

Monday 8th April

South Sudan background

Pop: 13 million

Muslim: 6.2%

This link is to a 3-minute video of South Sudan, giving a great insight into this country:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGa6idoLG48>

The newest nation in Africa, South Sudan was once a part of Sudan. During the 1956 Sudanese independence from Britain, the south unsuccessfully tried to form its own nation. Religious and political division led to two civil wars, the first from 1955 - 1972 and the second from 1983 – 2005. Starvation, drought and violence killed 2.5 million people, mostly civilians, throughout these wars. The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended many tensions between the Arab north and the Black African south, and in 2011, with a 98% vote, the south seceded from Sudan.

Independent South Sudan had just two years of stability before a political dispute between the President and Vice President at the end of 2013 led the country into another civil war. Atrocities such as forced cannibalism, gang rape, death by burning and child abduction were all reported.

Despite attempted peace talks, the country continues to be divided by war. As well as rivalry between different political leaders, there are also ethnic tensions between different tribal groups. Today there are estimated to be between 7 million people in need, including 2 million internally displaced within South Sudan, while another 2 million have fled to neighbouring countries. South Sudan has also become one of the most dangerous places in the world for humanitarian workers.

Most of the South Sudanese population is either animist (believing that all natural things have spirits) or Christian. Muslims are estimated to make up only 6.2% of the population, but 22 Muslim people groups remain unengaged and in need of more workers to go to them.

- Pray for long-term peace and lasting stability to prevail in this fragile new nation, where righteous political leaders would recognise and serve the true needs of the nation.
- Pray for churches to remain united as they model peace and reconciliation to a watching world.
- Pray for all people to reject ethnic hatred, embrace the gospel and demonstrate love and forgiveness.
- Pray for committed new workers to bring the gospel to South Sudan's 22 unengaged Muslim people groups.

Source of some material: <https://prayercast.com/south-sudan.html>

Tuesday 9th April

Hope in the crisis – Andy and Leah’s story

There are many refugees living in South Sudan. When this country became independent from Sudan, the border between the two was not drawn at the border of the conflict. For instance, not all the



Muslim tribes who were opposed to the government of Sudan had their homelands in South Sudan. The Sudanese government regularly attacks the tribes living in the south of the country, attempting to drive them off their rich and fertile homeland. Many flee across the border into South Sudan, as well as into Chad and Ethiopia.

A worker, Andy, in South Sudan asked some of those refugees about their needs, to see how to establish contact with them and practically show them the love of Jesus. They said they were struggling to survive and support their families on rations from the World Food Programme. One of their greatest desires was to be able to farm again. Andy began a farming project 3 years ago with 200 farmers. This year there are over 1,400 farmers involved, representing 8 tribes. If we assume an average family size of 6 people, the project provides a first step towards sustainability for about 8,400 men, women and children.

Although the refugees are traditionally farmers, they lack the resources to farm. Andy liaises with local authorities to provide farmland. There is plenty available, but a lack of ownership is the problem. Andy and his wife Leah then provide seed and pesticides and any tools that are needed. Sorghum and maize are usually grown as food for the families, whilst sesame and groundnuts are sold as cash crops to provide income for clothing, healthcare and other food items. At the end of the farming season, every farmer returns 10% of their harvest to provide seed towards the following year’s projects.

The project also empowers the refugees to look after themselves and allows the farmers to teach the next generation the farming skills they have relied on for centuries.

The project provides many opportunities to share Jesus with the leaders and the people. Andy and Leah are known as Christian business people and during their business meetings with the tribal leaders and their farm committees, they are able to share stories from the Bible and offer prayer. With the favour of the tribal leaders they have open doors to the camps and are able to build relationships with the farmers and their families. They are also able to support and disciple the small but growing number of people who have come to Christ in recent years.

- We do thank and praise God for the success of the farming project so far. Pray for the project to expand, for the necessary finances and for regular rains during the farming season.
- Pray for Andy and Leah who need others to join them in this project and partner with them, both African believers and Frontiers field workers.
- Let’s pray they can make the most of the opportunities they have to reach out with the love of Jesus and that many will benefit through the project.

- Let's pray for refugees who have heard the gospel and who then return to their homeland, that they will then carry the gospel message back with them.

Wednesday 10th April

The refugees we prayed for yesterday are some of the 130,000 refugees from the Blue Nile state in the south of Sudan. There are over 20 small tribes represented in the 4 camps who Andy and Leah would like us to pray for:

- Relationships have been built with each of the leaders of some small tribes through the project, but there are no known followers of Jesus. Pray that many from these tribes will come to know Him and that God will call people to translate the Scriptures into their tribal languages.
- One of the largest tribes has leaders who choose 3 to 6 responsible farmers from their community to form a farming committee. These committees oversee the distribution of land, seeds and pesticides and the return of the 10% of the harvest to provide seeds for the following year's projects. Andy and Leah have 2 projects with this tribe, where there seems to be openness to the gospel. There are 3 small churches, one of which Andy and Leah are involved with. This fellowship is a growing group of young people, mainly women.

Pray that God will continue his work among this tribe and that many more will come to follow Jesus. Also pray for those from another organisation who are working to translate the Bible into their language.

- Pray for another tribe who also have a small church and for ongoing work on a Bible translation.
- One tribal leader sought out Andy and explained that he had become a follower of Jesus. He wanted to know how to disciple others and said he already had a group of interested men! Pray for him and the other men and for wisdom for Andy and Leah as they seek to help him.

Thursday 11th April

Sudanese Arabs

Pop: 460,000 Islam: 98%

This unreached people group lives mainly in Sudan and Egypt, but some have migrated to South Sudan. There they are not popular with the mainly African population there, although some intermarry with them.

Some live in small rural villages where they grow grains, vegetables and cotton, and raise livestock; all of which are used for food or trade. Clusters of mud-brick homes with dirt floors make up the villages. The homes are built close together, which reflects the close ties between the family members within the communities. Although farming is the chief occupation of the villagers, some of them have jobs as skilled carpenters, tailors, religious leaders, or barbers.

A large number of Sudanese Arabs have continued living the nomadic lifestyle of their ancestors.



They have temporary dwellings and move from place to place with their herds. Their economy is based on livestock production and trade. Nomadic Arabs in South Sudan have trouble finding adequate water for their livestock or medical care when they need it. Local people are understandably afraid that the livestock of these nomadic Arabs will spread diseases to their herds.

Other Sudanese Arabs live in towns or cities. They have a greater variety of occupations, but weaker family ties than those who live in the villages.

The Sudanese Arabs are Sunni Muslims, with a strong devotion to their faith. They need to hear about the saving power of Jesus.

- Pray for appropriate Christian materials to be provided for Arabs in South Sudan and for the Holy Spirit to anoint Christian broadcasts as they are aired among Sudanese Arabs.
- In Acts 16 we read: "There was a man from Macedonia who was asking him (Paul) and pleading with him, 'Please come! Please help us.'" Let's pray for workers like Andy and Leah to go to this people group and help them find the way to Jesus.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will complete the work begun in their hearts of Arabs in South Sudan through adequate discipleship.

Source: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15104/OD

Friday 12th April

Njalgulgule people

Pop: 2,600

Islam: 81%

Last week we prayed for the Daju Sila in Chad. The Njalgulgule are also one of the Daju people groups. They have only been reported in South Sudan. They live in the west near the border with the Central African Republic.

Njalgulgule are primarily grain farmers; growing mainly millet, sorghum and corn. They also hunt and gather predominantly honey, berries and wild fruits. Women perform much of the daily work; planting and sowing the crops, grinding the grain and cooking the meals. They are also the primary house-builders. Their typical home is round with a cone roof although in the towns, houses are often rectangular. They share community chores.

Most Njalgulgule are Muslim and they still practise many of their traditional religious customs including the building of straw shrines to their traditional high god Kalge whom they equate with Allah of Islam. They celebrate the traditional grain harvest by pouring out water and beer beneath either a sacred tree or stone.

- Njalgulgule need to know that only Jesus provides fullness of life and a way for mankind to find peace with God. Let's pray for them to come to know Him and the hope that he has given through his death and resurrection.

- They need to have the Scriptures available in their own language. Let's pray for translators who have a heart for this people and the necessary language skills to carry out Bible translation.
- Pray for believers to live among the Njalgulgule people to earn their trust and confidence, so that they may be of help to them in many practical ways.

Source: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13331/OD

Saturday 13th April

Last year Barnabas Aid reported on the plight of South Sudan and on the role of the church as a sign of unity amongst the warring factions. Different church denominations show how members of different ethnic groups can co-exist peacefully and work together for the good of others. Church leaders are often at the forefront of peace and reconciliation initiatives in South Sudan.

The church has also reached out as a haven for those displaced by the country's conflict. Recently, various churches have provided refuge for citizens who have been driven from their homes. The Christians of South Sudan have risen in a time of crisis to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a hurting nation, mobilising relief efforts to help those in need.

Watch this inspiring video set to the worship song He Reigns <https://vimeo.com/177952448>

- The first line of the song says: "It's the song of the redeemed rising from the African plain." Let's pray that this is truth for Muslims in South Sudan and all the Northeast African countries we have prayed for over the last few weeks. We can ask that this song resounds over this part of the world and Muslims here will be counted among the redeemed.
- Let's pray that from "every tribe, every tongue" in South Sudan we will hear "Glory, glory, hallelujah, He reigns."
- Let's pray for the church in South Sudan to continue to reach out to Muslim tribes as the hands and feet of Jesus.