

Sowing Seeds for Life



A key achievement has been a series of Conferences, aimed at spreading knowledge, hope and faith. In 2012 CRESS funded and ran a conference for 85 clergy, focused on theological development. In September 2013 there was a ambitious project, a 4 day conference for 200 women, from Kajo Keji, Rejaf, Juba, Laniya and Nzara dioceses – all transport, accommodation and food were funded by CRESS. The Conference was run by 8 women from the UK, each of them with a different set of skills and knowledge - health, teaching, psychology and business. Teaching was on topics selected by the delegates and included leadership, basic health care, raising children, basic book keeping, starting a business and how to run a small loan scheme. 90% of the women had never left their homes before, and some walked for 3 days to get there, and back again. There was abundance of joy and faith and it was an amazing experience!



In addition water filters, laptops, mobile phones and many other pieces of equipment have been supplied to enable key people to focus on improving lives, sowing the seeds of development and strengthening the work of the church.

Initially it was felt that health provision would not be part of CRESS' remit however inadequate health provision has such an impact on life in South Sudan that it cannot be ignored. CRESS has supported a small clinic in Liwolo with basic equipment and funding an ad hoc supply of drugs. This clinic currently supports a population of about 40,000 people and the development of simple and sustainable health provision was made a priority in 2014. Thanks to the generosity of the Chalke Valley Lent Project we have now secured funds to build a new Health Clinic and ongoing funding commitments to cover the salary of a medical officer.

From a small seed CRESS has grown and developed amazingly in such a short time. We believe this is because we grow and maintain strong relationships with people here and in South Sudan and all work together in God's Love to make measureable improvements. We keep it simple and mainly rely on people donating their skills and time, so over 98% of the donations made to our charity do actually support our work in South Sudan. We have also created a strong network in South Sudan that delivers transparency and traceability.

Many of our supporters also like the fact that they can choose the area of work that interests them - education, health, agriculture or small business startup - so if you would like to make a donation to one of these areas you can specify this.



So far the area of Kajo Keji where CRESS operates has mercifully not been affected by the senseless recent war, so we have been able to continue with our work and continue to support communities in Kajo Keji.

The key man on the ground in South Sudan, Rev Joseph Aba says in his own words *"You have given us all your HEARTS. Beyond your acts of love and kindness, we have seen Christ love alive, we have seen the power of brotherly love. We are all so much encouraged and challenge too to do our part for Christ Jesus."*

We would love to hear from you if you would like to find out more about us!

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Please Donate Now!

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Welcome to CRESS !

Christian Relief and Education in South Sudan was formed in 2011 and it is still led by Caroline Lamb, who is committed to helping improve life in South Sudan. Caroline, a geography teacher and farmers wife, felt drawn to mission to further develop her faith and so visited Kajo Keji in 2009 with Flame International. Whilst she was there she was moved by the plight of the people, the lack of education and health provision and poor infrastructure and having studied Economic Development felt that she would be able to use these skills to help.



A few years down the line and we now support the education of about 70 children through a sponsorship programme – the relationship between sponsor and child is a critical element of the CRESS education programme building commitment and trust. Every child writes to their sponsor at least once a year and the sponsor sends out a present for the CRESS Family Day. Children are supported at all stages of education. If you think you might be interested in helping a child achieve a better education please visit our website to find more about how it works, what it costs and what it takes to be a good sponsor.

There has been an initial trial of a Women's Small Business Startup scheme, with some successes and some lessons learnt. CRESS is now looking to develop this area, as it brings self-sufficiency, opportunities for economic development and wealth creation, and most importantly builds self-esteem. One of our graduates is now coming up with ideas on how to make this more effective and she will be managing this area on the ground in Kajo Keji - initial results are looking good.

We have also started an Agriculture programme and four people have been funded to attend the Kasenge Riverford Organic Farm School in Uganda. They returned with much hope and knowledge and are putting this into practice in their own 'gardens', and they are now cascading the knowledge into their communities. We plan to develop this area creating 'Whole of Life, Christian Farm schools', teaching agriculture, basic health & hygiene, business skills and faith.



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