



## Update from Derrick Jones on South Sudan July 2021, Part 1

Dear Friends,

Greetings from RCA Global Mission! July 9, 2021, marked the 10th anniversary of the nation of South Sudan. This was a day of celebration for the independence that was attained. It also serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggles of violence, civil war, and nation-building that still exist. [Here is a recent article](#) by Christopher Tounsel about the struggles the nation still faces: <http://theconversation.com/as-south-sudan-turns-10-questions-over-the-role-of-the-church-emerge-amid-anti-clerical-violence-164018>

While numerous challenges still exist, we are grateful for opportunities to partner with RECONCILE International, ACROSS, the Presbyterian of South Sudan (PCOSS), and all of the South Sudan Education and Peace Program initiatives via our jointly appointed missionaries with the PCUSA, Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather. [Here is a link](#) to the most recent SSEP first-quarter report for 2021. It reflects the grace of God and the active role that the church still plays in working towards a lasting peace: [www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SOUTH-SUDAN-TURNS-TEN-10-SSCC-July-9-2021.pdf](http://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SOUTH-SUDAN-TURNS-TEN-10-SSCC-July-9-2021.pdf)

We are grateful for your continued support as we join our partners, churches, and communities in working towards lasting peace, reconciliation, and nation-building. We embrace the South Sudan Council of Churches' message of hope and are committed to making the second decade of South Sudan's independence a period of a new beginning of peace, justice, freedom, and [prosperity for all](#).

Please continue praying for the Smith-Mathers, our partners, and the nation of South Sudan. Here is a liturgical prayer for [South Sudan](#): [www.pcusa.org/news/2021/7/9/reaching-milestone/](http://www.pcusa.org/news/2021/7/9/reaching-milestone/).

A letter from the Smith-Mather family will follow, reflecting upon South Sudan as it marks its anniversary.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Derrick Jones

Supervisor of RCA mission programs in Africa

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