

AFRECS E-Blast: December 16, 2015

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

Messages from Executive Director, Richard Parkins

**AN ADVENT PRAYER...**

Dear Friends,

With each daily lighting of my Advent candles (now up to three), I think of my friends in Sudan and South Sudan and offer a prayer. Let me share some of my meditation with you, hoping that you will join in prayer with me and others who earnestly desire a special Advent peace for our Sudanese sisters and brothers.

O God, we pray that the peace that only you can bestow will manifest itself throughout South Sudan and Sudan as millions of souls seek relief from relentless violence.

May those throughout both nations who have been indifferent and hostile to your reconciling spirit be awakened to your voice pleading for acts of forgiveness and compassion instead of revenge and war.

May the peace makers be strengthened in their efforts to bring healing and reconciliation so that those who are suffering may know that the balm of Christian love and forgiveness is available to them.

May we who pray for peace in both Sudans not grow weary in our plea that a new day of peace and safety will descend upon these war weary nations.

May the forces that sometimes divide us as people of faith be set aside as we seek the common ground where all that matters is our commitment to the Gospel of Christ and its message of peace and forgiveness.

Friends, let us be united in prayer and express the **HOPE** that is the essence of this season. Our prayers are an expression of that **HOPE**.

Faithfully in Christ,

Richard

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**AS THE YEAR ENDS...**

Dear Friends,

As you know if you are an AFRECS member or friend, we are a source of support to our friends in Sudan and South Sudan who often turn to us for assistance in emergency situations where help is urgently needed. We are able to respond to such pleas because we are a nimble organization that can move quickly when the demand reaches us. Our ability to do this, of course, depends on support from donors like you.

This year we have helped several bishops displaced by war who have been able to move to more secure places where their work as pastors could continue. We have supported peace work at the Bishop Gwynne College at a time when it was crucial to equip priests to be more effective and robust peace makers. We have been among those partners who have made possible a sports initiative in Kenya that has brought various youth groups from different tribes together as a demonstration that tribal conflict and its disastrous consequences need not be. We offered financial support to a pilot peace project in the Bor diocese where vicious conflict had wrecked the lives of many, resulting in untold suffering for thousands. We managed to get resources to the Diocese of Kadugli where a desperate and often overlooked remnant of the church continues to survive in the midst of bombing and terror.

We operate with as modest an administrative budget as possible so that funds collected can be deployed directly to those dioceses where an immediate response is required. It is your generosity and support that make it possible for us to do our work, so please be generous. As the year ends, please help us to enter the new year prepared to walk with our Sudanese friends as they try to move forward from the war and devastation of the past two years. Help us to bring a message of hope where so often hope is in short supply. Together we help share the message of compassion that is so central to who we are as Christians. This season, especially, reminds us of this calling.

You can send contributions to AFRECS, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304 or go to our [web site](#) where you can access the PayPal option.

Thanks and warm wishes for a blessed Christmas.

Faithfully,  
Richard Parkins

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[Click here](#) to see a news release based on the final agenda of the AFRECS conference held October 23 - 25 in Alexandria, VA.

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[Click here](#) to see the latest edition of Sudan Connections. The Fall 2015 issue, edited by Jacqueline Kraus and designed by Constance Wilson, is now available.

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[Click here](#) for more information regarding funds that may be available for those in Sudan/South Sudan who were harmed by violations of economic sanctions.

[Click here](#) to see a direct appeal from Bishop Moses of Wau on video: Message to the Congressional Caucus on Sudan/South Sudan, provided on Faith McDonnell's blog for The Institute on Religion and Democracy.

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### **Both Sudans**

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[Anglican Ink](#): Sudan break with The Episcopal Church (TEC).

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### **South Sudan & Diaspora**

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1) US Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on South Sudan:

-[allAfrica](#): South Sudan: 'Kiir, Machar Would End Up in Jail Soon', Angry US Senator Says

-[Sudan Tribune](#): US officials accuse South Sudan leaders of "hijacking" country

-[Enough Project](#): Testimony of John Prendergast before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on "Independent South Sudan: A Failure of Leadership"

2) Possible split in South Sudan's ruling party:

-[Sudan Tribune](#): South Sudanese presidency has downplayed alleged rift in ruling party leadership.

-[Sudan Tribune](#): South Sudan president warns of inevitable split of SPLM ruling party.

3) The Sudd Institute: Research for a Peaceful, Just and Prosperous South Sudan, recently released the following policy briefs:

-[Civil Society Organizations/Church Based Organizations and faith-based organizations-led peace and reconciliation efforts](#)

-[The Mediation Pendulum and the Challenges that Underlie the Peace Implementation in South Sudan](#)

-[Political Parties and the Push for Political Consensus](#)

4) [Enough Project](#): Deadly Enterprise: Dismantling South Sudan's War Economy and Countering Potential Spoilers by Justine Fleischner, lays out recommendations in five key areas: a) holding perpetrators of financial crimes to account; b) dealing with potential spoilers; c) prioritizing specific provisions of the peace agreement; d) enhancing civil society efforts to hold their own leaders to account; and e) providing incentives for the implementation of the peace agreement alongside targeted coercive measures.

5) [Voice of America](#): International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): Thousands in South Sudan Face Starvation

6) [The New York Times](#): (South) Sudan Refugee Ordained as Episcopal Deacon in Utah

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**Sudan & Region**

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1) [The New York Times](#): Twelve Years After Conflict Erupted, Darfur's 12 Year-Olds Have Big Ambitions

2) [Sudan Tribune](#): New translation: Sudanese nationals with dual citizenship could be impacted by new U.S. visa policy

3) [Kuwait News Agency \(KUNA\)](#): Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia to hold new round of "Dam" talks.

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

We invite you to visit our [Website: http://www.afrecs.org/](http://www.afrecs.org/)

Ellen J. Hanckel

Editor

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PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE. LEARN.

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

\*Pray for peace and deep healing of the conflicts and rivalries in South Sudan.

\*Join AFRECS or renew your annual membership on line at <http://www.afrecs.org/getInvolved.htm>

\* 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](mailto:info@afrecs.org).

\* Be prepared to advocate for peacemaking with the US (or other) government, especially if attention to conflict resolution wanes.

\* [Donate](#) to support the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan's efforts to provide solace and encourage reconciliation.

\* Urge others to support [AFRECS](#) as well.