

AFRECS E-Blast: February 20, 2013

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

**In the church:**

**A Message from AFRECS Executive Director Richard Parkins**

A Tribute to a Faithful Servant from the Episcopal Church (TEC) to the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS)

It is always important to be reminded of those workers in the vineyards whose faithful and dedicated service make important differences in places where the odds of bringing about change are daunting and the journey to positive outcomes is rough and circuitous. The church landscape in South Sudan and Sudan has its share of dedicated ambassadors who have enriched the life of the church there – sometimes incrementally but with results that have brought about significant changes in places where the challenges are many and the tasks complex. Larry Duffee, who for the past three years has served as a Volunteer in Mission with the Episcopal Church (TEC) to the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS), is one of those faithful servants who deserves recognition for his steadfast service to our sisters and brothers in South Sudan and Sudan.

Larry's initial task as a missionary was to implement a system of standard controls which would bring discipline and accountability to the financial operations of the ECS. His success in doing this now provides a measure of confidence that funds given to the ECS supports the projects and ministries for which they are designated. Installing trained financial personnel in various parts of the ECS was a significant by-product of Larry's work.

Larry's knowledge of both Sudan and South Sudan, as well as the affection that he felt for their people, equipped him as an invaluable intermediary between friends in those countries and the global partners seeking to journey with the ECS. The transition to Independence for South Sudan on July 9th, 2011 added to the many challenges already faced by the church. Helping partners to identify areas where assistance could make a difference was a gift that enhanced the ministries of the ECS as well as its global companions. Larry's credibility with the leaders of the ECS and his ties to US and UK partners was essential to keeping partnerships alive. Understanding both sides of the partnership equation was Larry's very special contribution to the bridge building required of any cross cultural relationship. Larry did this with consummate skill and sensitivity.

As Larry bids farewell to the ECS, our prayers and our profound thanks go with him. As we celebrate his ministry as a Volunteer in Mission, let us always give thanks to those who incarnate the Gospel mandate by serving ones' neighbors wherever they may be and by making friends of strangers. In this way, Larry Duffee gave us a truly inspirational example: servant of the 'Church' in its broadest sense and in particular, the Episcopal Church (TEC) in partnership with the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS).

Richard Parkins

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Editor's Note: The following gentle appeal is repeated in hopes that you might see your way clear to help the work of AFRECS in the way described below. 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, PO Box 12026, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. Note in the memo line of your check AFRECS MEMBERSHIP.

Thanks,  
Richard Parkins,  
Executive Director

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### **In the church (continued):**

A resolution from the 218th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia can be found on the AFRECS [Advocacy](#) page. It may be helpful to others who are crafting similar resolutions to be voted on in the coming months. Please send us others and they will be posted as well.

Update: We have added the letters that were sent to Capitol Hill by the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia as the Annual Council voted unanimously to do. Look [here](#) to find them.

It's worth the time it takes to read this far reaching & thought provoking article. "One Nation from Every Tribe, Tongue, and People": [The Church and Strategic Peacebuilding in South Sudan](#). Written by John Ashworth and Maura Ryan, it is published in the Journal of Catholic Social Thought, winter 2013 issue.

Highlights from the article include:

- Strategic peacebuilding aims to go beyond a "negative peace" to a "just peace."
- Cohorts are needed because a peace settlement (a negative peace) never brings the change of heart required to achieve a just peace. The church's work of peace begins with the transformation of hearts & minds.
- Eight tenants of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) which provide an image of peace born of right relationships. This resonates with values & convictions of many others outside of the Catholic community who also work for peace & justice.
- A description of the South Sudan peace process and the seven key elements of the People-to-People Peace Process:  
Steps
  - 1) Bringing people together to build trust
  - 2) Telling stories

- 3) Use of traditional peacebuilding techniques
- 4) Principle: Community is the primary actor in peacebuilding
- 5) Symbolism & imagery come into play  
(example of Bp Nathaniel Garang's leadership)
- 6) Truth: Peace only happens when everyone knows fully what wrongs were committed
- 7) Empowerment which happens as a result of this peace process

-The reconciliation of the two main factions: Dinka (led by Dr. John Garang) and Nuer (led by Dr. Riek Machar)

-Description of the negotiations sponsored by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which led to the 2005 CPA and finally to the Referendum and Independence for South Sudan in 2011

-The part the Church played in influencing the IGAD process from the sidelines

-Description of Peace from the Roots in Jonglei State with leadership from ECS Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and other church leaders

-The cooperation of the Government of and the UN Mission in South Sudan

-On-going structure and mobilising for peacebuilding in Jonglei State

-Model of Peace Village in Kuron (Eastern Equatoria State) under the leadership of RC [Bp Paride Taban](#)

-International Advocacy for Peace

-Three Advocacy Priorities that all stakeholders committed to:

- 1) Against aerial bombing of civilians
- 2) Against oil exploitation
- 3) For the right of self determination for people of South Sudan and other marginalized areas

-Peacebuilding, Nation Building

-Vision for the Future: Joint statement issued by the RC Bishop of Juba and the ECS Archbishop

-Final question from the authors: Will the Church be a watchdog that barks when things go wrong or a guide dog that leads things in the right direction

**In South Sudan:**

South Sudan hopes to raise \$1 billion from [oil concessions](#), according to this Business Report.

[Think Africa Press](#): South Sudan's Oil-for-Food Gambit.

Arabic or English? South Sudan's Linguistic Dilemma as reported in [The Niles](#).

**In Sudan:**

Sudanese Bishop Speaks about [Crisis in Nuba Mountains](#), a report from Catholic Relief Services.

[Reuters reports](#) fighting in Sudan's Blue Nile Border State

[Opposition leader](#) warns that the Bashir Regime is "about to fall" and explains why he is against the use of arms to topple the government.

UN [OCHA report](#): Sudan Humanitarian Update for 4th Quarter of 2012.

**Pray**

Pray for Joseph Taban Lasuba, Principal of Bishop Gwynne College (BGC) in Juba, South Sudan. He is in Nairobi, recovering from recent brain surgery. Also pray for the BGC students and the on-going operation of the school in these difficult times.

**Teach**

For your personal study during this holy season, consider using one of the Lenten guides offered in recent issues of this eblast. They originate from [South Sudan](#) and the [United Kingdom](#), giving an opportunity to understand the Gospel, our friends in Africa, and ourselves in deep & meaningful ways.

**Partner**

For you information and interest, review the list of companion relationships on the [Links](#) page of the AFRECS website. There are now 17 of them. Under your leadership, could it increase to 18?

**Urge**

Urge one another to do good works, especially in support of our sisters and brothers in South Sudan and Sudan. See the [Advocacy](#) page on the AFRECS website to explore other avenues.

**Give**

Give a modest amount today to further the work of AFRECS by becoming a member. (See [here](#) for how to join.)

Peace,  
Ellen J Hanckel, Editor

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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.