

AFRECS E-Blast: October 8, 2014

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

Editor's note:

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Message from AFRECS Executive Director, Richard Parkins

On September 21st, the international day of peace was observed around the world, including Juba, South Sudan. [We have shared with you the statement that accompanied that event.](#) That statement expressed the view that peace is "our right". The notion that the people of South Sudan were entitled to peace and were willing to claim it as a right was an encouraging sign that this right might become a reality. Claiming peace as something that is justly deserved by all people seems like such an obvious claim but one that is not often proclaimed as a right. If that be the case, we can hope that the people of South Sudan will in every legitimate way possible insist on possessing peace, hold their leaders accountable for bringing about peace, and pledge themselves to do all that is possible to make the right to peace the reality of peace.

One can well understand why South Sudanese might fervently have an especially legitimate claim on peace. After over fifty years of violent civil conflict, over two million deaths, and a diaspora of several million, peace is truly deserved by the victims of this protracted suffering. If there is any relation between the depth of suffering and anguish experienced by a people and the strength of ones claim to peace, it is surely the case with the people of South Sudan. If one's suffering enhances one's claim to a lasting peace, then our friends in South Sudan are now being cheated outrageously. Let us hope that this sense of deprivation and betrayal might cause citizens throughout South Sudan to demand that the peace to which they are entitled become their gift in the not too distant future.

In extending this analysis to what may follow in South Sudan, one wishes that the people will seek from their government greater integrity, transparency and accountability. Let us hope that fierce tribal identification and loyalty will no longer trump a commitment to national unity as an expression of what it means to be South Sudanese. Let us hope that those who embrace Christianity of any brand as well as those Muslims remaining in South Sudan will resist forces that might deter them from following teachings of peace and forgiveness in their daily lives. If peace is a right, those claiming it must do so by recognizing that the institutions that govern them and of which they are a part are vital to allowing a culture of peace to take hold. Let us pray that as we march in spirit with those who demonstrated for peace a few weeks ago, we shall lend our prayers and efforts to theirs in allowing peace as a right to become peace as a real experience for the millions of South Sudanese for whom peace has been so illusive.

Faithfully,
Richard Parkins

South Sudan:

The following farewell speech is from Susan Page, the first US ambassador to South Sudan. She left her post at the end of August. Her message puts into words the thoughts of many of us who are friends of South Sudan. Hopefully, Ambassador Page's message will build greater momentum towards the goal of peace that the people so richly deserve.

[Farewell Op-ed By: Susan D. Page, U.S Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan.](#)

Government:

[IGAD halts](#) the peace talks in Ethiopia in order to talk with the principal rivals. Reported in the Sudan Tribune.

[Good governance and selfish leaders...](#) Read more about it in this article in the Sudan Tribune.

[New security law in bad company./](#) So says this opinion piece in the Sudan Times.

Jonglei governor sacks minister of affairs. Reported in [All Africa](#).

Central Bank awaits response from South Sudan President, Salva Kiir, to devalue currency in order to even out the exchange rate between the banks and the black market. Reported in [All Africa](#).

Food Crisis

In South Sudan [children bear the brunt](#) of this man made disaster. Reported in The Guardian.

[WFP scales up](#) relief effort by airlifting food to difficult to reach places.

A South Sudanese mother pleads, ["Please help us - our children are starving."](#)

Malnutrition still at high rates, the [Sudan Tribune](#) reported recently.

Despite improvements in food security, South Sudan faces the [world's worse food crisis](#), as reported by Relief Web.

Violence

[UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict](#), is visiting South Sudan. She warns that sexual violence will 'haunt' for generations. Reported on Relief Web.

[Frustration Breeds Violence](#) in IDP camps in Juba, as reported by Voice of America

Reviews of the recently released film, 'The Good Lie' :

[Profound Film Tribute to 'Lost Boys' of Sudan.](#)

[The Good Lie](#)

[Why it should matter to Christians](#)

Lost boy, [John Dau speaks in Missoula](#)

Sudan:

Sudan chief negotiator confirms commitment to African peace plan. [Sudan Tribune](#).

The Popular Congress Party (PCP), led by Islamist figure Hassan al-Turabi remains committed to the national dialogue process launched by Sudanese president al-Bashir last January. The PCP emphasized it had no regrets in doing so. However, it blasted Saudi Arabia alleging that it participates in causing instability in Sudan. Reported in the [Sudan Tribune](#).

The International Criminal Court (ICC) calls on Saudi Arabia to arrest Sudanese president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir while he is in that country making a pilgrimage to Mecca. Reported in the [Sudan Tribune](#).

The governor of Central Darfur state revealed ongoing talks with four rebel factions in hopes that they would help achieve peace in the region. Reported in the [Sudan Tribune](#).

Sudan's electoral body says 2015 elections to be held on time. [Sudan Tribune](#)

Sudan Rebel Front (SRF) unlikely to overthrow Sudan regime militarily. [Radio Dabanga](#) - news from the heart of Darfur.

Region:

Economic Development

Fourth biannual Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) opened in Kenya with calls for trust among the Nile Basin Initiative member states. Reported by the [Sudan Tribune](#).

Thank you to our readers for your interest, your prayers, and your support.

Ellen J. Hanckel

Editor

Requests from the AFRECS Treasurer, Christy Hollywood

Renew your membership online at <http://www.afreecs.org/getInvolved.htm>

Make an additional donation to support the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan's efforts to provide solace and encourage reconciliation.

Encourage others to support AFRECS as well.

PRAY FOR PEACE AND DEEP HEALING OF THE CONFLICTS AND RIVALRIES IN SOUTH SUDAN.

PARTNER, URGE, GIVE

If you'd like to be doing more to help address the crisis in South Sudan, please consider the following:

* If you have contacts in South Sudan and are able to get news of various parts of the country and the church from them, keep AFRECS in the loop by replying to this email or using our main contact email address: info@afrecs.org.

* Pay attention to the evolving events and be prepared to advocate for peacemaking with the US (or other) government, especially if attention to conflict resolution wanes.

* Give to provide relief for internally displaced persons and others whose resources are compromised by the fighting and instability. One hundred percent of [donations to AFRECS](#) go to ECSS&S entities that can provide direct help to the people most in need.