



November 2007 Story
Portable Medical Clinics for Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan

Sudan, Africa's largest country, has been at war with itself for the past 17 years. Famine and war have brought untold suffering into the lives of millions of Sudanese people. More than 2 million have been killed, the economy devastated and over 5.2 million southern Sudanese people displaced as refugees. People suffer from malnutrition or starvation due to famine resulting from drought and war.

The ethnic groups in Sudan can be divided into two basic groups: Arabs and non-Arabs. The declaration of an Islamic Republic in 1983 imposed Islamic law on Muslim and non-Muslim alike. The result was political strife and civil war, and in some cases the persecution of Christians. Sunday worship services have been bombed, churches bulldozed and individuals have been persecuted in attempts to eliminate a viable Christian presence. Despite this suffering, the Christian church has continued to grow. The massive movement of people displaced by war and famine has provided opportunities to reach people with the Gospel. In 2001, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan (ELCS) had 5,000 members in 23 congregations. By 2005, the Sudanese church had doubled in size.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod World Relief and Human Care has worked closely with the ELCS to support education and medical programs. The need for medical, education and spiritual assistance is great in the midst of the strife and civil unrest. Through this mission grant two portable medical clinics, stocked with medical provisions and staffed by volunteer medical mission teams, will provide medical care to people in the provinces of West Equatoria and Upper Nile.

“Jesus sent his disciples out to preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick.”
(Luke 9:2) This mission grant will reach out to our neighbors with love and mercy.