

# peacemail

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 3

WOMEN WORK FOR PEACE IN SUDAN

POSTAGE PAID  
OFF PEAK  
AUSTRALIA

**act for peace**  
reduce poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflicts | empower communities

The international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)

Peel gently to open

Peel gently to open



Women have a large stake in ensuring that there is sustainable peace in Sudan, from the family and community level up to the state and country level. Some women, as heads of households and caregivers in times of war, long to end conflicts in a sustainable way. Many are victims of terrifying violations of human and women's rights. Women make up the majority of casualties in the frontlines and are justified in having a strong interest in peace.

Act for Peace project partner, The Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), believes that involvement of women in rural peace building is key to building relationships of confidence and trust within communities. By including women in these processes, SCC promotes understanding and improvement of women's ability to participate in peace building activities at the grassroots level. SCC also helps to improve and expand the abilities of women in gaining a sustainable living and in improving their health, hygiene and education.



**\$220 can train a person in the techniques of Peace Building and Conflict Transformation**



**\$230 can provide a skilled facilitator in the field to deliver training courses**

All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



**act for peace**  
**actalliance**

**THANK YOU Partners** for your commitment to Act for Peace through your prayers and regular gifts. Through your generosity, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict or extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Emma, **1800 025 101** or email [hgraham@ncca.org.au](mailto:hgraham@ncca.org.au). Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

On the other hand, if you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to be, or would just like to help this project, your call or email will be welcomed!

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)

**Act for Peace**

**M:** Locked Bag 199, QVB NSW 1230

**T:** 1800 025 101 **F:** 02 9262 4514

**E:** [actforpeace@ncca.org.au](mailto:actforpeace@ncca.org.au)

[www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)

ABN 64 493 941 795

# peacemail

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 3

## Women of Courage: Building Peace in Sudan

*Dear Partner,*

My name is Mary Husna and I was born in 1973 in Sudan. Until recently, "I wasn't treated well, because I am a woman."

I was married during the long war in Sudan at age 17. I was among those who remained in Sudan, unlike many others who managed to escape. We could not cross the borders because we were in an area which became the frontline.

During the war, we were blessed with two children. Our area was controlled by the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA). We could not go far for cultivation, so we dug around our homes. The little food we produced was shared with the armed forces. I and many other women carried food on our heads everyday to the forces in the frontline. Sometimes, the enemy attacked when we were still there. Many women were killed in crossfire and some had to learn how to protect themselves in a hard way - by the grace of God they survived.

On our return trips, we brought the wounded women and soldiers back to be nursed in the village. We lost both men and women and so many children were left behind with no adult to care for them. The children were vulnerable and sadly, some died. Others managed to survive through our efforts to help support them.

In 1997, my husband was killed during the capture of the main town in Equatoria. My husband's brother and his wife were also killed in 1997. I was left behind with my two children and my in-laws' three orphaned children. The biggest challenge was education. I could not afford it.

After the Peace Agreement was signed in 2005, most of us were left in a dilemma. Our suffering contribution towards the movement was forgotten. I continued to till the land for a meagre living. I tried to supplement my income through brewing beer, which does not earn much compared to the effort exerted in preparing it.

Life in remote rural areas is a challenge as people do not feel the presence of their government. There is no information on what is happening in urban areas - nothing but the sounds of quarrels, fights, arguments and insults!

A visit by Mama Gladys Mananyu and other Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) staff to this remote area gave me the chance to express and share my pain and most importantly, learn something new in my life - Peace Work. This marked the start of my happiness in this community. My involvement in the Peace Building Committee has given me more courage to listen attentively to other people's concerns and problems as well as help them to understand how to deal with them. I was able to approach notorious youths in the village. I do not know how I did it, but they are now transformed. People keep asking me what I did as they have changed so much.

The training is the first of its kind in this area. I hope more training will take place with others who have similar problems, so that peace reaches all rural areas. I thank Act for Peace and the SCC for sending people like Mama Gladys to our community. God bless you!

*Mary*

### Partners Prayer Points:

- *Pray for the peace building work of Sudan Council of Churches.*
- *Pray for courage and continued success for all people working for peace in their community.*



Gladys D Mananyu  
SCC Regional Justice & Peace Facilitator,  
Greater Equatoria, Sudan



Mama Mary Husna