

WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER
JULY 2011



Voices of the Movement

**One Heart, One Voice
for a Divided Sudan**



Distribution of survival kits in Sudan

One Heart, One Voice for a Divided Sudan

by Michele Rickett

Michele Rickett is founder, president and CEO of She Is Safe (formerly Sisters in Service). SIS is an innovative ministry that informs, mobilizes and equips advocates for global outreach to women and children in the least Christian regions. She travels internationally to create partnerships with indigenous women and bring their insights and stories to audiences throughout the U.S.

Michele is co-author of "Ordinary Women," a course that guides a developing spiritual life for individuals or groups, and graduates trained mentors. She has also authored "Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage" and "Daughters of Hope: Stories of Witness and Courage," published by InterVarsity Press.

Amina was about six years old, she recalls, when she hid during the nighttime attack that wiped out her village in Sudan. She and a few other survivors walked four days and nights to find safety, but the army found them first.

"Every night the soldiers raped some of us. One night I couldn't endure it and I fainted, so they beat me and beat me." Later when most of the soldiers were gone, three of the girls saw their chance as a guard went into deep sleep, and they agreed, "It would be better to die trying to run than to stay with these men," and so they risked an escape and made it to a nearby camp for displaced people.

Amina's story is just one tragic account emerging from one of the world's most violent, dangerous regions. And it may get worse. New York Times journalist, Nicholas Kristof, reports that "there is a growing risk that Sudan will be the site of the world's bloodiest war in 2011..."

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A history of conflict ✦ Conflict in Sudan is nothing new. Over the last 20 years some two million black Africans have been killed by the assigns of the Arab-Islamic Sudanese government (though the government denies involvement.) Five million people remain internally displaced as a result of the country's numerous conflicts. Eighty percent of those are women and children – including many widows and orphans. Over the years some Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps have become permanent settlements without the basic necessities of water, food, sanitation, healthcare, and protection.

Attacks on people in and around IDP camps are constant. Imagine for a moment that you are a woman who has already lost nearly everything: your husband, your sons, your family farm, your honor. You have seen people in your village hacked to death, and your friends raped. Then you walked wearily for endless dangerous miles to find a place of safety.

Kadijah was 16 when her village was attacked. Also a survivor, she went along with the soldiers who made her cook, wash clothes and have sex with them. She bears bite scars on her shoulders and arms from their hateful abuse. Kadijah begged the leader to

kill her and end her nightmare. To her astonishment, he had her marched to the edge of the jungle, and set her free. But free to do what?

She numbly made her way to an IDP camp where she was reunited with a cousin, Asha, who was pregnant and had small children. As the two teens gathered firewood just outside the camp to cook a meal, they were attacked by a soldier, who raped and slaughtered Asha and her unborn baby. Kadijah hid in shock under a bush only a few yards from the attack. Life in the camps is a nightmare, and those who can – will escape.

Ethnic and regional warfare ✦

Tension at the ill-defined border has already begun over the natural resources, mainly oil, present in the south. Reuters News reports:

"Fighting broke out in earnest on June 5 in Southern Kordofan -- a northern oil state that borders the south -- and has escalated to include artillery and warplanes as the north has tried to crush what it calls an armed rebellion."

"At least 73,000 people were initially displaced throughout central and eastern localities of the Southern Kordofan state as a result of fighting," it stated, citing figures from the Sudanese Red Crescent, Humanitarian Aid Commission, and U.N. agencies in Kadugli.

While the international community has focused on trying to keep peace between North and South, attacks

have grown more ferocious in the Darfur region. The mystery to some is that while this is an Islamic region, it is being attacked by Islamic forces.

It's no mystery, really. The Darfurians are black Africans, and the ethnic cleansing continues and intensifies at every opportunity. Only a few humanitarian agencies have been allowed to work in Darfur, and those few were expelled in 2009 when the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudan's president for crimes of genocide.

Hope for revival ✦ Reportedly 200,000 people who fled from the south have now escaped IDP camps, and have returned to the rubble of their communities to rebuild.

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Since early June the Sudanese Armed Forces have been targeting Southern Kordofan with airstrikes and shelling. The government says that they are fighting an armed rebellion. A report from a Sudan analyst who just left the area is calling it "a war against a minority group."

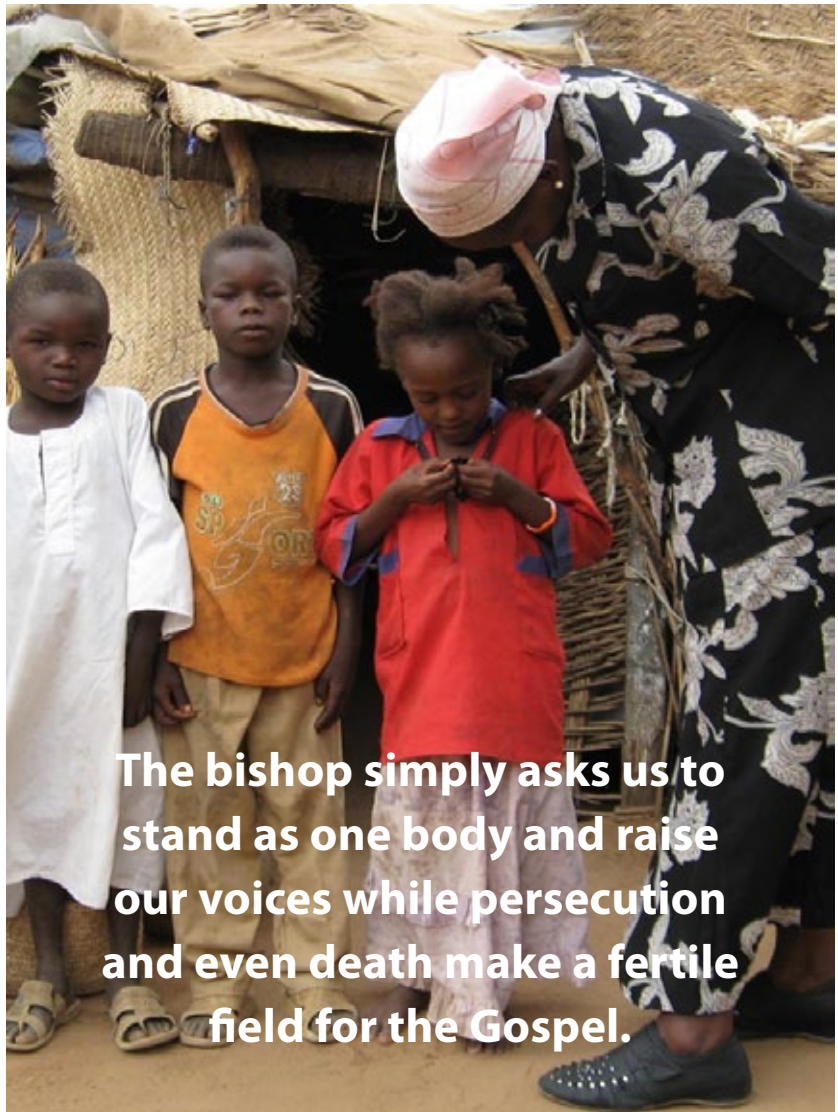
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kindness to the displaced, the widows, and orphans.

The June 16, 2011 plea takes us there, on the ground, in a camp. A worker in Kadugli, a U.N. camp under heavy bombardments pleads, "This is a call of hope and solidarity. Please advocate and mobilize the world so that we are released or at least our security granted..."

I echo the plea. Please answer His call of hope and solidarity by becoming an advocate, a voice for Sudan to mobilize God's people to save lives.



The bishop simply asks us to stand as one body and raise our voices while persecution and even death make a fertile field for the Gospel.

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO STAND WITH SUDAN'S BELIEVERS

- * *Be the informed "Sudan Voice" for your study or prayer group*
- * *Contact She Is Safe to become a SIS Advocate for Sudan*
- * *Sponsor a Prayer Walk for Sudan at your church*
- * *Gather a Sudan Team and create fundraisers for survival kits, schools, or vocational training*
- * *Write an article for your local newspaper about your team's efforts for Sudan*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear World Christian Community:

July 9 marked a declaration of independence for the country of Sudan: the South seceded from the North.

As America recently celebrated its own birthday on July 4th, we can identify in part with Sudan's historical event. Yet while the nation divides into two, massive killing is still occurring. Reading this month's feature article by Michele Rickett, founder, president and CEO of She Is Safe (formerly Sisters In Service), will give you a close up view of a nation at civil war. While I gasped in horror at gruesome details, I was heartened by the fact that fellow Christians in Sudan are undertaking Gospel work – even at the expense of their physical lives – because they have power in Christ to do spiritual work in a war between religious groups, the government and civilians.

May we join with our fellow co-workers in prayer and other tangible ways, as suggested by Michele, to help bring physical and spiritual freedom to those oppressed in Sudan. After all, the Lord Almighty who brought our spiritual ancestors, the nation of Israel out of a Egypt, and who has also freed us from bondage to sin by Christ's shed blood, also has compassion upon His children in Sudan.

For His Glory and Kingdom,



Managing Editor

lillianl@wcfellowship.org

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT

Regional WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Prayer Groups

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. Join one or start your own!

For more information e-mail prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Seattle (Tukwila, WA)**

Contact: Seattle-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **L.A. (Whittier, CA)**

Contact: LA-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Mid-peninsula NorCal (San Mateo, CA)**

Contact: midpeninsula-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **S.F. Monthly Missions Meeting (San Francisco, CA)**

Contact: SF-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **East/South Bay NorCal (Fremont, CA)**

Contact: SouthBay-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **South Bay NorCal (Mountain View, CA)**

Contact: sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

"Let these prayers of the saints be sweet smelling incense to Your heart." — Matt Redman



OPPORTUNITIES

Seminar Coordinators

Vision and purposes ♦ The purposes of the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) include equipping, activating, networking, and partnering with individual Asian-American World Christians and those who identify closely with the Asian-American worldview, and their churches. To this aim, WCF hopes to host more regional one-day seminars with relevant workshop content throughout the year in addition to the annual World Christian Conference (WCC).

Seminar coordinators wanted ♦ WCF is looking for a regional seminar coordinator each for the Southern California and Seattle areas. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve God through the WCF movement and have gifts and talents in the areas of event planning, marketing, and networking please contact us at info@wcfellowship.org.

Accountant and/or Grant Writer

Vision and purposes ♦ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is committed to fiduciary standards that are above reproach and continuously strive to develop and improve the organization's financial and financial resource systems.

Accountant and/or Grant writer: help wanted ♦ If God has gifted you with experience and talent in the area of accounting and research/grant writing AND you believe in the vision of WCF of mobilizing more Asian-American Christians for God's global purposes, please consider serving in this area. If you are interested in serving as an accountant and/or grant writer for WCF, please contact info@wcfellowship.org.

WCF PURPOSES

The purposes of **World Christian Fellowship (WCF)** are to challenge and empower individual Christians and churches to:

- **Equip** committed Asian-American World Christians and World Christians who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview who are active disciples and evangelists for the nations, both in local and overseas ministry.
- **Activate** these individuals and churches to the nations through prayer, training, guidance, and support.
- **Facilitate** teamwork and networking among individuals, churches, and other organizations with a World Christian vision.
- **Partner** with other organizations and networks with complementary objectives so that we as World Christians can unite towards the goal of building up the universal body of Christ.

DONATIONS

Donations ▶ If you would like to make a charitable contribution, please send checks payable to *World Christian Fellowship* and mail to P.O. Box 256, Mountain View, CA, 94042-0256. Make sure you include a valid address so that we can send you a tax-deductible receipt.



Voices of the Movement, the monthly online publication of WCF, serves to inspire and motivate the World Christian community through articles contributed by fellow World Christians. In its fourth year of publication, Voices of the Movement is also an archive of stories that document God's work through Asian-American World Christians and those who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview in the growth of His Kingdom on earth.

World Christian Fellowship
P.O. Box 256, Mountain View, CA, 94042-0256
www.wcfellowship.org | newsletter@wcfellowship.org

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