

December 2023

An Apology and Two Appeals

Dear Friends,

I want to start this Dear Friends letter with an apology.

A few months ago I visited a supporting church and, during my visit, I was informed that they had not been receiving my Dear Friends letters for a while, and assumed I was no longer sending them out. This came as quite a surprise to me because I deeply value communicating with those who support me and this ministry. (I believe this is the 8th Dear Friends letter I've written in 2023.) I also heard from another supporter who signed up to receive my Dear Friends letters earlier this year and they, too, hadn't received them.

I began working with Kelli Gilmore, an RCA Global Mission staff member, to address the issue, and thanks to her diligence, she uncovered the issue and has been working with me to rebuild my Dear Friends letter distribution list.

So, for those who previously received my Dear Friends letters and stopped receiving them, welcome back.

For those who signed up to receive these letters and have not received them until now, welcome. I apologize for the error.

I'm grateful for each and every one of you.

In early January, I will also be writing a 2023 Year in Review report that you will receive. In case you did not receive my 2022 Year in Review report, here is a link for you: <https://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/TenClay-YIR-2022.pdf>.

If your church, classis, or regional synod is interested in scheduling a visit from me in 2024, please contact me at jjtenclay@rca.org.

But also know that you don't have to wait to receive one of my Dear Friends letters or to schedule a visit with me to receive updates on my work! You're welcome to reach out to me at any time if you have questions or want an update on my work. You are a partner in this ministry—I couldn't do this work without you.

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.

Two Appeals

I would like to end this letter with two appeals for prayer.

RCA Global Mission is committed to raising \$85,000 to support the work of RCA missionaries Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather and RECONCILE, Int. (an RCA Global Mission partner) to provide peacebuilding, social cohesion, and trauma care for South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda. We announced the [South Sudan Refugee Care Project](#) for World Refugee Day in June 2022, and set a lofty goal of raising these funds by June 2023. We did not meet that goal. But, we have not forgotten about the people of South Sudan and their hopes for peace and healing, and we've extended this fundraising project until June 2024. So far we've raised \$65,000 of the \$85,000 goal. Yet it seems as though every time there is a new violent conflict or natural disaster that occurs in the world, we lose momentum in meeting the needs of the people of South Sudan.



RECONCILE Peace Building Training

Will you join RCA Global Mission in prayer for peace in South Sudan? Will you pray that [we meet our goal](#) of raising \$85,000 for the South Sudan Refugee Care Project by June 2024? Will you pray that, through the work of the Smith-Mather Family and RECONCILE, Intl. the people of South Sudan experience the love the Christ in tangible, life-giving ways?

More recently, as we've all witnessed the conflict in Israel/Palestine with horror (and perhaps a large dose of helplessness and hopelessness), God revealed an opportunity for RCA Global Mission to care for people

displaced in Lebanon by this escalating conflict. Rev. Linda Macktaby (a former student of Peter Ford and the Near East School of Theology) has assembled a network of interfaith colleagues who are providing shelter, mattresses, food, clean water, medicine, and fuel for cooking/heating, but they cannot meet these needs by themselves. More than 100,000 people in Lebanon have been displaced and need care, and Pastor Linda is also providing provisions and spiritual care for more than 300 Lebanese Christians who remain in their villages along the Israel/Lebanon border. RCA Global Mission has sent \$10,000 of emergency funds through the Refugee Crisis Fund to Pastor Linda to provide lifesaving care, and in December we invited people to give financial support to the [Lebanon Displacement Relief Project](#).

Will you join RCA Global Mission and pray for peace in the Holy Land? Will you pray for Pastor Linda, her colleagues, and the thousands of people affected by the escalating conflict in Lebanon? Will you pray for generous giving to support Pastor Linda's work through the Lebanon Displacement Relief Project?

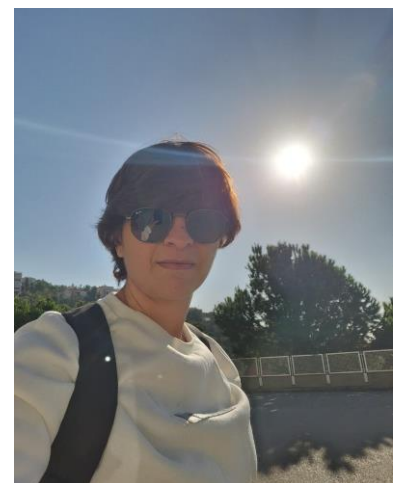
The scripture verse I chose to center in my work for 2023 was this:

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.
(John 1:5)

Jesus is the light of the world, and we—as Christ followers—are called to be light bearers. May we continue to share the light of Christ with refugees and displaced people worldwide together.

Blessings,
JJ TenClay

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



Rev. Linda Macktaby