



May 2023, part 2

Dear Friends,

Wow, I'm blown away by the number of you who contacted me after my Dear Friends letter was sent last week—to encourage me and share some of your trials and tribulations. Thank you! Thank you for reading, thank you for responding, and thank you for caring about refugees and displaced people.

Because of those responses, I thought I would start this week by writing Part 2 of Don't Give Up. [If you missed last week's DF letter, you can read it [here](http://www.rca.org/tenclay): www.rca.org/tenclay]

This past weekend, Cyclone Mocha hit Myanmar and Bangladesh, including some of the areas where RCA Global Mission supports schools for Rohingya refugee children, either living in refugee camps in Bangladesh or internally displaced persons camps inside Myanmar. It will take a while to know the full extent of the number of lives lost, and the number of people affected by the destruction of homes, medical facilities, food/clean water supplies, and yes, even schools, but there is one thing we know for sure: the Rohingya people are suffering greatly once again. Your support to provide education (not to mention food, clean water, and all of the other life-sustaining services provided by these schools) is needed now more than ever. Thank you for not giving up on the Rohingya people.

Don't give up!

As the violent conflict in Sudan continues, I have spent significant time in prayer for Sudan, the people suffering because of this violence, and for neighboring countries who would—no doubt—become hosts to people fleeing the violence. And I prayed that God would provide some guidance as to whether or not RCA Global Mission was being called to respond, or whether we were called to continue focusing on the work already laid out before us. I am grateful to report that a direct need for support was presented to RCA Global Mission to send \$10,000 to our mission partners (RECONCILE, International) to support people who fled the violence in Sudan to find refuge in South Sudan. Thanks to the generous financial giving of many of you to the RCA Global Mission Refugee Crisis Fund, we were able to send the money to our mission partners last week!

Don't give up!

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.





In May 2022, RCA Global Mission announced a one-year project—the South Sudan Refugee Care Project—to raise \$85,000 to provide peacebuilding and reconciliation, social cohesion, and trauma care services for South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda. We invited individuals, church leaders, congregations, classes, regional synods, educational institutions, and beyond to join us in raising the funds needed to support the life-sustaining work faithfully engaged by our mission partners (RECONCILE, International) and RCA missionaries (Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mathers). We also urged these groups to be intentional in their giving by learning about the people of South Sudan, the factors that have led to the death and mass displacement of millions of people, and their hopes for peacebuilding and the healing of their beloved home country. We invited people to join us by uplifting the people of South Sudan for World Refugee Sunday in June, but also throughout the

year. Unfortunately, one year later, we raised less than ¼ of the \$85,000 needed to fund the project. And, I admit that I have been feeling a little defeated by this—not knowing how to move forward and invite more people into this space of caring for the people of South Sudan. Then, at just the right moment, my friend and colleague, Kelli Gilmore, reminded me that I am not an island. I don't have to shoulder the full weight of providing care for refugees and displaced people by myself. I am blessed to be a member of the RCA Global Mission team, a team that also cares about refugees and displaced people; a team ready and willing to help carry the load.

It was Kelli who contacted me with the idea for [A Meal for Peace](#), as a way to reinvigorate our efforts to raise \$85,000 for the South Sudan Refugee Care Project and to invite more people into this space of caring for refugees and displaced people. Kelli devoted time out of her already busy schedule over the past few months to coordinate the completion and distribution of the [A Meal for Peace](#) (www.rca.org/meal-for-peace) packet and to develop a communication plan to invite others to join us in A Meal for Peace.

Kelli reminded me to not give up.

So, no, unless some amazing miracle unfolds, we will not reach our original goal of raising \$85,000 by the end of May to provide this life-sustaining care for the people of South Sudan. (And if we miraculously reach this \$85,000 goal by the end of May, I promise I'll be back here to share the good news with you!)

But I'm not giving up.

I'm not giving up on the Rohingya.

I'm not giving up on the people of Sudan.

I'm not giving up on the people of South Sudan.

God loves the Rohingya....God loves the people of Sudan....God loves the people of South Sudan.

So does RCA Global Mission.

So do I.



RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.

And so do so many of you.

Thank you.

*Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

With deep gratitude,

JJ TenClay

If you'd like to learn more about any of the people mentioned in this letter and how RCA Global Mission is putting the love of Christ into action for them, please contact me at jjtenclay@rca.org.

Know of anyone who would like to receive my Dear Friends letters? Contact me at jjtenclay@rca.org with their name and email address, and I will add them to the distribution list.