

AFRECS E-Blast: December 19, 2012

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

In the church:

A Message from AFRECS Executive Director Richard Parkins

Touching the Crisis

We are all pained by the seemingly intractable nature of the ongoing crisis that displaces thousands in the Nuba Mountains where daily bombardment means death or safety in nearby caves. Starvation looms for thousands. A consequence of this tragedy and its ongoing nature combined with its remoteness and isolation is an emotional conundrum for those who cannot reconcile themselves to a human disaster that defies a solution – at least a solution that the current international players are willing to embrace.

But we do have a recourse. Prayer is what we do when are in such a state; and pray we must. We can also remind ourselves that we are called to be the Body of Christ in the world, even parts of the world that we cannot easily reach physically and whose residents we cannot embrace as much as that might be our desire. It occurs to me that there might be a way – a modest way – to make a connection and, in doing so, make our presence felt in a desperate place where we cannot be.

Bishop Andudu Elnail, the bishop of Kadugli, attempts to reach parts of his diocese that are accessible after his cathedral and surroundings were brutally assaulted and destroyed, He has struggled to bring supplies to his people and to maintain connections with his priests who have fled to surrounding countries for safety.

Why not send Bishop Andudu a Christmas greeting expressing our love for him and his people and prayers that the violence that has become a steady diet for those in the Nuba Mountains might end. Bishop Andudu is an expression of the persistence of his people to survive and move forward with their lives. As he carries this heavy burden for his flock, I am certain that he would greatly appreciate reminders of our friendship and faithfulness. I also know that to the extent possible, he will let his people know of our love and deep concern. Let us give this faithful Christian leader the Christmas gift of being remembered, cared for and prayed for. His email address is bpandudu@me.com.

Richard Parkins

Editor's Note: The following gentle appeal is repeated from the last e-blast in hopes that you might see your way clear to help in the way described below as well as in the way described above. Peace, EJH+

Dear Friends of AFRECS,

Several hundred readers now receive our E-Blasts every other week, yet only a few have joined AFRECS as members. The board of AFRECS intentionally established a modest membership fee of \$15 to enable all those concerned about developments in Sudan and South Sudan and the work of the Episcopal Church of Sudan to become AFRECS members. If you appreciate our work in maintaining a network of persons committed to peace and justice for our Sudanese sisters and brothers and our E-Blast broadcasts, please consider becoming an AFRECS member. The membership fee remains at \$15 annually but if you feel inclined to be more generous, a larger contribution would be appreciated. You may send checks to AFRECS, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. Note in the memo line of your check AFRECS MEMBERSHIP.

Thanks,
Richard Parkins,
Executive Director.

In politics -- the two Sudans:

These three links give a thorough review of the Cooperative Agreement between Sudan & South Sudan signed on September 27, 2012 in Addis Ababa:

-[Sudd Institute brief](#) after a recent Public Event;

-[The Sudans' Project by PILPG](#) - Public International Law & Policy Group;

- [Sudan Tribune, Princeton Lyman](#):: "Cooperation agreement lays out a path for durable agreement."

In politics -- South Sudan:

Posted by John Ashworth on 12/12/12:

It is worth mentioning that while there are some negative events in Jonglei State, notably the Khartoum-supported armed rebellion by David Yau Yau and reported human rights abuses by some elements of SPLA, nevertheless the peace process continues. Sudan Council of Churches has around 50 grassroots peace mobilisers on the ground who continue to engage with the community as part of the Peace from the Roots initiative, which is a two to three year programme recognising that *changing a culture of violence into one of peace does not happen*

overnight. (Emphasis added.) A couple of weeks ago around 50 cattle camp youth leaders from all communities met peacefully in Pibor. It is hoped that early next year a representative group of cattle camp youth will be taken for an exposure visit to Kuron Peace Village in Eastern Equatoria to experience the benefits that peace has brought to similar communities. Delegations from the Presidential Committee for Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance in Jonglei State continue to visit various parts of the state. Unfortunately none of these positive developments are "news".

[Jonglei State](#): SPLA to "launch aggressive attacks" against rebels.

Follow this link to see a summary of the small arms survey issue brief entitled "[My Neighbour, My Enemy: Intertribal Violence in Jonglei](#)" recently released by Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA) for Sudan and South Sudan.

In politics -- Sudan:

Bloomberg reports that Sudan's [Indiscriminate Bombing](#) leaves a civilian toll. Two different groups are cited in the article - Amnesty International and [Human Rights Watch](#) which urges the African Union and United Nations to seek a human rights investigation.

New York Times article entitled [Rumblings for Change in Sudan's Governing Party](#) by Isma'il Kushkush sheds light on the 'open secret' of the growing discontent within the ranks of the Sudanese government.

On the other hand, is the point of view that the belief that the Khartoum regime will reform is misplaced. Reported by [African Arguments](#), the author, Hamdam Mohamed Goumaa, is a Sudanese Peace & Development Activist living in the USA.

PRAY with Hope for Peace during this Holy Season:

Give thanks for our friends - our sisters and brothers who live in South Sudan and Sudan - whether they reside in a palace or a refugee camp, the city of Juba or the Nuba mountains. No matter where they live, their living conditions or their station in life, pray for our friends. Continue to give thanks for the progress made by the Cooperation Agreement and pray for the increase of 'growing peace between Sudan and South Sudan.'

Peace & joy to all of our subscribers,
EJH+, Editor

This bi-weekly Sudan update is from the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. You are receiving it because you are currently on an AFRECS listserv. Feel free to forward this newsflash to others who may find it helpful. To join the list if you received this email as a forward, please send an email to [AFRECS E-Blasts@afrecs.org](mailto:AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org) with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email to [AFRECS E-Blasts@afrecs.org](mailto:AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org) with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. For more information about AFRECS, visit our website <http://www.afrecs.org> or our Facebook page.