



## Latest news – January 2025

Dear Friends, at the start of another year, we want to say a very big thank you to all those who supported and prayed for us through last year. God has been faithful and once again exceeded our expectations as to what He can enable us to do. A big thank you also to those who made a monthly gift to The Brickworks through the year, or who had made a one-off donation. We so appreciate your support which enables the charity to do what it does in South Sudan. There have been many highlights:

- Supporting the Martha Clinic (right), paying salaries and providing most of its medicines.
- Funding Martha Eye Clinic and enabling a cataract camp to be organised with 105 successful cataract operations completed.
- Helping 23 teachers to train at Yei Teacher Training College and KajoKeji Christian College.
- Supporting the Bishop Allison Theological College which trains ordinands.
- Funding discipleship training programmes, youth camps and clergy training in three Dioceses.
- Visiting Yei in September with three others, providing training for health students and Martha staff. Teaching young people on the discipleship programme and coaching the local football team (see photo on page 2).
- Contributing to the purchase of a new ambulance for the Martha Clinic and towards a used car for the Bishop of Panyana.
- Repairing a primary school that had been damaged in the conflict so that it could re-open for returning refugees.



12 months' ago, we reported that from the start of 2024, we would only work in South Sudan and that our work helping in the refugee camps of Uganda had come to an end. We praise God that this decision does not seem to have caused problems, and, through 2024, we saw that many refugees from South Sudan were returning to their homes.

The programmes that we will support through this year will be similar to last year.

➤ Martha Clinic running costs, medicines and repairs	£40,000	53% primary health care <u>and eye clinic</u>
➤ Eye Clinic running costs, medicines and cataract camp	£17,000	
➤ Teacher training course fees and support	£18,000	25% teacher training <u>and support to schools</u>
➤ St Philip's Nursery School plus desks and latrines	£ 8,000	
➤ Discipleship training for young people	£11,000	22% Church Training
➤ Support for theological training	£ 4,000	
➤ Training for clergy and laity	£ 9,000	
➤ Other expenses inc. bank charges	<u>£ 1,000</u>	
➤ Total	£108,000	

We aim to keep a minimum reserve for emergencies of £10,000.

Half our expenditure this year will support the Diocese of Yei Martha Primary Health Centre and Eye Clinic. Quite simply, it could not function without this significant level of support. We are very grateful to St Michael's Church for its support for the Eye Clinic and to the Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church for its donation towards the cost of the cataract camp (the 2024 cataract team pictured). We are also very grateful to African Revival for its funding of some of the teacher training students, as well as paying for latrines at a primary school and for providing some locally made school desks.

During the last year, we passed the £2 million milestone since we launched the charity in 2009. We have trusted God to supply what we needed, and He has done that, often in ways which far exceeded our expectations. We know that those who receive this letter pray for us, and we hope that you will continue to do so. To those who give, thank you very much indeed.

We are thinking of making another visit to Yei in September 2025. If you would like to consider possibly joining us, please get in touch. Last year we explored a quicker and cheaper way of flying to Yei which reduced the cost per team member by £500 to around £1500. For a visit of only a week, it's a lot to pay but almost the whole cost is the cost of flights.

On behalf of the Trustees and those we work with in South Sudan, who will be helped in this year, thank you very much indeed.

John and Poppy Spens  
On behalf of the Trustees

N.B. Week 1 of the 2025 Discipleship training starts on 27<sup>th</sup> January for 100 young people. Do please pray.



At Yei airstrip, before boarding the MAF plane



With Bishop Marandulu Levi, ECSS Bishop of Yei



Iain Nash coaching the Cathedral football team