



COMPANION RELATIONSHIPS

Missouri / Lui



Who are we?

DIOCESE OF MISSOURI, USA AND DIOCESE OF LUI, SUDAN

Under the leadership of Bishops Wayne Smith and Bullen Dolli, a rich companion relationship has developed between the people of the Diocese of Missouri and the Diocese of Lui in southern Sudan.

Missouri rejoices in the fact that over 25 missionaries have been sent to Lui, and that Lui's Bishop Bullen Dolli and other clergy have been brought to the USA in friendship and dialogue. A six-month stay in Lui by a Missourian and two years in seminary in St. Louis for a Lui priest also deeply enriched the relationship.

At the invitation of Bishop Bullen, the Diocese of Missouri conducts conferences or workshops in Lui:

- in 2003, teaching about scripture and HIV/AIDS, women's empowerment, and English;
- in 2006, facilitating a workshop for youth leaders in the church;
- in 2008, addressing ordinands on parish administration, pastoral care and starting new ministries;
- in 2009, conducting conferences for youth leaders, pastors and adult educators.

Missioners from Missouri believe conferences are an effective way to learn about the culture and daily reality of the Moru people and a good way to form bonds that persist after the conference is over.

Projects

Missouri has put a lot of effort into drilling deep water wells around the Diocese of Lui, greatly reducing the burden on the women and children who are responsible for pumping and carrying the water.

Other projects:

- Secured a UTO grant for a grinding mill
- Purchased sewing machines for the Mother's Union
- Set up a phone and computer system for communication between Lui and Missouri
- Collected and sent medical books and supplies
- Hosted an AFRECS conference
- Hosted a visit by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul to address students and faculty at Washington University as well as to meet with clergy and laypeople all around the Diocese of Missouri
- Brought in internationally-known experts on Sudan as guest speakers
- Helped relocate Lui's Bishop Bullen back to Lui from Nairobi, Kenya, where he and his staff took refuge during the civil war
- Partnered with the Diocese of Iowa to raise funds for water projects in Lui and Swaziland through the "Waters of Hope" bicycle ride
- Raised funds for water and bicycles through parish-centered projects

Fraser Cathedral where missioners conducted three conferences in May 2009.



"I invite you to think about stepping outside your own doors and into a new space."

Deb Goldfeder,
St. Louis Missioner



A visitor to Lui who was intent on playing music for Pentecost 2009 in Lui Parish.



Children outside their tukel at a camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), who now number over 1000. They and their families have fled from the notorious LRA (Lord's Resistance Army).



Building a new well at the site of the new Diocesan Center.

The Walk for Water is held each year in the Diocese of Missouri for Lui Water Projects. It raised about \$19,000 in its first year — more than enough for a deep-water borehole.



The Rev. Gordon Solomon making use of the new internet connection.

A representative of the Diocese of Missouri attended the Enthronement of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul in Juba



Moru visitors talked about the civil war and conditions in Southern Sudan over lunch with grade school students in St. Louis.

O God, enlarge my heart that it may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love.

From an African prayer