causing a serious shortage of safe drinking water. Most communities are sharing water from unsafe sources which are also used by the animals. Consequently, there was an increase in child morbidity attributed to water borne diseases.



The need for clean water was so great and so urgent that the parish asked our help to drill and install two borehole wells. The parish sent the two photographs to show off the wells and the excitement and joy of having clean water each day.



## For Just one Year!

Since 1960, Our Lady of Fatima Orphanage Home in Isalearo Osogbo, Nigeria mission has been to provide a home and care for babies who have lost their mothers during childbirth. The Franciscan Sisters operate the home and our Missionaries assist with the spiritual needs.



So many babies have been taken care of over the years and eventually placed for adoption. Currently, the home has twenty-four babies and two handicapped children. Many people and churches provide support but the need is so great that the Sisters reached out to us for funds to care for each baby for just one year.



They asked for the basic items for baby care...infant formula, cereal, diapers, clothing and toiletries. Our donors' response was overwhelming. Thank You!

## Extend a Hand of Support!

These are the words of the administrator, Brother Benedict of St. Bernard's Health Center in Songea, Tanzania. I'm sure he has expressed this message in the past and will do so in the future because preventive health care for women and infants is so vital for the present and future generations.

Since the Tanzanian government does not supply hospital equipment and materials for private hospitals, Brother Benedict asked for our support. The laboratory and labor rooms are completed in the health center and ready for medical equipment.



With the funds raised through this appeal, the health center was able to purchase an oxygen concentrator, machine for hemoglobin measurement and a clinical chemistry Analyzer.

When we asked you to extend a hand of support, you heard our call for women and children.

Happy  
New Year!



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Help us continue our Mission in Africa!

## CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER

### *What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?*

Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70 ½ or older to make a tax-wise gift to non-profit organizations, including the *Missionaries of Africa*.

### *Benefits of Charitable IRA Rollovers*

- Satisfies requirements for annual minimum IRA withdrawals.
- Avoids federal and in some cases, state income tax. \*
- Provides vital and ongoing support to the Missionaries and their mission in Africa.

### *Guidelines*

- Donors age 70 ½ or older at the time of distribution.
- Gifts must be transferred directly from your IRA account to the Missionaries of Africa.
- Charitable gifts up to \$100,000 can be given each year.

### *How to make a Charitable Gift?*

Donors should contact their IRA administrator to request an IRA distribution transfer to the *Missionaries of Africa*.

Instruct your administrator to issue a check to:

#### **Missionaries of Africa**

Development Office

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*Any questions, please call our Development Office 1-877-523-4662*

*\*The Charitable IRA Rollover is a federal law, consult with your tax preparer for your state regulations.*



MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

## Report

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- Celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our projects in Africa.
- Matching Gift -make your donation count twice. Ask your employer about a Matching Gift Program.
- Stock Donation -appreciated securities: stocks, bonds or annuities provide the same benefit as a cash gift.
- Charitable Gift Annuities.
- Life Insurance -if you have a life insurance policy consider naming the Missionaries of Africa as a beneficiary.
- Bequests – consider naming the Missionaries of Africa in your will.

For more information call 1-877-523-4662