

AFRECS E-Blast: April 3, 2013

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

**In the church:**

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

**A CHANCE AT A NEW BEGINNING**

In the midst of Eastertide, it is especially appropriate to think of new beginnings – resurrection and new life. As we all know, South Sudan entered its independence era with much joyful anticipation but also with much baggage which could delay its emergence as a free and democratic nation. It is to the credit of her leaders who recognize that the reality of the past needs attention if South Sudan is to develop into a stable and just society. The stories of past injury and tragedy will become grist for a national conversation this summer when an initiative will engage South Sudanese in a truth and reconciliation training process. The document that provides the background and framework for this program, [“Sustainable Peace with Justice”](#) is available through the AFRECS website and is worth a careful read.

The document calls on a cross section of the nation to participate with special attention to the role of civil society as a key player. The Church is noted as having a dominant role in the organization and execution of a national conversation where past wrongs are acknowledged, forgiveness sought, and reconciliation pursued as the desired outcome. This tall order presents the people of faith in South Sudan with a daunting challenge that must be buttressed with prayer and deep reflection, giving careful thought to the Gospel message of peace and reconciliation. It is also an occasion for our prayers and earnest support for our brothers and sisters in Sudan as they take on this task – a task that, if successfully carried out, creates new possibilities for peace and justice for this struggling nation. The courage to embark on this journey will hopefully be matched with the zeal and commitment that helped South Sudan achieve its independence in 2011.

On Easter Sunday (3/31/13), many viewed the 60 Minutes program which recalls the struggle that preceded the emergence of South Sudan, lifts up the sacrifice and determination of young Sudanese in their quest for freedom, a new life, and the burden of leadership which they now carry. The program also bears witness to all who shared a journey with Sudanese friends. [This link on our website](#) offers readers a chance to see this program which resonates with so many of us who were participants in this earlier history of South Sudan. Their stories remind us that Easter is a present reality in the lives of many. Let us pray that for those in the Nuba Mountains, Darfur, and Abyei the dawn of Easter will not be too far away.

Richard Parkins

### **News from AFRECS:**

The AFRECS National Conference is scheduled for October 18-20, 2013 in Chicago at Seabury Western seminary. The last eblast inadvertently provided the wrong date for the conference. Please save the dates of Friday, October 18th through Sunday October 20th and plan to join us in Chicago.

Reminder: Please check the [AFRECS web site](#) for the Winter edition of SUDAN CONNECTIONS.

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

[An Easter message from the Rt. Rev. Moses Deng Bol, Bishop of the Diocese of Wau in South Sudan](#), emphasizes education as the answer to the question, 'What would Jesus do?'

### **In both Sudan & South Sudan:**

This [BBC article](#) details the agreement to resume pumping oil for the benefit of both countries, "after a bitter dispute over fees which saw production shut down more than a year ago."

On a recent visit to the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in Oxford, England, [the Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo, Bishop of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji in South Sudan](#), renews the call for peace between the neighboring countries of Sudan & South Sudan as the agreement to resume oil production is finally reached. This report is from the CMS as posted on the Anglican Communion Website. "We will persevere," Bishop Poggo said regarding the people and nation of South Sudan as they continue their journey toward peace.

### **In South Sudan:**

A long awaited [Peace & Reconciliation Process](#) is now set to begin on June 1st, as reported in the Sudan Tribune.

Also see this opinion piece in the Sudan Tribune: "National healing and reconciliation; a painful road but unavoidable" [by Suzanne Jambo](#). She is a South Sudanese lawyer, communities & human rights activist and is the current SPLM Secretary for External Relations.

### **In Sudan:**

"Conflict dynamics in South Kordofan" is the title of a new Working Paper published by the Small Arms Survey of the Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA). [See the document and this commentary by John Ashworth](#). The same post also includes this article: "The SPLM-N is ready to end the war and to go for a National Constitutional Conference."

## Pray

Thanksgiving for Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail of Kadugli and the Nuba Mountains who writes to us two weeks after surgery. "Thank you for your care. I am recovering well and I am going back to the doctor today for review. Thank you for your prayers and concern."

Thanksgiving for the continuing recovery of the Principal of Bishop Gwynne College, Joseph Taban Lasuba.

Pray for an overwhelming response to the advocacy efforts detailed in these E-Blasts.

## Urge

Prayerfully consider going to the [Enough Project Advocacy](#) event in June. See [March 20th E-Blast](#) for more information.

Urge others to write letters to government representatives as outlined in the [March 7th E-Blast](#). It's not too late to do so.

## 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

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.