

AFRECS E-Blast: June 29, 2016

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

Message from Executive Director, Richard Parkins:

Why We Care

Dear Friends,

The danger of discouragement and despair is always present as we endeavor to understand the challenging peace process in South Sudan. After all, it includes the persistence of violence, even while proclamations about peace and reconciliation abound. Nevertheless, I think that there is a reason that we care. There is a reason that we move forward with hope and actions supporting that hope.

It's all about our *friends*. We consider ourselves *friends*. Implicit in that assertion is the caring and love that friendship produces. We see a better future for South Sudan - a future of peace and safety for our *friends*. We have journeyed with them through their struggles and we have celebrated with them in those achievements, which occur even when the odds seem insurmountable. We cannot do otherwise because bonds have been formed that do not allow us to give up our quest for peace and justice for our *friends*. It is the love that comes when one enters into the joy and suffering of others and our journeys are fused. Again, I think that such behavior is consistent with the norms of the Jesus Movement that our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry promotes.

There is a corollary to this notion. Our journey with *friends* in South Sudan and also Sudan has exposed us to many who are dedicated, wise, creative, and deeply committed persons. They offer leadership potential that can make progress possible. South Sudan is not without remarkable people, many of whom we know. They deserve our prayers and support as their journey continues towards a new day. Being *friends* with these people motivates our advocacy and ongoing companionship. To me, this helps explain the sense of calling that we feel.

Peace,
Richard

SAVE THE DATE for the [2016 AFRECS CONFERENCE](#) October 21 - 23. Location: St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1020-24th St., West Des Moines, IA.

Under the theme of 'Building Bridges of Reconciliation' the conference will

- 1) Explore opportunities for the Sudanese diaspora to contribute to peacemaking in the Sudans and
- 2) Explore ways the friendship of North Americans can contribute to peacemaking in the Sudans.

Distinguished Guest Speakers and workshop leaders: (Tentative)

- 1) Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul; The Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan.

- 2) Bishop Samuel Enosa Peni; Diocese of Nzara, South Sudan and Chairperson of the Joint Peace and Reconciliation Commission of The Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan.
- 3) Congressman Jim Leach; Congressman from Iowa, 1977-2007, and Retired Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- 4) Dr. Dane Smith; Adjunct Professor, School of International Service, American University, Washington DC and Former Senior Advisor in the Office of the US Special Envoy for Darfur and Deputy Chief of Mission in Sudan as well as Ambassador to Guinea and Senegal.
- 5) The Rev. Canon Angela S. Ifill, Missioner, Black Ministries, The Episcopal Church (U.S.)

If you are interested in working on or contributing to this conference which is developing now, please contact Rich Jones, Chair of the Conference Planning Committee by replying to this email or by using our main contact email address: info@afrecs.org.

Subscribe

If you have received this eblast in a forwarded message, you may [sign up here](#) to subscribe. Then you will receive them from AFRECS on a regular schedule. (See the end of this eblast to change your subscription information or options.)

Please Note

The review of news items of interest to those following events in South Sudan, Sudan and the Region will return with the next eblast, planned for July 13th.

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

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.

* 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.