

Sudan: Enormous Suffering

UMCOR Extends Its Humanitarian Efforts

"See, the home of God is among mortals."—Rev. 21:3b, NRSV



The United Methodist Committee on Relief will extend its work in the violence-torn Darfur region of western Sudan early in 2005.

The United Nations estimates that 70,000 people have been killed and 1.65 million pushed from their homes. In brief, the conflict is between "pastoral people," most of whom are Arabs, directed against "agricultural" or settled people, most of whom are African.

United Methodists Voice Concern

United Methodists, at their 2004 quadrennial legislative assembly, voiced concern about the enormous suffering there and asked the denomination's General Board of Global Ministries to monitor and report on conditions in Darfur, as well as to provide humanitarian assistance. UMCOR is a unit of the mission board.

Working through its ecumenical partners, UMCOR already has helped to provide displaced families with blankets, seeds, and tools, and children with educational supplies, along with funding temporary schools. Now, after sending a team into Darfur to assess needs, UMCOR is poised to offer direct services.

"I am pleased that we were able to send our own investigative team into Darfur to get a first-hand view of the situation," said the Rev. R. Randy Day, chief executive of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Church Answers God's Call to Serve

God calls Christians to be with vulnerable people wherever they are. In October 2004, the United Methodist global mission board designated \$100,000 to assist with the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. The investment is start-up money for UMCOR's new programs that will promote child protection, income generation for women, and safe returns to rebuilt villages.

Along with political violence, Darfur faces the almost sure liability of famine in the near future. The agricultural system has broken down. Seed, poultry, farm animals, and equipment have been lost.

UMCOR's first priority will be the distribution of essential emergency supplies such as buckets, plastic sheeting, cooking utensils, and soap. Expected areas for longer-term development initiatives include income-generating activity, water and sanitation projects, and restoration of farmlands and livestock.

How to Give

Support United Methodist efforts to help alleviate suffering in Sudan through **UMCOR Advance #184385, Sudan Emergency**. Write the # and name of the project on your offering envelope and in the memo line of your check.

By Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check Make your check to **UMCOR** and send to UMCOR, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 330, New York, NY 10115.

By Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583

UMCOR. Multiplying Hope.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief delivers hope and enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects.

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