



Sudanese Reformed Churches

3rd General Synod

Malakal, South Sudan

8th - 11th May, 2013

Report

Introduction

Sudanese Reformed Churches (SRC) started in Khartoum, Sudan in 1992. In God's grace SRC has grown into (16) churches all over South Sudan and Sudan with (12) ordained pastors and (17) evangelists. On February, 2005, the four house fellowships in Khartoum were organized as Christian denomination under the name "SUDANESE REFORMED CHURCHES". Further on 31st October, 2005, a committee was formed to provide leadership. Belgic Confessions, Heidelberg Catechism Canons of Dort and Reformed Church Order were adopted as the confessional, doctrinal and structural basis of the denomination. The 1st Synod of SRC was held in Khartoum on 17th – 18th April, 2009 while the 2nd SRC General Synod was held in Juba 27th April to 5th May, 2011. In SRC strategic Plan (2011-2015), it is hoped to plant 36 more churches: 25 in South Sudan and 11 in Sudan.



3rd SRC General Synod delegates in Malakal



Immanuel
Sudanese Reformed Church
Malakal, South Sudan

3rd SRC General Synod

Progressively, 3rd SRC General Synod was convened as from 8th to 11th May, 2013 in Malakal, South Sudan. It was hosted by Immanuel Sudanese Reformed Church, Malakal. It is worth mentioning that Malakal is the first mission site of SRC in South Sudan. The first church was planted in Malakal in 2008. The Theme of this Synod was, **Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.** Lk 5:4b. Although some of the delegates

were not able to make it to Malakal due to logistical and transport challenges yet it was a

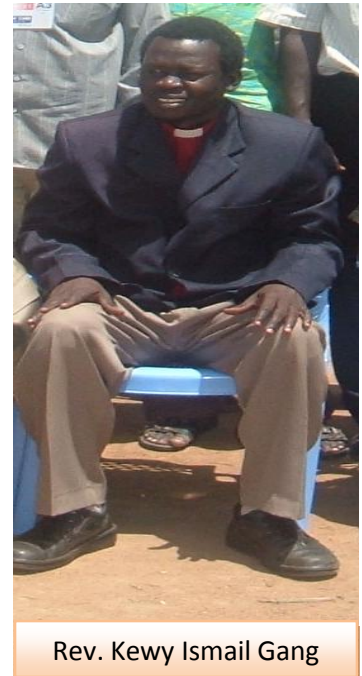
successful and inspiring synod. Glory to God! Undoubtedly, SRC vision and mission is moving forward in extending God's kingdom through Reformed witness. Two international delegates from Christian Reformed World Mission (CRWM) that is Rev. Dr. Hoel Hogan and Rev. Dr. Mwaya Wa Kitavi attended the last two days of the Synod.

Main Agenda

- Churches Reports
- Key Note Presentations
- Leadership Development
- Engagement in Reconciliation and Peace Ministry
- Self Sufficiency Projects
- Starting of Christian Schools
- Ecclesiastical relationship

Churches Reports

The Report of the 16 churches were read and discussed during the proceedings of the Synod. Based on the congregational reports the total membership of SRC is 2034 members. 80% of churches are based in South Sudan and 20% are in the Sudan. In 2005 SRC had membership of 500 only. SRC is a cross-cultural denomination.



Rev. Kewy Ismail Gang

In his Synod report, Rev. Kewy Ismail SRC President appreciated the great labour of SRC pastors, elders, deacons and evangelists in prompting Reformed Witness in the Lord's vineyard in Sudan and South Sudan. He also conveyed his gratitude and thanks to the Reformed brothers from CRWM who came to attend the Synod and stand beside SRC in the kingdom service. "We greatly appreciate your sacrifice and love for your coming to South Sudan and particularly to Malakal. Thank you very much brothers," he said. Moreover he highlighted that SRC is facing three challenges: 1. leadership capacity building; 2. Scarcity of financial resources to fund her activities and programs including the support of the Lord's servants labouring in the field; 3. Mobility (car) to facilitate home mission action plans in the areas accessible by roads.



Dr. Joel Hogan and Dr. Mwaya Wa Kitavi

Key Note Presentations

The two brothers from Christian Reformed World Mission (CRWM) conveyed fraternal greetings from Christian Reformed Church of North America. "We have come to stand beside you in your synod and to let you know that you are not alone", said Dr. Mwaya Wa Kitavi. On Friday 10th May, 2013 Dr. Joel Hogan gave a presentation entitled "Servant Leadership". He emphasized that for Jesus

to transform his disciples he focused on head (mind), heart (motive) and hands (means). He elaborated his topic by giving the examples of servant leadership of John the Baptist, Jesus Christ and his disciples. Dr. Kitavi gave a power point presentation entitled, “the Reality of Mission on 21st Century”. The key concept is DOING MISSION WITH. Mission has changed. People do not come to do the work for you but rather join hands to do the mission with you.

Leadership Development

Out of 12 pastors and 17 evangelists only 2 have BA in theological studies, 2 have diplomas and the rest have only certificates. At the moment two are pursuing BA in theology in South Africa and another one is doing his BA in theology at Nile Theological College, Malakal. Out of the total number of SRC leadership 20 are waiting opportunity to develop their capacities so that they can become more equipped and effective in the ministry. Another area of need is the leadership development of ruling elders, youth and women so that the body of Christ is built.

Engagement in Reconciliation and Peace Ministry

South Sudan had been in war for 55 years. The notable features of people daily life are war trauma, violence, tribal tension, mistrust, and cattle raiding just to mention a few. Thus the leadership has envisioned that SRC should play her role in bringing reconciliation, healing and



SRC delegates who have committed themselves to be peace makers

peace among the communities in south Sudan, Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile. To make proper awareness to the delegates, two topics were presented: the Role of the Church in Peace-building and Bringing Peace through Development. The main speaker was Joan Scott Manga, Civil Affairs Officer of United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in Malakal. The presentations were warming, enthusiastic, inspiring, uplifting and touching. In turn the Synod decided to form a Board of Reconciliation and Peace Ministry to help in healing the deep wounds and pains of the last war and to build a vibrant peaceful South Sudan.

Self Sufficiency Projects

One of the serious challenges hindering the progress of SRC mission is lack of financial resources. Since SRC has been acquiring lands in Malakal, Juba, Bor and Bentiu it was strongly recommended to start unmoveable and fixed sufficiency projects. After discussions and deliberations, it was recommended seeking fund to build 7 shops: 4 in Juba, 1 in Malakal, 1 in Bor and 1 in Bentiu. Once these shops are built it is estimated that they will generate sum of SSP7000 monthly equivalent to US\$2200.

Starting of Christian Schools

During the war South Sudan has lost almost three generations without education and even after the war it is still losing generations without education. The literacy rate in South Sudan is esteemed to be only 10%. With the IDPs and refugees coming back home schools are very limited. There are thousands of children in South Sudan now without basic education. The need for education is urgent. But the greatest need of South Sudan is education from Christian perspective. It is now time to win South Sudan to Jesus Christ through Christian schools. Subsequently, the synod recommended starting four Christian schools in (Malakal, Juba, Bor and Bentiu) in the next year 2014 God willing.

Ecclesiastical relationships

To cement the unity of the body of Christ SRC is in Ecclesiastical relationship with:

National Level:

1. Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church
2. Sudan Interior Church

International Level:

1. Heritage Reformed Church, USA
2. Reformed Churches of South Africa

International Ecumenical Body:

1. SRC is a member of World Reformed Fellowship (WRF).

SRC strategic Plan 2011-2015

In obedience to the Great Commission entrusted by Lord Jesus Christ to his church, SRC has drawn five Years Strategic Plan 2011-2015, for the purpose of increasing Reformed witness, growth and expansion of the kingdom of God in Sudan and South Sudan. It is envisaged that the strategy will help in merger of a transformed individuals, families and communities that are doctrinally based through the practical acts of God's love in individual lives. Key priorities of the SRC strategy are:

1. Planting of 36 churches (25 in the South Sudan and 11 in Northern Sudan).
2. Initiating of 16 Christian schools across South Sudan.
3. Theological and Christian education training.
4. Building of 7 shops, guest house (fund generated projects, geared toward self-sustainability).
5. Vocational training centre.
6. Reformed Christian Center (Multi-purpose centers basically for training and capacity building).

Officers of General Synod

The below mentioned pastors are the officers of SRC General Synod:

1. Rev. Kewy Ismail Gang, President
2. Rev. Mogadam Sharif Elding, Vice President
3. Rev. Patrick Jok Ding, General Secretary
4. Rev. Philip Gease Shaloka, General Treasurer

After the Synod

The SRC Leadership together with the international delegates paid a visit to speaker of state assembly and to Upper Nile State Deputy Governor. While he was sharing his challenges in his office, he became so emotional and shed tears. He was exhorted and encouraged. In turn he greatly appreciated the visit and described it as timely. We prayed together to the Maker of heaven and earth to give insight and wisdom to the leaders of the new nation, South Sudan.



Prayer Requests

1. Church planting in the areas that are not reached by SRC in South Sudan and Sudan.
2. SRC Leadership capacity building (provision of scholarships)
3. Reconciliation, trauma healing and peace among different communities of South Sudan.
4. Starting of four Christian schools in Malakal, Bentiu, Bor and Juba.
5. Building of 7 shops to avail the needed resources for SRC activities and programs.
6. 1 car for SRC home mission to reduce mission transportation difficulties. 6 motorbikes for pastors and 10 bicycles for evangelists.
7. Successful implementation of SRC strategic plan (2011-2015) and availability of necessary resources (both humans and finances) needed thereafter.
8. Two (2) missionaries to work with SRC in South Sudan particularly in the areas of Christian Education and Leadership Development.

Next General Synod

The 4th General Synod will be held in Juba as from 3rd to 7th June, 2014. It will be hosted by Juba Sudanese Reformed Church.

SRC Vision

“To see merging of individuals, families and communities in Sudan and South Sudan that are saved, discipled and integrated into a local church to serve, to worship and to become agents of transformation to exalt the triune God”

SRC Mission

“SRC mission is to labor with God’s given grace by preaching a holistic gospel to all the abandoned and neglected people in Sudan and South Sudan so that individual, family and community are saved and transformed by Christ through the practical acts of God’s love”.

Address

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