



# Report

**On WSCF Africa Regional  
Secretary's visit to South Sudan.**

**Prepared by**  
Rev. Amos Kamugisha Mushendwa  
Regional Secretary  
WSCF Africa

## Introduction

---

The Regional Secretary for WSCF Africa Rev. Amos K. Mushendwa visited the Student Christian Movement (SCM) of South Sudan from 15<sup>th</sup> May to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

I arrived in Juba at Juba International Airport on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at around 03:00 pm and was received by members of the Executive Committee of the SCM South Sudan. Welcoming remarks were made as well as brief introductions.

Due to time factor and the short schedule of the visit, the team drove straight away to South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) so as to confirm an appointment with the Acting General Secretary of the council, Rev. Mark Akec Cein for the following day. After meeting some officials at SSCC and confirmed an appointment, We proceeded to the Episcopal Church of Sudan's guest house where more members of the Student Christian Movement joined the team and we had an exciting interaction with preliminary briefing.



*Left: Rev. Amos Mushendwa (wearing striped t-shirt) in casual interaction with the members of SCM in the evening of his arrival.*

The evening ended well with a closing prayer from the Information Secretary of the SCM, Mr. Boutros Simon.

### Meeting at SSCC

Although it was a public holiday (SPLA liberation Anniversary -16<sup>th</sup> May); the meeting began as planned at exactly 12:00 noon and was successful in terms of discussed agendas and the turn up of the SSCC and SCM representatives. It started with prayers followed by brief

introduction of the agendas.

First Agenda was led by Mr. Kayanga Nelson, Chairperson of the SCM who made a brief introduction of SCM and the Regional Secretary. He stated that Rev. Amos was in South Sudan as part of WSCF's solidarity with the SCM South Sudan and the country at large at its time of crisis. The visit was also as a part of his duty as new Regional Secretary to find out how different SCMs in his region were doing and finally to carry out a **Leadership Strategic Meeting** on Peace and Reconciliation aimed at finding ways on how youth can take an active and positive role in Peace Building and Reconciliation in South Sudan.

The Acting General Secretary of SSCC, Rev. Mark welcomed the Regional Secretary and those present. He made a briefing about his council and expressed how they were a supporter of Christian youth groups and programs in the country. He stated that SSCC was ready to work with WSCF through the SCM any time. He afterwards gave a chance to WSCF Regional Secretary to have a few words.

*Below: Rev. Amos (centre) sitting beside Pastor Joseph Lupai and the Acting General Secretary of SSCC (right) during the meeting.*

The Regional Secretary started by thanking God for the opportunity and hospitality from Rev. Mark. He explained the nature of movements and their strong connection with churches. He also appreciated the recommendation that was made by the SSCC to support the registration of SCM of South Sudan as a National Christian organization when SCM was seeking for registration.



He informed Rev. Mark about the activities he will hold in Juba with the SCM like the Leadership Strategic Meeting. He mentioned the importance of engaging women and youth within SCM activities.

The last to speak was Father Emmanuel of the council who gave thanks to Rev. Amos for the good job he is doing in the federation. He confirmed the positive role of SSCC in South Sudan after separation, assured his full support to SCM South Sudan and he assured the participation of members from the council in the Leadership Strategic planning workshop.

Lastly, he closed by giving thanks to all and assured us that SSCC will continue involving youth in peace building initiatives.

### **Meeting with SCM leadership**

After getting back from the SSCC meeting, the team had lunch before entering into the leaders' meeting.

The meeting began with prayers and then the agenda; Mr. Nelson Kayanga, the Chairperson of SCM-SS presented the report on the life of the SCM South Sudan.

Below is a summary of what was presented to Rev. Amos about the movement:

Student Christian Movement of South Sudan was first formed as fellowship in 1986 with the name Sudanese Christian Fellowship and later reformed into a mission in 1996 becoming Sudanese Students Christian Mission. However, in the year 2004, the name due to the nature of its new constitution and geographical boundaries/affiliation of SCM-Northern Sudan to WSCF-Middle East Region, the 33 WSCF General Assembly in Chiangmai - Thailand changed the name to "Student Christian Movement of Southern Sudan".

The main goal of the organization is to reach out Students especially in the institutions of high learning and youth with the contextual message of the gospel, building up their personal and collective capacities to cope up with the pressures of the national and global issues.

For some years, SCM South Sudan was working from Nairobi. Early 2010, under the guidance of WSCF Africa, they formed a new leadership committee that was tasked with the formation of SCM in the new nation, South Sudan.

By the Grace of God they were able to fully register the movement and open a bank account by March 2012.

The Student Christian Movement of South Sudan have 78 members. They meet regularly for sharing the word of God through Bible Studies and Fellowships.

### **Priorities of SCM South Sudan**

1. Bible Studies and Evangelism in the context of the social, political and economic challenges the country is going through.
2. In light of the ongoing political crisis in the country, the movement have started to explore possibilities to engage in the peace building initiatives and healing processes for their people in South Sudan. The SCM South Sudan is preparing a Public lecture at the University of Juba on Peace and Reconciliation to be held in November 2014.
3. Program on awareness creation on HIV and AIDS to students/youth and other members of communities.
4. Youth Sports and Choir competitions as a strategy for peace building initiatives
5. Economic Empowerment project /employment creation to youth
6. SCM-SS General Assembly, Last week of November 2014.

### **Some of the Future plans**

1. Establishment of the Adult Education Centre which will serve the adults by teaching them how to read and write. Apart from other benefits, people will be able to read and understand the Bible.
2. Reach more students in colleges/schools in rural areas and increase membership.

The Regional Secretary appreciated the interest and hard working the leaders have vested in SCM work. He promised to continue working closely to the movement for advice and encouragement as we deliver as one. He advice the SCM to go through the list of priorities and future plans and shorten it for a realistic and SMART planning.

## Leadership Strategic Meeting

The meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May and started at 9:00 am. Total number of participants was 15 who included; SCM members and SSCC representatives from youth and women desk.

It began with prayers and proceeded with a moment of praise and worship to get the participants spiritually ready followed by opening and introductions. As an ice breaking exercise and setting bases for plenary discussions, group discussions were set based on the following topics: meaning and types of conflicts, causes of conflicts and how can we solve these conflicts. After the discussion in groups, the three groups made presentations.

Group one handled types of conflicts and outlined the following; political, religious, racism, geographic, social & psychological, plus conflicts related to globalization like terrorism.

Group two did causes of conflicts, which are reflecting to the failure of not implementing the solution of the above mentioned types of conflicts.

Group three answered how these conflicts can be solved. They said First is to define the conflict and understand its root causes. They added that involving prayers, preaching forgiveness and reconciliation will positively help in solving the conflicts. They also stated that bringing the two parties together to come up with an agreement. Lastly they mentioned that a follow up and evaluation process should be done to support the peace and reconciliation.

Rev. Amos Mushendwa made a presentation on roles of youth in peace building which greatly impacted on the participant's views of the topic.

In his presentation, he outlined and explained approach, methodology, area of implementation and activities as the steps for contributing to resolving conflicts and bringing reconciliation in society. He appealed on starting peace building initiatives within the reach, vigor and creativity of youth.

The second session began shortly after lunch and a presentation by Pastor Joseph Lupai on Peace and Reconciliation was made. The session was successful and understandable to participants. A last session was the strategic planning. Participants came together with strong and practical plans and ideas as a way forward for building peace.

The following are the plans and ideas that were developed:

- Use of the richness of Christian Faith in reaching out to young people with the Gospel in order to transform hearts.
- Team up with other youth groups with peace building initiatives.
- Carry out outreach activities in communities to educate the civil population on the importance of co-existence and peace of God.
- Develop adult education programs to assist eradicate illiteracy since it is one of the major causes for misunderstandings among community members.
- Develop and implement the peace building initiatives through the entrepreneurship project which will involve youth (men and women) for business education and employment creation.
- Use available resources within our reach and apply creativity in our peace initiatives.

*A group photo of participants of the Strategic Planning Meeting: below*

The workshop ended at 5:30 pm.

A small tour around Juba City was organized for Rev. Amos by the leaders of the movement which included a visit to the renowned Dr. John Garang Mausoleum. The day ended with dinner, it was a blessing to work with SCM South Sudan.

The following morning, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 the Regional Secretary Rev. Amos Mushendwa left Juba for Nairobi.

SCM of South Sudan said is grateful and honored to have hosted the Regional Secretary and special thanks goes to the Almighty God through Jesus Christ for all the grace he has shown to SCM South Sudan and the entire federation.

#### **Conclusion:**



We thank the Almighty God who made this program possible. Our appreciation goes to KAIROS who financed this event. We have finalized writing the project document on Peace Building initiatives through entrepreneurship and introduction of Savings Groups in South Sudan 2015 – 2017. The document to be discussed and shared with KAIROS. We thank the SSCC for the cooperation offered to us.

We are appealing to KAIROS to support and finance our peace building initiatives in South Sudan to start 2015.

God bless you all.



