



“This kind can only be cast out through prayer and fasting.”

As I write this update for the newsletter, the city of Juba is ravaged by ethnic fighting. A shaky ceasefire has been declared by leaders who, it seems, have little control over their armies. Who really is behind this uprising which is mirroring the December 13, 2014 conflict initiated by a power struggle between the President and Vice-President of this new country? Are these men, also leaders of the Dinka and Nuer tribes, serious when they claim they want peace?

In war, it is the women and children who suffer most. Hundreds of thousands are now displaced; there is little respect for the safety of those in UN Protection of Civilian Sites and half the population is facing food insecurity and possibly famine. The international community has grown tired of trying to assist a country whose leaders are not sincere when they say they want peace. Solidarity staff, however, remain committed to standing with the people of South Sudan. The Teacher Training College at Yambio remains open and boasts its largest student population ever (119). The Catholic Health Training Institute in Wau, with 110 students studying to become nurses and midwives, has furnished volunteers for the local hospital when their staff fled the ethnic violence in the past few weeks.

The news coming from Juba these days could easily be an example of the time that the disciples asked Jesus why they could not cast out a demon. Jesus replied to their question by saying that “this kind can only be cast out through “prayer and fasting.”

Do we dare call for fasting and prayer for all who support Solidarity with South Sudan and the people of that war ravaged country? Can we unite and consciously offer our prayers for peace in a land that knows no peace? Let our prayer also be for a global change of heart for those leaders in South Sudan who have no respect for the sacredness of human life.

Prayer changes things, even human hearts! There is an urgency about this prayer because of the evil being released in genocide, rape, and starvation. Let us pray....

For more information about how you can support Friends in Solidarity and its partner, Solidarity with South Sudan, contact: jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com or visit the website: www.solidarityfriends.org

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