

PRAYING THE PSALMS

# HOPE PRAYER TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2016



STEFANIE GLINSKI/WORLDEVISION

## Pray Psalm 34:14

Eight-year-old Ayen vividly remembers waking up during the night to sounds of violence in her village in South Sudan. Instead of darkness, there were lights everywhere. Gunshots rang in her ears, and she hid as her family scattered in all directions.

In the morning, she became more frightened when she couldn't find them.

"I was scared and cried," Ayen says. "I didn't know what had happened."

Her aunt took her in, and they sought protection in one of the many camps for internally displaced people throughout South Sudan. A few weeks later, World Vision staff took their names and in-

formation. Ayen and her mother were reunited days later.

"It was the happiest day since our escape," Ayen says.

Armed conflict and ongoing drought make South Sudan one of the most difficult places to live right now. Join us this month in praying Psalm 34:14 over the people of South Sudan.

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***“Turn from evil  
and do good;  
seek peace and  
pursue it.”***  
—Psalm 34:14

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*“Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.”  
—Psalm 34:14*

## SUGGESTED PRAYER POINTS

### “Turn from evil ...”

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



Nine-year-old Kai lives in a tent with his mother and six siblings. When fighting broke out in their village, his father and grandmother died trying to flee, and the rest of his siblings — three brothers and two sisters — are still missing. “We had to flee many more times. Whenever fighting broke out, we had to run away again. I hope we are safe now,” Kai says. “I don’t want to run anymore.”

*Our Redeemer, as families like Kai’s flee from violence, work in the hearts of their oppressors so that they may turn from evil ways. Soften their hearts so Your love and compassion can abound in them.*

### “... and do good; ...”

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



Eleven-year-old Abuk and her three younger siblings were driven from their village by shooting that claimed their mother’s life, and their father was killed in the war. “I became the mom,” Abuk says. One day, World Vision staff member Michael Angok came to their camp for internally displaced people. He’d found their uncle. World Vision is finding extended families for orphans like Abuk and reuniting families who have been separated by the conflict like Abuk and her uncle. In seven of the country’s 10 states, more than 900 staff work hard to serve roughly a million people, half of whom are children, by providing food, healthcare, education, and protection.

*Lord, we praise You for the lives that have been saved and the families reunited. We pray for the safety and security of aid workers in this conflict-ridden area. Empower World Vision to assist more children and families, serving as Your hands and feet.*

### “... seek peace ...”

STEFANIE GLINSKI/WORLD VISION



Ten-year-old Djok and his family fled south to Uganda when soldiers attacked their village, killing his father. “It’s actually like living in South Sudan, except for that it is safe,” Djok says. “Everyone in my village is from my country, and many want to go back one day.” After school, Djok finds joy playing with the soccer ball he made of several plastic bags and some rope. “It’s not very big yet, but I can play with it,” he says. “I hope I can grow it bigger and have a real game with my friends here.”

*Great Comforter, help the people of South Sudan find an enduring peace. Our hearts ache for Djok, who lives in circumstances no child should endure. We ask for the conflict to end with a peaceful solution so Djok and his family can return to their home.*

### “... and pursue it.”

STEFANIE GLINSKI/WORLD VISION



While her husband stayed in their home state of Unity, Adakien and her four children have moved from camp to camp over the past two years to flee the violence. She’s not sure if her husband is alive, and she has no way to contact him. “My country hasn’t made great advances in the last five years [since independence],” Adakien says. “I have seen suffering and fighting, but I am still proud. We have our own country, and I wouldn’t want to change this for anything.”

*Father God, protect the children and families displaced and separated by conflict as they pursue peace. May they find hope in You. Give them courage and continued resilience to hold on to what is good.*