AFRECS E-Blast: November 6, 2014

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

Message from AFRECS President, Bishop David C Jones

Dear Friends,

Today, I had the privilege of joining Bishop Joseph Garang Atem Zorial, Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Renk, at the Sudan and South Sudan Office of the United States Department of State. Bishop Joseph had been to the State Department on a number of occasions and had already established his credibility. Staff members were eager to hear his report.

Today's visits illustrated for me the importance of advocacy – one of the priorities of AFRECS. Before the day was out our party had also visited Capitol Hill and USAID. It was clear that the United States government is doing all that it can to support peacemaking efforts. Our visits helped tie together the efforts of different branches of our government.

While we were focusing on advocacy, our Executive Director, Richard Parkins, was in Juba where he has been participating in the work of the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission of the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan. He is accompanied on that trip by Buck Blanchard of the Diocese of Virginia. Friends of the Episcopal Church are eager to hear Richard's report on his visit. We have been praying for him and long to see him again.

Possibly the most satisfying part of the day was seeing Bishop Joseph face-to-face. We have been praying for him without ceasing. We have known of the strife and turmoil that he has experienced. It was especially gratifying to see his smiling face this morning.

Thank you for your faithful support of the work of the American Friends the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan. Your prayers matter and your support matters.

Faithfully yours,
David C Jones
President of AFRECS

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South Sudan

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Postcard of peace and forgiveness from 'Small London'. This opinion piece in the Sudan Tribune is written by Rev. Bernard Oliya Suwa, PhD.

Bor flood victims receive assistance, as reported in the Sudan Tribune.

According to a spokesman, pro-Juba forces attack rebels. (Sudan Tribune)

A media boss resigns amid allegations of interference from a government minister. Reported in the Sudan Tribune.

The Sudan Tribune reports that workers with a commercial road construction company threaten strike because of unpaid salaries.

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Sudan:

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Leaders of Sudan's largest parties met in London recently. However, the Sudan Tribune reports the meeting between the two leaders ended without a joint statement.

AllAfrica reports on the frontlines of Sudan's civil war.

Sudan welcomes investment from Kuwait, as reported by Sudan Vision Daily.

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Encore entry regarding Sudan Connections:

Sudan Connections - A new issue is posted on-line. Stories included in this issue are:

-Messages from AFRECS President, Bishop David Jones and AFRECS Executive Director, Richard Parkins;
-a report on the peace initiative at Kakuma Refugee Camp by Jeffrey Gill;
-an update on 'pennies from heaven' for South Sudan, coming from a church in Virginia;
-the South Sudan Network in Solidarity with ECSS&S by Ranjit Mathews;

-a report on the Bishop Gwynne College Peace Building Training by Samuel Marial and Ellen Hanckel;
-collaboration of Dinka and Nuer to build water wells by Nancy Frank;
-three perspectives about Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in Lakes State - one by a board member, another by a student, and one from a graduate;
-two entries by Greg Miller - one about covenants between small parishes and a poem about the massacre of 14 women who were taking refuge in St. Andrew's Cathedral in Bor last January.

Also included is information about networking by conference call and about travel for education and advocacy.

Many thanks to all contributors and to *Connections Editor*, Jacqueline Kraus and *Connections Designer*, Constance Wilson.

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Thank you to our readers for your interest, your prayers, and your support.
Ellen J. Hanckel
Editor

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Requests from the AFRECS Treasurer, Christy Hollywood

Renew your membership online at http://www.afrecs.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.