

The South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Initiative

The June 2014 meeting of the Session, upon recommendation of the Mission Committee, approved fulfilling the request of staff of Presbyterian World Mission, PC(USA) that we designate the remaining \$500,000 of our original \$1 million pledge to the Hearts and Hands Campaign (and part of our P2C Capital Campaign) toward the South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Initiative.

Initiative Summary

There are four objectives of the South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Initiative

- 1) **Empowerment of communities and building of schools:** Impact at least seventeen communities, inspiring them to shake off the trauma and powerlessness of civil war, to take part in a participatory community development program, and to contribute to the education of their children by helping build and manage community-based schools.
- 2) **Training of educators:** a) Develop lead teachers by providing thirty-two scholarships for the most promising teachers to attend the two-year teacher-training program in Yei. b) We will develop other teachers by providing more basic training to 180 teachers in the most marginalized areas through a Mobile Teacher Training Program. c) The Mobile Teacher Training Program will also provide training for sixty educational administrators (principals, head teachers, and government educational leaders at the county and local levels) serving in marginalized areas.
- 3) **Develop the educational leadership of the PCOSS Education Department** so that this initiative is sustainable into the future. We will provide resources for the Education Department's staff to increase its capacity and skills to administer the PCOSS school system more effectively.

Through the achievement of these three preliminary goals **our ultimate goal is to impact the quality of education of 14,000 students while increasing educational opportunities for girls.** At this critical time in the history of the young nation of South Sudan, we have the chance to create an enormous impact on the human wealth—and therefore the future—of both the nation of South Sudan and the PCOSS.

A fourth objective for this proposal is **peacebuilding** for the communities of South Sudan, its different ethnic groups, and the nation as a whole. Peacebuilding is in some ways the first objective, since there must be at least some degree of stability and trust for the education initiatives to go forward. On the other hand, peacebuilding might be considered the final objective, since education will be an important factor in achieving long-lasting peace. In reality, the peacebuilding and education initiatives will advance hand-in-hand, each strengthening the other.

RECONCILE will be the lead partner in the peacebuilding part of this proposal. It is already in partnership with PCOSS and the PC(USA) through the work of Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather.