

Coming Home: Parkiela John's Story



Parkiela John is a returnee to the community of Karic, close to Rumbek, in southern Sudan.

I was about 17 when my family fled our village near Rumbek, southern Sudan, because of the war. We went north to Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. After 22 years, we traveled home because the war was over. I had six children while we lived in Khartoum. When the peace was signed, I decided to bring back these children to their land. They should come and know their people and their people should know them. Last July, we traveled back to Rumbek by bus.

But life is worse here now than before the war. We haven't been able to grow crops, such as sorghum or peanuts, because the rains haven't come. So, I catch fish in a swamp and sell them to buy food.

There is no health center in our community. When my children are sick, I take them to a clinic in another village. I haven't enrolled my children in school yet, but I will next year. Currently, children have school outside under trees, but people are beginning to construct buildings for them.

I am glad that we came home, but the war hurt our community. When we were here before the war, people loved each other. When the war came and people scattered, people lost their love for each other. That is what is different. It is because of poverty. If we had what we needed, we would gather together to eat in each other's houses. But neighbors can't share food now because there is too little. The lack of food, the poverty, means there is a lack of love.

Coming home to southern Sudan

War forced millions of people to flee their homes in southern Sudan and take refuge in distant cities or neighboring countries. Now that the war is over, southern Sudanese people are returning in great numbers. But their homeland lacks necessities such as schools, health facilities and water sources.

MCC's response

MCC is helping communities rebuild by committing programming funds in Sudan for the next 10 years. Programming will focus on helping to build and furnish medical facilities and schools. In addition, MCC is providing school kits and relief kits and working with local partners to drill boreholes that provide clean drinking water. Compost latrines will be provided for basic sanitation. MCC also will work with local communities to build peace through intercultural and interfaith awareness training for religious, community and civic leaders.



You can help

- \$20 will train one person to become a Peace Mobilizer, to help shift thinking from a culture of war to a culture of peaceful living.
- \$50 will help provide basic medical equipment to the Juba Hospital.
- \$175 will provide one scholarship to help a student complete four years of a university education.

Please give

Donate online or mail your contribution, marked *Sudan Coming Home*, to the MCC office nearest you. Go to mcc.org/sudan for more information.

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