

CONFERENCE ISSUE, JUNE 17-19...THE CHURCH & SUDAN: PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE

# SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2011

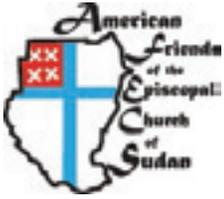
VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2



AFRECS - AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN





CONNECTING HOPE AND GIFTS

# SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2011

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

*American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) is an organization of U.S. churches, non-governmental organizations, and individuals who care deeply about the struggles of the Sudanese people.*

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## COVER:

Students from the Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in the Diocese of Rumbeck.  
© Photo Darryl Ernst.



Send submissions for the next *Sudan Connections* to Richard Parkins, Exec. Director, at [parkinscr@gmail.com](mailto:parkinscr@gmail.com) by August, 15, 2011.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C. RICHARD PARKINS



*Photo by Constance Wilson©*

Dear Friends,

As a new day approaches for our Christian brothers and sisters in South Sudan, with the advent of the 'Republic of South Sudan', we are reminded, tragically, of vestiges of the past that have impeded Sudan's journey toward peace. The connection we enjoy and will celebrate at the 2011 AFRECS national conference always needs to be tempered by new realities facing Sudan, and refurbished in order to respond to these realities. We gather, June 17-19, in Glen Allen, VA, to undertake that task.

For years AFRECS efforts have focused on advocacy for the rights of Sudanese Christians, giving the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) support in shepherding them toward peace and safety. The Referendum was a victory for that cause. The journey now takes a new direction.

We receive daily reminders of turbulence and conflict in contested areas of Sudan, and of controversy among political factions who seek to lead the new Sudan. These events horrify us and cause us to think that peace is an allusion not easily achieved for our Sudanese friends. However, we also receive news that Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul is virtually in constant motion with his bishops and priests in a range of challenging peace-making endeavors.

We know, too, that Sudanese Christians in the north view with trepidation the prospect of living within a nation that does not honor their faith, culture or language. They depend upon the ECS, and its leaders, to embrace them as their future seems to become more perilous. At the same time, the ECS is stepping out in faith to help its people fulfill the expectations that come with independence.

These multiple challenges require that we, as partners, be even more vigorous in embracing the priorities of the Archbishop, remaining steadfast in partnership, prayer and action. I trust that this year's national conference will set forth new possibilities for partnership at a time when it is so urgently needed.

Faithfully,

Executive Director

AFRECS

# YOUR INVITATION TO THE 6TH NATIONAL AFRECS CONFERENCE

## THE CHURCH AND SUDAN: PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE

THE RT. REV. DAVID C. JONES  
SUFFRAGAN BISHOP, DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA  
PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

Dear Friends,

Every day, as I receive various reports from Sudan, I am reminded of the importance of our prayers and financial support of the Episcopal Church in Sudan. AFRECS is concentrating its efforts on two major priorities: (1) peacemaking and reconciliation; and (2) strengthening the capacity of the Province to serve its bishops and dioceses. Toward that end, the board is supporting the internal efforts of AFRECS to allow all donations, beyond membership dues, to be used for those priorities. Your gifts make a significant difference, because they are applied to priorities as outlined by Archbishop Daniel to ECS partners supportive of the Province in carrying out its mission.

The Sudanese bishops are very much part of the continuing efforts toward peacemaking. Outbreaks of violence continue near the border, and further south, with representatives of ECS actively involved in seeking peace and reconciliation. Archbishop Daniel has asked his bishops to remain in their dioceses through the official independence of the new nation, July 9, to assist in peacemaking efforts.

As we gather in Richmond for the AFRECS Conference, June 17-19, we will hear first-hand reports from our missionary, Larry Duffee, and from Trevor Stubbs, a member of the faculty at Bishop Gwynne Theological College in Juba. We will also be offering an 'Introduction to Sudan' on Friday afternoon before the conference to help first-time participants understand the scope and



purpose of our work.

And, we look forward to the presence of our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, at the closing Eucharist at Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen, on Sunday, June 19, 10:45 A.M.

Please keep the 6th National AFRECS Conference in your prayers, as we continue to seek ways to support and encourage the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

Faithfully,

David Colin Jones  
President of AFRECS

# ABOUT THE NATIONAL AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN (AFRECS) CONFERENCE -- JUNE 17-19, 2011

## THE AFRECS BOARD



*Previous AFRECS Conference attendees*

As plans take shape for the 2011 AFRECS national conference, the focus of the conference on moving forward with Sudan, both as a new nation and in partnership with the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), will be on the challenges and opportunities presented to current, and prospective, American partners as we join with the ECS on this journey -- *The Church and Sudan: Partnering for the Future*.

For those relatively unfamiliar with Sudan's 50-year history of civil war and upheaval, and the vital role that the ECS has played in its history, the conference will feature a pre-conference session on Sudan's history, as well as that of the ECS, which has led to the current vote of southern Sudanese for independence as a separate nation.

To provide a framework for guiding conferees in understanding where they might engage with the ECS as it joins with the government and larger society in building a stable, democratic society, an opening plenary Friday evening will feature Ambassador Alan Goulty and The

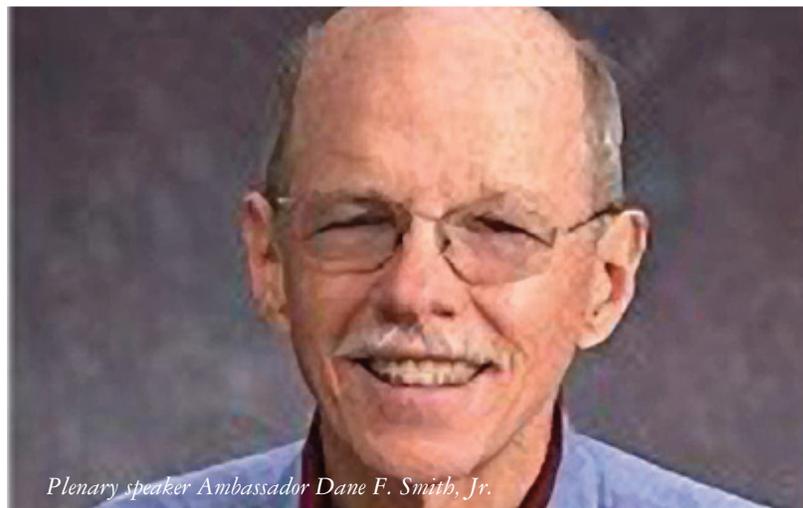
Rev. Canon Trevor Stubbs, as well as a senior spokesperson for the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) Mission in the US. Saturday morning's plenary speaker will be Ambassador Dane F. Smith, the Administration's Sr. Advisor on Darfur, who has followed closely US-Sudan relations, and whose reflections will inform the advocacy work before us.

The workshops, which follow, will probe the various initiatives that Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul has identified for the Province, and those generally recognized by international partners, as established at The Lambeth Roundtable in 2009. The objective of the workshops is to equip conferees with practical knowledge on how they can connect with and contribute to helping the ECS implement its priorities. Workshops supported by experts from various fields and disciplines will lead discussions around such topics as agriculture, education, theological education, water resource development, community health, peace building and advocacy. Enhancing these workshops will be exhibits sponsored by organizations whose work in Sudan will give conferees an understanding of what is needed to translate priorities into results.

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (TEC), will preach at the concluding Eucharist of the conference, Sunday, June 19. Go to [www.afreecs.org](http://www.afreecs.org) for further information about AFRECS, and where you'll find information on registration for the Annual National AFRECS Conference, June 17-19. ❖

# THE CHURCH AND SUDAN: PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE THEME OF AFRECS 6TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE JUNE 17-19, 2011

BY MARGARET S. LAROM  
CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
AFRECS BOARD MEMBER



*Plenary speaker Ambassador Dane F. Smith, Jr.*

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) is gathering advocates and partners for its 6th National Conference, June 17-19, 2011, at Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen, VA (Richmond), just three weeks before the Republic of South Sudan is to become an independent nation. The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) will be taking on more critical responsibilities for its people in both North and South than ever before in its history.

The Planning Committee is pleased to announce a program of distinguished speakers and workshops especially focused on ‘partnering for the future’. Ambassador Dane F. Smith, Jr., appointed by President Obama to be his Sr. Advisor for Darfur, working with Ambassador Princeton Lyman, US Special Envoy to Sudan, as the US seeks to deal with a range of issues that affect peace in Sudan, will speak to the plenary Friday evening. He is also currently a senior associate with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC, as well as an adjunct professor at American University’s School of International Service. Ambassador Smith and a representative from the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) Mission in Washington, DC, will speak to current events,

as well as long-range factors affecting Sudan, with the aim of helping us understand how we can best advocate on behalf of a sustainable society for all Sudanese.

A basic overview, “Sudan 101”, by Dr. Randall Fegley, President of the Sudan Studies Association, and Associate Professor of History and Politics at Pennsylvania State University’s Berks Campus, will open the Conference Friday afternoon. Dr. Fegley coordinates a four-year degree program in Global Studies, and has authored several books, articles and chapters. A look at the history of the ECS will be included in this opening session.

Two missionaries, who have been serving the ECS in Juba, will bring particular insights to the Conference. Larry Duffee works with Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul as Financial Advisor in the Provincial Office. He’s a member of St. George’s, Fredericksburg, VA, and is supported by the Diocese of VA and the Episcopal Church’s (TEC) missionary program. The Rev. Canon Trevor Stubbs, serves as Administrator at the new Bishop Gwynne Theological College (BGC), and is supported by the Diocese of Bradford, UK. He will lead the workshop on theological education, one of the ECS key priorities for strengthening the church.

## THE CHURCH AND SUDAN: PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE THEME OF AFRECS 6TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, cont'd.

Dr. Ellen F. Davis, Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC, will partner in the workshop on theological education. She is author of eight books and many articles. Dr. Davis has been collaborating with the ECS, Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), and the Diocese of Chicago in support of developing theological education, community health and sustainable agriculture, particularly in the Diocese of Renk, from which she will have just returned.

Several other workshops are planned addressing subjects related to the theme: a workshop on companion diocese relationships, led by Debra Smith and Susan Naylor, presenting the experience of the Diocese of MO and its companionship with the Diocese of Lui; a workshop on advocacy, led by Russell Randle, partner with law firm Patton Boggs, actively aiding the ECS for 14 years, member of Christ Church, Alexandria; a workshop on primary and secondary education in South Sudan, with Carol and Richard Rinehart, founders of Project Education Sudan, and Jennifer Ernst and Maker Mabior Marial, founders of Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in Rumbek.

An awards banquet Saturday evening will honor The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of TEC, for her commitment to justice and peace in Sudan, especially the church-wide Season of Prayer for Peace in Sudan that she launched in September, leading up to the January Referendum. Special recognition will be given to Samaritan's Purse, an NGO which is helping the ECS rebuild 425 churches, with a goal to reach 500, and to Ms. Janette O'Neill, for guiding the development and support of Sudan Relief Association (SUDRA), the relief arm of the ECS, while she was on the staff of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). The Presiding Bishop will celebrate and preach on Sunday morning at the 10:45 AM closing Eucharist of this 6th National AFRECS Conference.

Take advantage of this opportunity to network, to learn,

to teach, to meet, to pray with committed partners of the ECS from the US, the UK, the ECS, and Sudan. There will be a host of exhibitors Friday and Saturday.

To register, go to [www.afreecs.org](http://www.afreecs.org), click on Annual Conference. The \$150 registration fee includes all meals. A block of rooms for AFRECS Conference participants has been reserved at the Aloft Richmond West, Glen Allen, VA, at a special rate of \$79 per night, plus tax, available until May 27. (Closest airport is Richmond International.)

SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE...  
SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE...

6th Annual AFRECS Conference

Friday-Sunday, June 17-19, 2011

Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen, VA

*(outside Richmond)*

Diocese of Virginia

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori,

TEC Presiding Bishop

# ARCHBISHOP DANIEL DENG & TEAM STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE DIOCESE OF MALAKAL

EXCERPTED FROM A REPORT FROM THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE ECS

(ENTIRE REPORT IS POSTED ON [www.afrecs.org/epsinfo.htm](http://www.afrecs.org/epsinfo.htm))

March 29-April 2, 2011 - Malakal Diocese

**M**arch 12, Malakal Town, capital of Upper Nile State, was the scene of fierce fighting in the early hours of the morning in which dozens of civilians were killed. The very nature of the conflict, exacerbated by tribal tensions and rumors, indicated that until the personal and political differences are resolved, the people of Malakal remain at risk.

When news from the members of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) on the ground reached Archbishop Daniel Deng, he summoned Bishop Paul Yugusuk, Assistant of Torit, and two support staff to travel to Malakal Town, where they spent three days, standing in solidarity with Bishop Hilary Garang and the people in their time of sorrow and mourning.

The team held a two-day workshop on themes of healing of wounds, reconciliation and advocacy for pastors from the Presbyterian, Pentecostal, and Episcopal churches, and Sudan Interior Church (SIC) learning, praying and worshipping.

Bishop Hilary Garang welcomed the Archbishop and the team in All Saints' Cathedral on behalf of the pastors and lay people of Malakal Town. Archbishop Daniel greeted the congregation encouraging the pastors to be strong for their communities, and to listen carefully to the teachings over the days ahead, as it would be important for the sake of the whole State for them to implement what they hear. He urged all people to make an effort to come together for confession and healing on Friday.

Bishop Paul Yugusuk began the first workshop, Healing of Wounds, with prayers and devotion. He spoke about obedience to God, from Proverbs 3:7-8. "Obedience to God", he said, "is like the healing of wounds and release of pains."



*ECS Malakal choir*

He urged the participants to accept and teach a spirit and attitude of peace and obedience to God. If everyone in the community were able to adopt an attitude of obedience, it would lead to better health of the communal body, and the country, generally. The next day, Bishop Paul and Archbishop Daniel intertwined anecdotes and bible verses with practical examples on how to advocate effectively and resolve conflict within their communities.

The outcome of the workshop was the formation of the Upper Nile Inter-Church Peace Committee, made up of elected members from among themselves. They agreed that the immediate task before them is to plan and mobilize for an Upper Nile State Conference on Peace and Reconciliation, inviting representatives from churches, traditional community leaders, and the government of Upper Nile's 13 counties to discuss current instability and Upper Nile's trajectory should fighting continue. The hope is that an open discussion on potential dividends of peaceful coexistence would discourage those who might choose to continue fighting, ultimately prolonging the suffering of themselves and others.

## ARCHBISHOP DANIEL DENG & TEAM STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE DIOCESE OF MALAKAL, cont'd.



*Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and Bishop Hilary Garang of Malakal*

The local community of Malakal Town came out in force to the ecumenical prayer gathering held at the government town hall on Friday. The hall was filled to capacity (600). Before the prayers, Bishop Hilary thanked Archbishop Daniel for coming to Malakal. “He was not invited; the Spirit led him here.”

Archbishop addressed the crowd on the theme of a divided kingdom from Luke 11:17-20, relating it to tribalism in Malakal. He related that in biblical times, the king would call the people together if there had been a calamity. In this instance, the governor was doing the same. Therefore, as a crowd had indeed gathered, it was very important to cry to God for forgiveness and healing. (Go to [www.afrecs.org/epsinfo.htm](http://www.afrecs.org/epsinfo.htm) for the Archbishop’s message.) In conclusion, he called for all residents of Malakal to be patient and allow the country to grow, and for the people to unite for God’s sake and their own as South Sudan approaches Independence Day on July 9th.

Following the Archbishop’s message, Bishop Paul called all the pastors forward, where they were prayed for by the whole congregation. “After all,” he said, “if Malakal is to be healed, the confession has to begin with us.” The pastors were encouraged to cry aloud to God, confess their sins and

seek forgiveness for all that they had done wrong. There were many tears and much fervent prayer throughout the hall as all the pastors stood at the front. Similarly, when the Upper Nile Inter-Church Peace Committee proceeded to the front for blessing, the entire congregation was in prayer.

This outpouring of emotion showed the importance of prayer and opening oneself up to God, especially because just minutes before, there had been smiles and laughter as the people listened to the Archbishop’s bold address, as though they were no longer carrying the grief from their recent experiences. Archbishop Daniel gave the benediction, and the crowd processed out of the hall to songs from the choir.

The trip concluded with a powerful session of community prayers for honesty and forgiveness, in the center of town, by the Nile River. Join in supporting the people of Malakal as they endeavor to attain a lasting peace.

*The ECS wishes to thank its partner, Trinity Wall Street, for its continuing financial support for this work, which allows this, and many other peace and reconciliation visitations, to take place. The next issue of Sudan Connections will feature a report of the emergency peace and reconciliation mission trip to Jongelei State and the Diocese of Twic East. ❖*

# DIOCESE OF KAJO-KEJI CELEBRATES DEDICATION OF EMMANUEL CATHEDRAL ON PALM SUNDAY

EXCERPTED FROM A REPORT FROM THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE ECS

(ENTIRE REPORT IS POSTED ON [www.afrecs.org/epsinfo.htm](http://www.afrecs.org/epsinfo.htm))

Diocese of Kajo-Keji - April 15-17, 2011

The Diocese of Kajo-Keji, Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), was singing and dancing in celebration of their new Cathedral, Emmanuel, on Palm Sunday. Nearly 2,000 members of the Kajo-Keji community, including government officials, turned out to participate in the joy-filled occasion. The six-hour dedication service was a colorful scene of laughter, joy and praise to God for the beautiful new Cathedral.

The Diocese of Kajo-Keji has eight archdeaconries with fifty-eight parishes. Over 75% of the estimated population of 197,000 belongs to the ECS. Many churches were destroyed and many pastors killed during the war, particularly the first civil war. The community was separated, many being displaced, because of the intensity of the fighting in the area.

Nowadays, however, with peace and resettlement, the community is much stronger and any type of community event naturally involves the Church. Since 2008, Samaritan's Purse, the international Christian organization, has built fifty-eight churches in Kajo-Keji, thirty-nine of them for the ECS. Samaritan's Purse also initiated the construction of Emmanuel Cathedral.

His Grace, The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop of the ECS, arrived in Kajo-Keji on April 15 to tour the diocese and dedicate Emmanuel Cathedral to God, to greet the local community and take part in the festivities. He addressed the congregation, explaining the significance of the occasion. "We have come to dedicate the house of God, and the dedication of this Cathedral is timely as it will be the first cathedral to be dedicated after the southern Sudanese voted for their freedom and independence."

Bishop Anthony Poggo led the Archbishop, delegates from



*Emmanuel Cathedral, Kajo-Keji*

the ECS Province and other invited guests on a tour of the diocese, beginning with St. Bartholomew's Orphanage, where they were welcomed with song and dance by the children. Mama Susan Abiku, Matron, said in her greeting, "We depend on God completely. The work is not easy and many children are still in need. Seven children died because of lack of medicines to treat their illnesses."

In spite of difficulties and the sad accounts, she explained the center is doing very well in other areas. "We have some children who have grown up in the orphanage and are now students at Makarere University. The children (whom she does not call orphans, but children of God) are happy to have their father (the Archbishop) here", she said.

Archbishop Daniel told them, "As the future of the country, and the children of God, you should work hard and not let anything stop you from achieving your aims. There are presidents among you; no one is born president," he said to the delight of the children, and he led prayers of blessing and thanksgiving as he left them.

Next on the tour was Bethlehem Tailors Training Center, constructed in 2008 with funds from the Diocese of Bethlehem in the US. Scores of women have received training and developed skills with which they provide support for themselves and their families. Mama Grace Stephen, Director of the center graciously received Archbishop

## DIOCESE OF KAJO-KEJI CELEBRATES DEDICATION OF EMMANUEL CATHEDRAL ON PALM SUNDAY, cont'd.



*Archbishop Daniel with ECS kids*

Daniel and the other visitors. She explained how happy the women are to be at the center learning a skill. Both Bishop Anthony and Canon John Lomundu, added that items that the women were producing were for sale, and that no one was allowed to leave the center until they had bought something, whether it be clothing, honey, or lulu oil soap and body lotion that are also packaged at the center.

The entourage stopped next at the house of the Rev. Timayo Mogga, retired priest and participant in the Church Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) supported by Tearfund. The program is designed to help local churches identify their own needs by utilizing their own resources. Rev. Timayo grew cassava, sorghum and groundnuts to support his family in his retirement, and to build a new house. He told the visitors that because of his successful cultivation, the people call him 'Peanuts', the father of nuts because he has such a high yield. He was able to take twenty bags of cassava for sale to Juba on the MAF plan the Mothers' Union had flown on. "If my cassava can climb on a plane to Juba, then I can, too", he said happily.

The dawning of Palm Sunday, and it was time for short prayers for the pastors and the blessing of the oil and water to be used for the anointing of Emmanuel Cathedral. The youth choir led the procession of bishops, clergy, the Mothers' Union, and laity as they circled the Cathedral. The Archbishop knocked on the door with his crosier, and they marched inside slowly. Jubilation and ululating filled the air, while designated places and articles in the cathe-

dral were consecrated. "We must give thanks to God for this cathedral", the Archbishop said. "The building of the temple is a sign of peace and stability."

The Commissioner for Kajo-Keji praised the people and thanked Samaritan's Purse and contractors for the work they had done. He asked Archbishop Daniel to keep the government in prayer.

Joshua Jespersen, Country Director for Samaritan's Purse, congratulated the diocese for being good partners and seeing the work through to its completion. He thanked Bishop Anthony for inviting him to the dedication and thanked the local authorities for allowing Samaritan's Purse to work freely.

Bishop Anthony and Canon John Lomundu gave profound thanks to Archbishop Daniel and the team from Juba for being present on such an important occasion for all Christians, Palm Sunday. Following the many speakers expressing encouragement and thankfulness, Archbishop Daniel rose to give final words of encouragement and benediction.

The final act of the dedication was to unveil the plaque of consecration, marking the end of the day's proceedings and the beginning of the great celebratory feast. Emmanuel Cathedral now proudly stands as a symbol of local development by a community united in Christ with a common cause. As many said that weekend, Kajo-Keji is a model for other areas of Southern Sudan of what can be achieved in unity.

*Ed. Note: Samaritan's Purse will be one of the recipients of an AFRECS award at the Saturday evening banquet, June 18, during its 6th National Conference in Glen Allen, VA. Information about the conference and the registration form can be found on the website, [www.afrecs.org](http://www.afrecs.org). ❖*

## ECS ELECTS BISHOPS OF LUI & BOR, MAY 14, 2011

The Diocese of Lui, and mission partners Blackmore Vale Deanery, Diocese of Salisbury, UK; Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden; and the Diocese of Missouri, The Episcopal Church (TEC), celebrate the election of Stephen Dokolo, May 14, in Juba. Bishop-elect Dokolo attended Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, MO, and is widely known throughout the Diocese, which is a member of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS). Lui and Missouri are companion dioceses.

Bishop-elect Dokolo returned to Lui upon his graduation from Eden in 2009, where he has been serving as Diocesan Secretary. Consecration of the next Bishop of Lui is scheduled for June 26, 2011. The previous Bishop of Lui, the Rt. Rev. Bullen Dolli, died of cancer December 11, 2010. His body is buried at Fraser Memorial Cathedral in Lui next to the first Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Ephraim A. Natana.

The Rev. Ruben Akurdit Ngong was elected 2nd Bishop of Bor. The Rt. Rev. Nathaniel Garang Anyieth recently retired after 27 years as Bishop, and five years as Dean of the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). Bishop-elect Akurdit was nominated in April after the post was declared vacant with Bishop Garang's retirement in March. The new Bishop will be consecrated in June, also. ✠



*Stephen Dokolo, Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Lui*

*The elections were held at All Saints' Cathedral, Juba, following the House of Bishops meeting, May 13. Deputations from 30 dioceses in the ECS, consisted of 3 people; bishop, clergy, lay each having 1 vote. The 2 dioceses voting for bishops send ten delegates: Diocesan Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chancellor, 3 lay and 3 clergy, each having 1 vote.*

# “HOPE” ARRIVES...AND WE CONTINUE TO GROW!

BY JENNIFER ERNST, FOUNDER OF HOPE FOR HUMANITY, INC.



*Students from Hope and Resurrection Secondary School.*

**T**hursday, March 31, 2011, brought signs of activity at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School. Hope stirred and excitement began to build in the South Sudan community of Atiaba, Diocese of Rumbek. Deputy Headmaster Cleous and eight teachers from Uganda arrived late the night before, after four days of travel. The school guard welcomed them with a gift of one goat and a crate of warm soda. The goat would provide a delicious celebratory meal, and drinking warm soda is normal, since electricity is not available regularly. It was a warm Sudanese welcome!

Headmaster Anthony Mading Wal arrived from his home in Rumbek, 30 miles away, and preparations for registration began. The first day of class was April 4.

Students were eager to register as soon as the teachers arrived, but were told to return the next day. Education is a true privilege and not available to all children and adults in South Sudan. The quality of instruction, the textbooks, daily school lunch, and permanent classroom space make Hope and Resurrection Secondary School a premier facility in South Sudan.

School year 2011 promises to be important and unique in many ways. Hope and Resurrection will see its first class of

23 “pioneers” graduate. During Sudan’s recent civil war, which ended in 2005, education was completely inter-

rupted as schools could not function. The graduates range in age from 19 to 42 years.

Dut, the 42-year-old student, has a wife and several children. He is employed as a gardener. Dut fits in time to attend class and do homework because he recognizes that education will open new doors for him and better equip him to provide for his family, and help ‘bring up’ this new nation of South Sudan.

The school has four young women in this class of 2011. Statistics show that very few females ever complete the secondary (high school) level. This will be a real achievement for them.

Completing a secondary education in South Sudan, on some levels, is equivalent to a university bachelor’s degree in the western world. Graduates can go on to work for the government, operate successful businesses, and work for non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) to help provide services for their own people.

Each new school year, we see an increase in students registering for 9th grade. More children now complete the primary level and are seeking to enter the few secondary schools throughout South Sudan. Because more students apply than the school can accommodate, only the brightest are admitted. Young women are encouraged to apply. Hope and Resurrection, in just three years of operation, has earned the reputation of providing exceptional teaching due to our employment of university-educated, trained teachers from Uganda. Only 7% of Sudanese teachers have been trained. As teacher training programs in South Sudan produce qualified teachers, they will begin to be incorporated into the faculty.

*For more information on how to become involved, contact Hope for Humanity, Inc., P.O. Box 29117, Richmond, VA 23242 804-784-3830 [www.hopeforhumanityinc.org](http://www.hopeforhumanityinc.org)* 

# CHALLENGES OF EDUCATION IN IBBA DIOCESE

## PRAY FOR TEACHERS FOR IBBA SECONDARY SCHOOL

BY THE RT. REV. WILSON KAMANI, DIOCESE OF IBBA, ECS

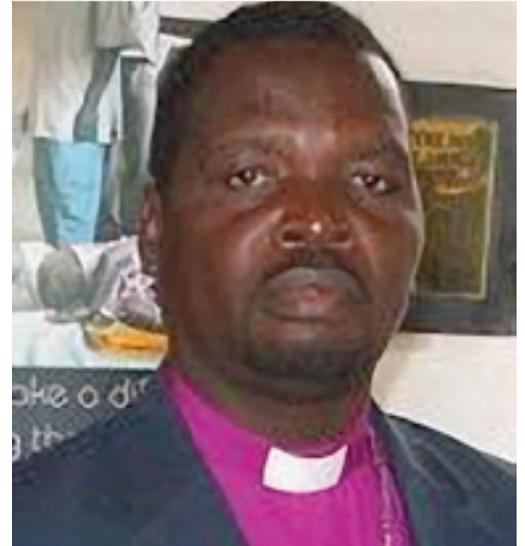
The Diocese of Ibba is located in Western Equatoria State, 214 miles from Juba. It was established in 1992, during the 21 years of civil war in Sudan. The most important challenges of the diocese concern the high rate of illiteracy and the lack of teachers for Ibba secondary school.

A high rate of illiteracy is a challenge throughout the whole community of Ibba. The objective of the diocese is to move towards illiteracy mitigation. There is a 3-fold strategy to address this serious problem: initiation of an intensive English course for church workers and some community leaders, started in 2009; a nursery school program, which began in 2008; and an adult education program for women and female drop-outs initiated in 2011. The lower and upper primary school opened in 2008.

The main objective in focusing on education for all levels is to work towards changing the mindset of the people of the community, to augment self-esteem, and to encourage the people to develop and equip students who are currently in Ibba secondary school to teach students in our primary school.

There is a very good indication of progress in the area of primary education within the diocesan objective for the community through the generous support from our partners. For the past two years, the students at the church school, St. Peter Primary School, have been performing very well. The school is said to be one of the best schools in the whole State. St. Peter Primary School students successfully passed final exams in second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth positions throughout the State last year, and in 2011 the students passed to secure first, second, third, and fourth positions.

Another challenge is secondary education. The only secondary school is government run, and its biggest challenge is lack of teachers. In 2010, there were two teachers in Ibba secondary school, with forty students. This year, there are two classes, senior 1 and 2, but there is no news of plans for any additional teachers. According to Headmaster Thomas Taban, it is essential to have teachers of Mathematics, English Language, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. Lack of teachers of these subjects is an indicator that students



*Bishop Wilson Kamani*

at Ibba secondary school will not be able to pass the South Sudan school certificate exam.

The diocesan plan and vision to develop and equip current students to become teachers is straight-forward, and the possibility for those students, who have excelled against the odds in our primary schools, to pass South Sudan school certificate exams next year has been endangered. As a church, we feel it is necessary to support the secondary school, but we cannot because of the scarcity of resources at hand.

Based on the urgent need for teachers for the secondary school, I invite and encourage your prayers and support. We, therefore, appeal to our partners, and others concerned about a good education and assisting the church in meeting this need, to volunteer to work with us. If you are a retired teacher, recent graduate, or otherwise feel called to come to Ibba Diocese to take up this new challenge, we will continue to do our part and welcome you. Please get in touch with us, should you know anyone who would like to come to Ibba, or want to work with us yourself. Contact the Diocese of Ibba through [international@sudan.anglican.org](mailto:international@sudan.anglican.org). Your message will reach me. ❖

# NEW BISHOP GWYNNE COLLEGE ON SOUND FOOTING IN JUBA

BY THE REV. TREVOR STUBBS, MISSIONARY AND TEACHER, SALISBURY DIOCESE



*Trevor and Tina Stubbs*

A few days ago, I received a note informing me that an elderly woman, whom I know in the UK, had given a very generous gift to Bishop Gwynne College, Juba, where I work. Some of it is to encourage me in that work. But, the main reason she chose to give so generously is to help the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) train priests.

In the western world, we take it for granted that nobody can do a job, especially one as important as being a parish priest, without some kind of preparation, many years of preparation, in fact, before ordination. It is formal academic learning, yes, but also spiritual formation by which men and women are enabled to discern God's calling for them.

Here in Sudan, such formation has not been possible for most of the hundreds of priests ordained by the ECS dioceses during the protracted civil war -- a time when the Church grew from a minority of the population, into one of the leading Christian denominations in South Sudan.

Since 2005, with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ending the war, the Province and dioceses have sought to train clergy already ordained, but the sheer numbers make this an enormous task. And, of course, there are no resources, not enough money, "ma fi gurush!", as we say in Juba Arabic.

The plan is to train a few pastors in residential institutions, who will return to their dioceses to teach other pastors (priests, deacons, evangelists, laypersons). This system is

known as Theological Education by Extension (TEE).

To implement this process, New Bishop Gwynne College (NBGC) is being revived in Juba. The college is being reinstated in Mundri for a few local pastors. Work at Renk Theological College (RTC) continues with support of partners from the US, and Bishop Shokai College, Khartoum, specializes in teaching Arabic. There are local diocesan institutions throughout the ECS with differing levels of theological education.

Upon our arrival in Juba in 2008, I found BGC in tremendous debt, around \$200,000. Each month the debt was deepening. In February 2009, Archbishop Daniel Deng suspended the college to address the situation. Assets were sold and income from rent put NBGC on sound footing in terms of financial sustainability and educational quality. In 2008, we found the college in a small building with only fifteen students. This academic year, 2011, there are forty-four resident students and six non-residents, on a new site with two large buildings.

The generosity of the Diocese of Salisbury, UK, with a grant of \$100,000, has made this possible. Water has been brought to the site, a basic, but modern, toilet is in place, and one new staff house is complete, with a second under construction. A grant from the Anglican Communion will complete the second house.

NBGC has been accepted for affiliation with St. Paul's University, Limuru, Uganda. Students can study for a university level theological diploma, which will qualify them to continue toward a degree.

Some students, whose education has been very limited due to years in refugee camps, arrived with very low levels of English. My wife, Tina, is teaching a special English bible study and general knowledge course. Basic applied math is taught by Larry Duffee, Diocese of Virginia, and agriculture consultant, Robin Denney, Diocese of El Camino Real, California, teaches agriculture, as well as other courses.

Tina has developed an orderly library, cataloging the books using the Library of Congress system in line with St. Paul's University. A grant from a trust in Wales, continuing support from my former parish in Bridport, Dorset, UK, and

## NEW BISHOP GWYNNE COLLEGE ON SOUND FOOTING IN JUBA, cont'd.

Tina's dedication have made it possible to reorganize and transfer the library to the new site.

Though the Church is often the means to community development and the bringer of peace across the new nation, including remote, and often inhospitable corners, it is extremely poor. Our staff could probably earn five times more with less demanding work if they transferred to government employment. They are with us because they work for God and for their people -- sometimes at the expense of the health and education of their own children.

Funding necessary for expansion of NBGC can only partially be found within. It take a long time to harvest the resources to increase the facilities for more students. At present, for example, we have intermittent power, no photocopier and no access to the Internet. The time when funding from

overseas is rapidly passing. We will not, cannot, stop reaching out to our friends in the rest of the world.

But, of course, it is much more than financial support we need. It is your deep concern and commitment of heart as you pray earnestly for the time when the people of Sudan can realize their full potential -- materially and, more important, spiritually.

To learn more about the history of New Bishop Gwynne College, go to <http://bishopgwynne.juba.anglican.org>.

Go to Rev. Trevor and Tina's blog to learn more about them, and to know how to pray for NBGC, the students and staff. <http://trevorandtina.blogspot.com/> Rev. Trevor Stubbs will present a workshop on theological education in the ECS at the AFRECS Conference, June 17-19. ❖

## FIVE TALENTS INTERNATIONAL

BY CRAIG COLE, PRESIDENT & CEO

**F**ive Talents is relieved that the Referendum in January to create the new country of South Sudan was relatively peaceful, and we are moving ahead quickly with the Literacy and Financial Education Program (LFEP) in six Episcopal dioceses in Sudan. The original training was accomplished in September of 2010, and since then there have been nearly 40 groups formed with over 700 members within the six program areas that include Khartoum, Renk, Lainya, Juba, Wau and Malakal.

Four of the six dioceses were funded by a grant from a foundation based in the UK called Comic Relief. The LFEP program is in partnership with the Mothers' Union and World Concern. It expects to reach more than 30,000 men and women in the next four years.

However, Malakal and Lainya are not fully funded. Five Talents is currently focusing on raising funding for the program in the Malakal Diocese. Five Talents has been blessed with a commitment from a foundation that will match, dollar for dollar, up to \$45,000, all new gifts to Five Talents for the Malakal program. Please do consider a donation to Five Talents at [www.fivetalents.org](http://www.fivetalents.org). There is a special page dedicated to this matching grant opportunity.

What has been profound about the leadership in Malakal



*Five Talents' trainers Rebecca and Deborah*

is that they have started the literacy groups despite the fact that there has been considerable conflict in their state since the Referendum. There has been a series of attacks, led by a local militia, that have left hundreds dead.

**From an interview with trainer, Rebecca ...**

Rebecca has been a trainer for many years on a variety of projects, the latest being the LFEP program.

"I appreciated this training indeed", she said. "I thank Almighty God for what I didn't have before because I now have literacy. I also learned that a wise man builds his house

## FIVE TALENTS INTERNATIONAL, cont'd.

on a foundation. Also, in the LFEP, illiterate people will learn how to write, read, and to know their income. They will know savings, expenditure, and profits, loans, working groups, and also how to read the Bible and to know their human rights.”

Rebecca is excited about training others. She has been assigned 24 churches in Malakal and another 19 in Bentiu area.

**And, an interview with MU trainer, Deborah, Diocese of Malakal...**

“I am a widow with five children, three boys and two girls, and one grandchild, and I thank the Lord for my life with my family because I am wholly dependent on God.

“The Holy Bible says ‘woe to the one who depends on man’, and for that reason I depend on God. All my children’s education is in God’s hands. I thank the Lord because this program is from the Lord. He helps me in my life with my family.

“When I started this course I was afraid of the program because I had a lot of worries on my mind. I have been through many courses before. Since I arrived, I have been really happy because it has brought about change in my life. I have started to understand, and I enjoyed meeting the other members of the course and the teachers. The course improved my life. I really benefitted from the studies and gained a good understanding from offering the program to others. In my life in general, I like sharing life and engaging with others. I have learned a lot from this course. I learned about what business is and reading and writing, and about saving in a bank. For this reason I am really

pleased as I have benefitted a lot. Thank you.”

Suzanne Schultz, Program Director, traveled to Sudan in March. She expected to go to Malakal, but insecurity made it impossible, and the trainers from Malakal went to Juba for a refresher course and to share their stories.

“Malakal has known a lot of conflict in this garrison town. They have been victimized by regional conflict after the Referendum. But, miraculously, they have pushed ahead with this program”, Suzanne said.

The trainers met in Juba where it was safe, and we heard about what they were accomplishing. Amazingly, they had reached out to 12 communities, forming many groups. It was a testament to the strength of the local Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), which is the largest civil society in Sudan. They are powerful partners and are a trusted institution in local communities.

Two hundred and fifty adults in the Diocese of Malakal are being trained. The trainers said that because of this program (LFEP), they had reached out to people they had never known before, met people in rural communities where they had never mixed before, different clans and tribes. After the recent violence in Malakal, they knew people who were hurt, and killed, that they had not known before, and it changed everything (about their relationships). Tragically, one of the facilitators was lost in the violence.

Suzanne says, “Sudan is still a story of promise and hope, and I never cease to be amazed by the strength of the Sudanese people.” ❖

*Contact Five Talents, [craigcole@fivetalents.org](mailto:craigcole@fivetalents.org), for more information about this innovative program, Literacy and Financial Education Program (LFEP), and about the matching grant opportunity for Malakal Diocese.*

## COMINGS & GOINGS, ETC.

*O God, surround those who travel, in Your service, with Your loving care; protect them from every danger; bring them safely to their journey's end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### MAY 18

Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail, Diocese of Kadugli, is beginning a visit in the US in Baton Rouge, LA, with invitations to visit the Dioceses of Dallas, Colorado, and other places not yet confirmed. Contact Anita Sanborn for information.

[anita@coef.org](mailto:anita@coef.org)

### May-June

Bishop Abraham Nhial, Diocese of Aweil, ECS, is traveling throughout the US, and will be present at the AFRECS Conference in Richmond, VA, June 17-19, at Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen.

### MAY 15-JUNE 7

Visiting Teachers, Ellen Davis, Sam Hamilton-Poore, Ann Copp and Peter Morris, travel to Renk Theological College, Renk Diocese, with a side trip to the Diocese of Malakal. (Visiting Teachers Program was founded by Richard Jones, VTS, & Ellen Davis, Duke Div. School in 2005. See Anglican Episcopal House of Studies: <http://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives-centers/aebs/renk/diocese-southern-sudan>)

### LATE MAY

A team of 7 from Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen, VA, will travel to Hope and Resurrection Secondary School, Atiaba, South Sudan.

### EARLY JUNE

A team of 4 from St. James' Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA, will travel to Akot, South Sudan, to work at Akot Medical Clinic and at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School, Atiaba.

### JUNE

Bishop Wayne Smith and his wife, Debra Morris Smith, are traveling to Sudan for the funeral of Bishop Bullen Dolli, 2nd Bishop of Lui, who died in Nairobi, Dec. 11, 2010.

### JUNE 7-22

Mark Gorman, graduate student at Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC, travels to Renk Theological College, Renk Diocese, to teach under the auspices of the Visiting Teachers Program.

### JULY 9, 2011

Chol Ater, Diocese of Colorado, involved with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) prior to coming to the US as a refugee, will participate in the independence celebration in Juba.

### JUNE 17-19

ANNUAL AFRECS CONFERENCE, CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL, GLEN ALLEN, VA (Richmond), DIOCESE OF VA. Go to [www.afreco.org](http://www.afreco.org) to register.

### SEPTEMBER 2011

Five Talents, International, is planning a Business As Mission (BAM) Trip to South Sudan in late September. The group will teach basic business skills to entrepreneurs in the towns of Lietnhom, Wau, and possibly Kuajok. The 2-week trip will be led by Jim Oakes, Five Talents BAM Trip leader. Judith Gregory, Business Manager of the Diocese of Delaware and AFRECS Board Member, is participating in this BAM Trip. For more information, contact McKenzie Butler, [mckenziebutler@fivetalents.org](mailto:mckenziebutler@fivetalents.org), or Jim, [joakes@bcicllc.com](mailto:joakes@bcicllc.com).

### EARLY FALL

Faculty for the next course sponsored by the Leadership Institute of New Sudan (LIONS) is now being assembled for a two-week course in Juba -- 1st week, "Democracy & Civil Society Issues"; 2nd week, "Economic Development & Management Issues". Individuals interested in teaching are invited to contact Anita Sanborn, [anita@coef.org](mailto:anita@coef.org).

### CONGRATULATIONS

Mangar Amerdid, founder of Leadership Institute of New Sudan (LIONS), has been appointed Interim Press Secretary, Office of the President of Government of South Sudan (GoSS).

### ...AND THE AWARD GOES TO



Connie Wilson, Designer of Sudan Connections, is recipient of the Bishop's Award of the Diocese of Chicago, presented at the Bishop's Associates annual luncheon, May 19. Connie is Producer of the Renk Media Team documentary telling the story of Chicago and

## COMINGS & GOINGS, ETC., cont'd.

the Diocese of Renk Companion Diocese Relationship, “*Voices of Faith*” - “*Partners in Faith*”. She is also member of the Commission on Global Ministry, Diocese of Chicago, coordinates her parish’s (All Saints’, Chicago) partnership with St. Peter Parish, Renk, and has traveled to the Diocese of Renk on three occasions.

### SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION, UK

Sudan Church Association (SCA) works alongside Church Missionary Society, the Dioceses of Salisbury and Bradford, and other UK and overseas organizations, and in support of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. The Venerable Michael Paget-Wilkes is Chairman of SCA, and Rev. Ian Woodward serves on the Board. Like AFRECS, it has a very informative newsletter/magazine. It is linked to the AFRECS website as AFRECS is linked to theirs. [www.sca.ismysite.co.uk/news-let/index.html](http://www.sca.ismysite.co.uk/news-let/index.html). It is published bi-annually.

### WATCH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF SUDAN CONNECTIONS

Archbishop Daniel Deng recently visited the Diocese of Nzara, Samuel Enose Peni, Bishop, and dedicated many new facilities there. Fr. Bob and Karen North, serving as Volunteers for Mission of TEC, in Nzara emailed news to Sudan Connections. The report of the Archbishop will appear in the Summer issue.

### REUTERS, SOUTH SUDAN, MAY 13, 2011

More than 1,100 people have died this year in rebel and tribal violence across nine of the South’s ten states, displacing nearly 100,000 people, according to official figures. More than 160 people have been killed in clashes in the past seven days. ❖

IN CASE YOU HAVEN’T REGISTERED FOR THE 6TH NATIONAL AFRECS CONFERENCE, JUNE 17-19, CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL, GLEN ALLEN, VA, THERE’S STILL TIME. GO TO [www.afreecs.org](http://www.afreecs.org) TODAY!

And, while you’re there, sign up for AFRECS E-Blasts, for weekly updates on the situation in Sudan, especially as Independence Day, July 9, approaches.

Pray . Teach . Partner . Urge . Give



# The Episcopal Church

May 15, 2011 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

## Commemoration of the Martyrs of Sudan

Each year on May 16, the Episcopal Church commemorates the martyrdom of Christians in the Republic of Sudan. On May 16, 1983, Episcopal and Roman Catholic clergy and lay leaders, facing restrictions imposed by an increasingly intolerant and fundamentalist Islamic government, declared they “would not abandon God as they knew him.” In the two decades that followed, an estimated 2 million people, many of whom were Christians, were killed in the country’s civil war between the predominantly Muslim North and the more ethnically diverse South.

A Comprehensive Peace Treaty was signed in January 2005, granting autonomy to Southern Sudan; and following a referendum in January 2011, Southern Sudan is scheduled to secede fully on July 9, 2011.

During the decades of civil war, approximately 4 million Southern Sudanese Christians were internally displaced, and at least another million Christians were forced into exile. *Holy Women, Holy Men* (Church Publishing, 2010) offers this hymn, written by Sudanese children in exile in Ethiopia:

Look upon us, O Creator who has made us.  
God of all peoples, we are yearning for our land.  
Hear the prayer of our souls in the wilderness.  
Hear the prayer of our bones in the wilderness.  
Hear our prayer as we call out to you.

The Episcopal Church of the Province of the Sudan has endured over twenty years of persecution and devastation while civil war raged. Clergy and lay leaders suffered particular persecution because of their leadership roles within their communities. But despite the total destruction of churches, schools, hospitals, and public institutions, Sudanese Christianity, which includes 4 million members of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, has been able to provide hope during times of fear and turmoil. The Episcopal Church of

the Sudan has not only solidified as a faith community, but they have been able to expand and grow.

Although in 1983 only approximately 5 percent of the population of Southern Sudan was Christian, today over 85 percent of the six million people living in that region is either Episcopalian or Roman Catholic.



Photo by Episcopal News Service

*Holy Women, Holy Men* offers this Collect for May 16:

O God, steadfast in the midst of persecution, by your providence the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church; As the martyrs of the Sudan refused to abandon Christ even in the face of torture and death, and so by their sacrifice brought forth a plentiful harvest, may we, too, be steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.