2020 Annual Report

Persecution Project

Introduction

In 1995 while serving as a legislative aide for Rep. David Funderburk, I received an unexpected visit from a 7 ft 7 inch tall man in a tailored purple suit. As a child I had gone to see Manute Bol play for the Washington Bullets at the Capitol Center, but there is no way to describe how impressive a figure he was in real life.

Manute briefed me on the situation in Sudan and asked for help with legislation in the House Foreign Affairs Africa subcommittee. Two years later, I launched a campaign to expose persecution of Christians in Africa called "Persecution Project," and that led me on a journey in South Sudan and the Nuba mountains that has now exceeded 24 years.

This journey would not be possible without the active compassion of thousands of generous believers, who have partnered in this important ministry to the marginalized and forgotten. I am profoundly grateful to these friends , and I pray we can continue in this work together for many more years to come.

— Brad Phillips, President

Republic of Sudan in 2020

In 2011, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement's mandated RSD (referendum for self-determination) resulted in the division of Sudan into two countries.

Following the referendum, the contested Nuba mountain region found itself remaining inside the boundaries of an officially Islamic state— the Republic of Sudan. ICC-indicted war criminal, Omar al Bashir, declared his intention to strictly impose sharia in what remained of Sudan— especially in the contested regions of Nuba and Blue Nile. A genocidal campaign against the Nuba recommenced in June, 2011.

On April 11, 2019, after 30 years in power, Bashir was ousted by members of his own government. A ceasefire and negotiations have been in effect since, but the future for Nuba believers remain uncertain. The old Islamist establishment continues to cling to power.

The year 2020 was very hard for all Sudanese, but especially the Nuba region. While the world's attention was focused on Covid-19 response efforts, the Nuba experienced a massive population growth from returnees, while still battling the effects of a long-imposed blockade of its borders by Islamists in government.

While cautiously optimistic for the future, PPF remains committed to serving as a resource to the local Nuba church as it reaches out with the love of Christ.

Trauma Healing Workshop

Nuba Mountains, Southern Kordofan State (SKS)

The Nuba Mountains is a geographic area the size of Rwanda and Burundi combined. There are 19 counties in SKS, of which 17 are under the "rebel" SPLM-N administration, led by Chairman Abdelaziz Adam Al Hilu. In 1917, Christian missionaries journeyed to the town of Heiban in the Nuba mountains. The first Nuba convert was recorded in 1922.

Today, approximately five million ethnic Nubans live in Sudan (many of whom are in Khartoum, Omdorman and Port Sudan). An estimated two million reside in the contested region of Southern Kordofan (a.k.a. the Nuba mountains).

More than two million ethnic Nubans identify as Christian. The Nuba are both the most vibrant believers, and the most persecuted community of Christians in the country.

Medical Services

Medicines

In 2020, PPF provided **70 percent of all medicines** distributed in the Nuba mountains.

These medicines and supplies were distributed to **207 remote medical facilities**, including seven rural hospitals (Western Jebel, DOE-MOM-Gdel Referal Hospital, Tima, Kumo, GED Luwere, Tujore and Gigaiba Referral Hospital). Primary sponsorship was provided by Persecution Project at two of these hospitals—**Gigaiba and Tujore**.

Persecution Project provided **3,072 families with personal medical packs** along with other emergency relief supplies in underserved communities. In addition, PPF sponsored several remote clinics in Heiban and Um Dorein counties for more than 3,000 patients who could not access the two main referral hospitals.

Offloading Medicines

And Medical Supplies

Hospitals

Persecution Project provided fuel, cement and other materials for the ongoing **expansion of Gigaiba Referral Hospital** with special focus in 2020 on the completion of a new facility to house a **Maternity Ward.**

Gigaiba Referral Hospital, led by Dr. Ahmed Zakariah, provides medical service to an average of 3,000 patients per month— including an estimated 60 critical care patients.

Pastor Nabil, along with a small team of local pastors, leads a **weekly chaplaincy program** providing

Dr. Ahmed at Gigaiba Hospital

a spiritual anchor for patients and staff at Gigaiba Referral Hospital. Print and audio Nuba language scriptures, scripture resources and backpack movie projectors are among the resources available through the chaplaincy.

The hospital also provides a platform for women's ministry, including Dignity Kits and women's Bible studies led by Cabina Cartina and Medina Tutu Kafi.

A Room at the Gigaiba Maternity Ward

Dignity Kit Distribution

Safe Water

After war returned to the Nuba mountains in 2011, the most critical survival needs identified by Persecution Project were water, medicine and relief & shelter. Annual assessment and critical needs targets are developed by close cooperation with the Nuba Secretariat of Water and Engineering. Access to safe water in the Nuba mountains continues to be a challenge, especially as the population has increased from 1.2 million people to an estimated 2 million people during the past nine years. An average of 1,000 persons benefit from each borehole location.

Borehole Fixed

Repairing a Nuba Borehole

Borehole Being Used

In 2020, PPF repaired **95 safe water "boreholes**" in three counties.

Since launching the Safe Water Nuba Borehole Repairs Project, Persecution Project has performed a **total of 828 borehole repairs** improving access to clean and safe water to more than 800,000 people and their livestock.

In 2020...

- **Refugee kits** (Action Packs): Persecution Project distributed lifesaving refugee kits to 15,799 households.
- **Blankets:** Over 496 families received a new blanket.
- **Tarps:** 4,500 families received an emergency shelter tarp.
- **Compact Emergency Food (BP-5):** 23,904 boxes went to assist families.
- **5,513 women and girls were provided ladies washable hygiene kits,** (a.k.a. Dignity Kits).
- **2,700** families received **Gospel Radios**
- **Small dairies were provided to support 40 families** of pastors and evangelists in support of full-time ministry.
- **7 Motorbikes** for Nuba Pastors were delivered.
- **7,100 English and Arabic Audio Bibles** were distributed for family and village outreach
- **18,400 Nuba Bibles** were also distributed.
- **6 Nuba Evangelists Teams were equipped** with Evangelism Backpacks for remote Gospel outreach
- **More than 600 evangelists, pastors, and ministry leaders** from four counties attended conferences and workshops **sponsored by Persecution Project**.
- **111 pastors and evangelists received Trauma Healing Training** to serve their communities.

Action Pack Distribution

Audio Bible Distribution

Relief & Shelter

Tarps Protect Families

In addition to the basic survival need for medicines and clean water, war, persecution, and economic hardship in the Nuba has forcibly displaced much of the Nuba population, causing a dire need for basic relief and shelter items. Persecution Project has worked alongside the local church to provide tarps, refugee kits (action packs), clothing, blankets, compact emergency food (BP-5) and mosquito nets to the most affected communities. In 2020, the most affected areas targeted for support included Umdorein, Heiban, Tobo, Eastern Kadugli, and Delami.

Discipleship & Evangelism

The foundation of all Persecution Project ministry is the work of the Great Commission. By fellowshipping with local communities of believers and serving as a resource, we support the advance of the Gospel.

Bibles Distributed With Relief Packs

Pastors Attend a Conference

The primary impact of discipleship and evangelism ministry in the Nuba is achieved by providing scriptures, scripture resources, conferences and training events.

Conclusion

In 2021, we pray for wisdom as we approach the challenges and opportunities ahead in the two Sudans. A popular uprising which erupted in October of 2018 resulted in the overthrow of a brutal regime in 2019. Sudan is now in a critical transition period.

In 2020, a pandemic set in motion a global economic earthquake which, in 2021, could generate aftershocks worse than the initial tremors.

The real opportunity for the Sudan Church is to communicate the freedom and hope that comes from the transforming power of the Gospel.

We thank God for the team He is building, and your critical membership on this team!

Thank you for your generous and sacrificial giving which is used of God to accomplish every good work contained in this report.

Solo Deo Gloria

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

You can find a copy of our latest audited financial statement and use of resources chart at PersecutionProject.org/privacy-policy-legal.

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