

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3



AFRECS - AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN



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Connecting Hopes and Gifts

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) is an organization of U.S. churches, non-governmental organizations, and individuals who care deeply about the struggles of the Sudanese people.

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*On the cover:
 Attendees at the
 2007 AFRECS
 conference in St.
 Louis in April.*



For submissions to *Sudan Connections*: Send information to Nancy Frank at nancyfrank@aol.com

Dear AFRECS members,

Over 100 members and partners of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan gathered in St. Louis, Missouri, at Christ Church Cathedral, for the 3rd annual AFRECS conference, April 13-15. We prayed, we shared, we connected.

We welcomed The Rev. Enock Tombe, Provincial Secretary of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), Bishop Peter Amidi of Lainya (Financial Commission Chairman of the ECS), and Mama Darias Kwaje, Mother's Union Trainer for ECS. The Rev. Dr. Oliver Duku, Principal of Bishop Allison Theological College, Juba, and his wife, Tabitha, led the workshop on Theological Education. The Rev. Pauline Walker, East Africa Regional Manager for the Church Mission Society, came from Kampala, and The Ven. Michael Paget-Wilkes, Chairman of the Sudan Church Association, came from the UK, along with representatives from Salisbury Diocese. It was particularly valuable to have such broad representation from the ECS and the UK when we addressed the ECS Round Table meeting, which took place in November 2006 in Juba, and in discussing the development of the ECS and monetary problems.

Our plenary speakers focused on political, developmental and internal issues of Sudan (See the Episcopal News Service reprint of Andrew Natsios' message within this newsletter). Our workshops focused on practical assistance for Sudanese refugees and Americans doing projects in Sudan, theological education in Sudan, the changing role of Sudanese women and companion diocese relationships.

2008 will be an exciting and challenging year in the life of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Archbishop Joseph Marona has announced his retirement. There will be the election of the new Archbishop in February, with the enthronement scheduled for late April. And, of course, it is the year of the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury.

2008 will be an exciting time for AFRECS, as

well. Our 4th Annual Conference is scheduled to be held in Chicago, May 30-June 1. **SAVE THE DATE.** Board member, Jackie Kraus and an enthusiastic planning committee are at work to welcome us all to spring time in Chicago.

And please remember to keep your memberships up to date. Your memberships keep us solvent and help us accomplish the work we do.



Please let me hear from you – **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SEND IN YOUR EVALUATIONS FROM THE LAST CONFERENCE.** We need your comments and suggestions for the next conference. Keep me informed about Sudan travels back and forth, and we'll keep you informed via "Sudan Connections" and the website: afreecs.org. Let us commit ourselves to growing in knowledge and membership!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Frank".

Nancy Frank
Executive Director
American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

P.S. Please renew your membership to AFRECS. The newsletter and consulting services are only available to AFRECS members.

ECS ARCHBISHOP TO RETIRE AT THE END OF 2007

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PROVINCE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF



The Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, the Most Revd Dr Joseph Marona, has announced his decision to retire on 31st December 2007. Archbishop Marona was elected in February 2000 for a ten-year term but

has decided to retire early due to health problems.

The Announcement was made in All Saints' Cathedral, Juba, on Sunday following consultation with his fellow bishops. The Archbishop explained the procedure for a successor to be elected in due course:

“This announcement will pave the way for the planning and preparation of an extra-ordinary Provincial Synod to elect my successor in February 2008 followed by his enthronement in April 2008. An organizing committee has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Bishop Peter Amidi of Lainya Diocese and Chairman of Finance & Church Property Commission.”

The Archbishop also appealed for support from the ECS faithful, church partners, government authorities and the general public to support the Extra-ordinary Provincial Synod organizing committee for the success of the work entrusted to it.

Archbishop Marona was elected by the ECS Provincial Synod held in Limuru, Kenya, in February 2000 and enthroned as the 3rd ECS Archbishop on 30th April 2000. Born in 1941, he was ordained Deacon in 1981, ordained Priest in 1982 and consecrated as Bishop of Maridi on 22nd April 1984. He served as Chairman of New Sudan Council of Churches from 1997-1999. He has been a dedicated peacemaker and has traveled to many countries to talk about Peace and Reconciliation. In 1996 he was awarded a Certificate of Recognition of Services among the refugees and the suffering people and in September 2001, an Honourary Doctorate by the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He holds a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Theology from Freelandia Seminary, USA.

EXERPT FROM A LETTER FROM THE VEN. ENOCK TOMBE

PROVICINAL SECRETARY OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN



Regarding ECS news, I can share the following:

1. Finance and Church Property Commission held its second meeting in Khartoum from 29-31 June 2007.

The meeting received the financial statement of the Provincial Office for 2006 as well as the first quarter report for 2007. However, Audit report for 2005 was not available. Therefore, members of the Commission demanded the Chairman Rt. Peter Amidi, Bishop of

Lainya Diocese to invite the External Auditor to give briefings to the meeting on the progress on Audit 2005. The Auditor turned up on the following day and gave full briefing for the delay in auditing the books of accounts that he attributed to the ECS Chief Accountant. The latter had withdrawn the books twice from the Auditor in order to prepare his own reports for the Round Table November 2006 and the Finance and Church Property Commission meeting in May 2007. The Auditor then promised to complete the Audit 2005 by end of June 2007 and that of 2006 by August 2007. It worth-noting that the same Auditor did the first Audit 2004 and won the confidence of ECS Finance and Church Property Commission for Audits 2005 and 2006.

2. Enthronment of new Bishop of Kajo-keji.

The new Bishop of Kajo-keji Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo was enthroned in Kajo-keji St. Emmanuel Pro-Cathedral on Sunday 3, June 2007. The ceremony was presided by Rt. Rev. Michael Logor of Rejaf Diocese, representing the Archbishop. Other Bishops present were Hilary Luete of Yei Diocese, Bismark Monday of Mundri Diocese, Bernard Oringa of Torit Diocese, Micah Laila Dawidi Assistant Bishop of Juba Diocese and the retired Bishop of Kajo-keji Manaseh Binyi Dawidi.

Government dignitaries who were present included the GOSS Minister of Commerce, Trade and Supply H.E. Anthony Lino Makana and the Governor of Central Equatoria State Major General Clement Wani Konga with some of his ministers. The Minister of Commerce provided three seats for us on a chartered flight from Juba to Kajo-keji for which we were very grateful for such cooperation between the GOSS and the church.

EXERPT FROM A LETTER FROM THE VEN. ENOCK TOMBE, CON'T.

The enthronement of other two Bishops of Ezo and Torit are planned to take place on 10 and 24 June 2007 respectively. Bishop Levi Hassan of Ibba Diocese will preside over the enthronement ceremony in Ezo on 10 June 2007. Another Bishop will be assigned to do the same in Torit.

3. Diocesan Cluster Strategic Planning Workshop, Yei, 11-21 June 2007.

The Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS) Development and Relief Agency (SUDRA) will facilitate a strategic planning workshop for four Dioceses of Lainya, Yei, Rokon and Kajo-keji known together as LORYKOK Cluster from 11-21 June 2007 in Yei town. Each Diocese will be represented by 10 participants including the Diocesan Bishop. Funding for the workshop has been granted by Tearfund UK. The workshop will enable the Dioceses to draw their post-war strategic plans for the period 2007-2011 using participatory approach involving key Dioesan leaders both clergy laity (man and woman).

4. ECS/SUDRA holds its General Assembly from 9- 12 July 2007 in Juba.

The Sudanese Development and Relief Agency of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS/SUDRA) will hold its annual General Assembly in Juba from 9-12 July 2007. Each of the 24 Dioceses will be represented by one person. The Assembly will be chaired by Bishop

Bullen Dolli of Lui Diocese assisted by his two Deputies Rt. Rev. Joseph Maker, Assistant Bishop of Rumbek Diocese and H.H. Shawgi Butrus Kowa, the Chancellor of Kadugli Diocese. The Assembly will review last years performance of SUDRA and approve plans for the year ahead. It is worth-noting that this will be the first time for SUDRA to hold its General Assembly in Juba since the civil war ended in January 2005. SUDRA has also moved its Office back to Juba early this year. Funding for most SUDRA activities is coming from ERD/ECUSA.

I think that should be enough for now. I am leaving for Yei tomorrow to attend the Strategic Planning Workshop from 11-21 June 2007. After that I proceed to Khartoum via Juba to attend the first SCC Executive Committee meeting scheduled for 25-26 June 2007 followed by ECS/SUDRA Board meeting on 27 June 2007.

I will be attending its General Assembly in Juba from 9-12 July 2007.

Regards,

Revd. Canon Enock Tombe
Provincial Secretary
ECS Kampala Liaison Office, Uganda.

NEWS OF BISHOPS IN SUDAN



THREE SENIOR BISHOPS OF ECS RETIRE IN 2006

AFRECS offers prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful service to the ECS of three retiring Bishops. The

Rt. Rev. Manasseh Dawidi, Kajo-Keji, the Rt. Rev.

Benjamin Ruati, Ezo Diocese, and the Rt. Rev.

Wilson Arop, Diocese of Torit have retired after leading the ECS through the war years. Let us pray in thanksgiving for Manasseh, Benjamin, and Wilson.

Heavenly Father, Shepherd of your people, we thank you for these, your servants, who were faithful in the care and nurture of your flock, and we pray that, following their examples and the teachings of their lives, we, the Church, may by your grace

grow into the stature of the fullness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THREE NEW BISHOPS ELECTED MARCH 26, 2007

AFRECS congratulates the Rt. Rev. John Zawo,

Diocese of Ezo, the Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo, Diocese

of Kajo Keji, the Rt. Rev. Bernard Oringa, Diocese of

Torit, elected on March 26, and consecrated at All

Saints' Cathedral, Juba, Sunday, April 22, 2007.

May God strengthen them for their new ministries,

and bless their families with peace and grace to

uphold one another in these new days of service to

His flock. *Amen.*

COMINGS & GOINGS



St. James Church, Richmond, VA

A medical team from St. James spent a week in May 2007, offering medical attention at the Akot clinic, near Rumbek. The clinic was recently built by Mustard Seed International.

Jennifer & Darryl Ernst, Christ Church, Glen Allen, VA

Jennifer and Darryl joined a construction team in June 2007, for 9 days, assisting with the building of a secondary school in Akot, financed by Hope for Humanity, with construction supervision by Mustard Seed International. Buck Blanchard joined the team following his travels to the Diocese of Renk and Juba. (see below)

Russell Randle, Christ Church, Alexandria, VA, and Lay Canon of St. Matthew Cathedral, Renk, & Buck Blanchard, Missioner for Global Mission, Diocese of VA

Russ accompanied Buck on his initial visit to Renk Diocese in June. They visited institutions of the Diocese, traveled to Juba to check housing conditions and work space for the ongoing Wycliffe Bible

Translators Dinka Cam Bible translation team, under the direction of Bishop Daniel Deng Bul. They also visited the ECS Provincial office in Khartoum. (Buck traveled separately to join the construction team working in Rumbek.)

Phoebe Roaf, VTS Sr., Deborah Knott, 2007 graduate of Duke Divinity School, & the Rev. Dr. Ellen F. Davis, Duke

Phoebe, student at VTS, is sponsored by All Saints' Church, River Ridge, Louisiana, and Deborah, recent graduate of Duke Divinity School, will travel to Renk Diocese June 28 through July 14, 2007, teaching Biblical Hebrew to Sudanese students (lay and clergy) at Renk Theological College. Duke and VTS are the sponsors of the Visiting Teachers Program, founded by the Rev. Dr. Ellen Davis (Duke) and the Rev. Dr. Richard Jones (VTS). The Program is now in its 3rd year; teams go for 3 weeks twice a year – winter and summer – to teach Biblical languages and various other subjects. Prof. Davis will travel to RTC in July.

COMINGS & GOINGS, CON'T.

Rev. Lauren Stanley, ECUSA appointed missionary to Renk Diocese, resident in Diocese of VA
Lauren will return to Renk Diocese August 4 for 3-4 weeks. She'll be teaching at Renk Theological College – Theology course on the Nicene Creed, a Liturgics practicum in the newly-finished chapel, St. Michael's, and sessions on basic computer training "for as long as the computer and the electricity hold out".

Mission Team to Boma Mission Center, Jonglei Area

Sudan Sunrise is organizing a mission team, which will travel to the Jonglei area of southeast Sudan, to the Boma Mission Center, the home of the Kachipo, Jie, Ngalam, Anyuak and Murle people. Contact Janis Ricker, for more information, 913-599-0800, or Janisricker@aol.com

The Ven. Bartholomayo Bol Deng, Archdeacon of Maar, Diocese of Bor

Bartholomayo Bol has been invited to be present at the Diocese of Southwestern VA's Annual Council, in Roanoke, January 25-27, 2008.



Sudan Connections will feature "Comings and Goings" regularly. Send information to Nancy Frank NancyFrank@aol.com Keep travelers and host Dioceses in your prayers.

COMPLETING THE DAY'S WORK

May the sun be slow to set today. Hold the
sun in the sky that I may complete my work
before dark.

Zande Prayer

WORKSHOPS ON TRAUMA HEALING... MEET FR. PAUL BOYLE



Jerry DeLuccio of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and Hope of Sudan, Inc., recognized a need among the Sudanese refugee community often called the "Lost Boys" by the media. In addition, reports from refugee groups in other parts of the US found post-traumatic stress was the cause of growing problems with addiction and violence among them. This led Jerry to arrange for Fr. Paul Boyle to visit the Rochester area in May of 2006. Fr. Boyle founded the organization, Holistic Trauma Healing, and is recognized for his work with victims of post-traumatic stress in Africa and elsewhere.

Paul Boyle is a native of Scotland who has lived and worked in Africa and the Middle East for the past 20 years. Initially, he came as a Catholic priest living and ministering in war-torn areas in a parish setting. As a result of this work, he became severely traumatized himself. In 1999, he studied in Ireland where he learned to deal with his own trauma through extensive counseling.

He returned to Africa where he trained leaders in the Catholic Church for all of western and southern Sudan. Here, he realized how widespread trauma is

and the adverse role that traumatized leaders have on the communities they lead.

Fr. Boyle eventually left active parish work and formed Holistic Trauma Healing, Inc., a trauma awareness and healing program based in Nairobi. He now works extensively with traumatized people throughout Africa, The Middle East and the US.

One reason Fr. Boyle's workshops are so effective is that he has lived the experiences of the victims of traumatic stress – he has been shot -at, imprisoned, and beaten. Death and war have been his companions, and he has been deeply traumatized. He has been where the people he is helping have been. He understands and identifies with them, and he loves them. And, he has been healed. He can walk with them on the path to healing and hope because he has been there. And, each person he touches senses that.

For further information, contact Jerry
jjdeluccio@rochester.rr.com

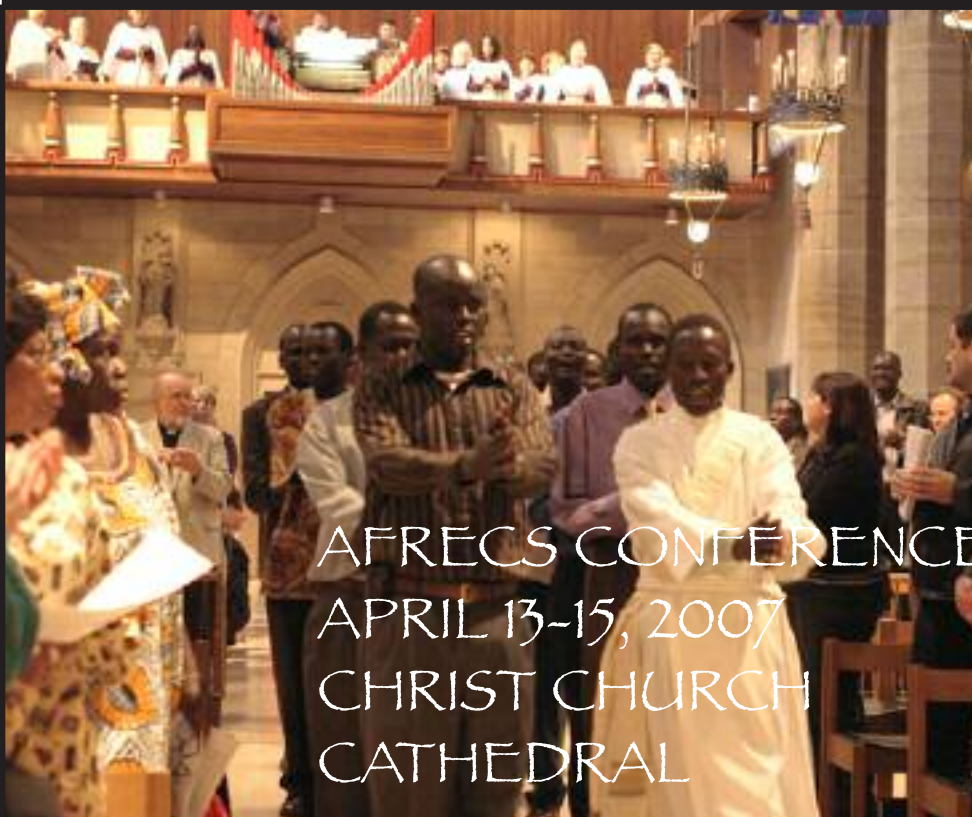
Quarterly Newsletter of The Nile Sudanese Lutheran



Majur Malou and Suzi Holding



Santino Alier Aguto, William Deng Deng, James Magai Majak and Philip Kuol



AFRECS CONFERENCE
APRIL 13-15, 2007
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

Santino Alier Aguto and William Deng Deng leading singing



Deacon Zachariah Cbar



Mother's Union Representative, Helen Achol Abyei





Helen Grimwood, AFRECS Board Member,



Tabitha Duku, Mother's Union



Bishop Peter Amidi of Lainya Diocese



Andrew Natsios, US Special Envoy to Sudan



Awein Majak and son Garang



Dr. Oliver Duku (Principal of Bishop Allison Theological College)



Christopher Felden, Salisbury Diocese



AFRECS Board Meeting



Presenter Carol Rinehart



Presenter John Prendergast



Presenter from the ECS Mother's Union, Mama Darius



Presenter Pauline Walker



Presenter Andrew Natsios with Peter Atem, Deng Majok Chol and Simon Juda



Presenter Michael Paget-Wilkes



Presenter Bishop Bollen Dolli Of Lui Diocese



Presenter Enock Tombe



Presenter Lucien Niemeyer



Board Member Jerry Drino talking with Thon Majak Deng



Drumming and dancing entertainment



Dut Diing talking with Shirley Holt and Jackie Kraus



Fr. Samuel Peni, Yambio Diocese



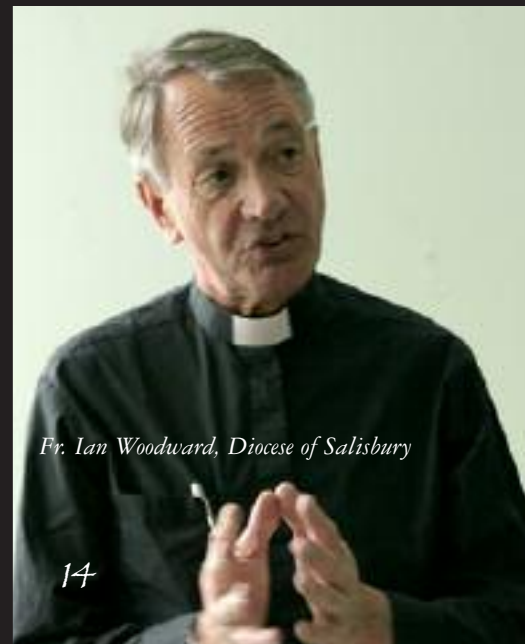
Elizabeth Aquei



Board Member Fritz Gilbert



Robert Franken, Event Chair



Fr. Ian Woodward, Diocese of Salisbury



Presenter Margaret Larom



Presenter Brian D'Silva

ANDREW NATSIOS, THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO SUDAN SPEAKS AT THE AFRECS CONFERENCE

by Matthew Davies - *reprinted with permission*
from *Episcopalife Online*



In his address about the political and diplomatic aspects of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Natsios said the West often sees the political situation in Sudan in too simplistic terms, adding that the people of southern Sudan are not very receptive to being told what is best for them. “They are very careful in the south and shrewd about what is needed,” he said.

Referring to the Black Book, authored by Sudanese rebels to identify a pattern of political control by people in the north of the country and document the imbalance of power and wealth, Natsios said, “Everyone knows that a little group

has controlled the country for too long.” He said that Sudan's president, Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, acknowledged recently that he may be the last Muslim and Arab president in the country as a result of the Black Book. “The government realizes they are under severe stress internally; they know their neighbors are fed up with them, as well as the rest of the world,” he said. “Even the Arab states are quietly telling them they are an embarrassment and even Al Qaeda admits crimes were committed in Darfur and that people need to be brought to justice. So they are under severe stress.”

ANDREW NATSIOS, CON'T.

Natsios said that the provisions of the CPA -- in particular the border demarcation, the census and the election -- are not being implemented because they would be destabilizing to the government. "If you are holding onto power by a thread you will not take risks," he said.

The Sudanese government constantly makes agreements but they don't keep them, he said. "Pieces of paper are useless; the only thing that counts is action. So we won't announce the agreements anymore. We don't give them credit until they have done what they agree to."

He identified a recurring strategy of the Sudanese government in order for them to retain power. It includes forcing displacement, paying one tribe to fight another tribe, and arming Arab militias and turning them against African tribes, he said.

"We are seeing exactly the same strategy being used in Darfur as was used between the north and south," he said.

The church has been the most important element of dissolving the tensions in the south, he said, because it is not based on ethnicity. "There has been a massive Christianization in southern

Sudan. The priests and the pastors are the ones who are saying 'no more tribal fighting.'"

Natsios said that the institutions of governance in southern Sudan are very new and that building schools, for example, is not enough. "You need properly trained teachers," with regularized traditions and customs to make sure grades are passed and in good time, he said, noting that it is unrealistic to expect institutions to be developed in three years. "It took us 300 years in the US," he said. "It's going to take a few years to develop this."

"Do not confuse the building with the institution," he added. "The southern systems are fragile and new. The most common problem in the developing world after civil war is high expectations and little results."



LETTER TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Nancy,

I do want to thank you very much for inviting me to attend the AFRECS Conference in St. Louis. I really did enjoy coming and meeting you all again.

I felt that not only myself, but also the Sudanese contingent and Pauline Walker were all heard with great respect. I felt that the ties between us all were greatly strengthened and that we will all move forward more closely together.

I am sure we will keep in touch as matters develop. I had real encouragements from Indianapolis and Southwestern Virginia, and may well contact the other Diocesan links as time goes on.

Thanks, again, for everything,

Michael

The Ven. Michael Paget-Wilkes is Chairman of Sudan Church Association



INTRODUCING DR. CAROLYN W. MACKAY

FOUNDING MEMBER & SECRETARY OF THE AFRECS BOARD

Dr. Carolyn Weaver Mackay, Board member of AFRECS, settled down from her busy schedule for a chat, with the Rev. Debra Andrew Maconaughey, about her Board work and some thoughts on the mission to Southern Sudan.

Carolyn, an economist by training, lives in Vienna, VA, with husband, Robert, and sons Taylor,

about to leave for col-

lege, and Ben, a high school sophomore. The Mackays lived in Alexandria, VA, for many years, where they were long-time parishioners at St. Paul's Church, and recently joined St. Francis Church, Great Falls. Carolyn was on the organizing committee that launched AFRECS and is a founding



DR. MACKAY, CON'T.

member of the Board of Directors, serving as Secretary. She holds a PhD in Economics and is a recognized authority on federal retirement and disability policy.

How did you become involved in the issues facing Southern Sudan?

I became involved in the issues facing the people of Southern Sudan about a decade ago, as a member of St. Paul's Church. St. Paul's was one of a few churches in Virginia that took an early interest in Sudan owing to a relationship forged with Bishop Daniel Deng Bul, Diocese of Renk, who studied at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Bishop Daniel spoke eloquently and passionately about the suffering of his people and the need for Christians to respond to that suffering.

What are some of the things that you have done as a result of your involvement?

Well, probably like anyone who's become engaged with Southern Sudan, I've done a little bit of a lot of things. I've raised funds; I've donated funds; I've read whatever I can get my hands on; I've prayed about Sudan and I've talked about Sudan; I've attended meetings and services and gathered over meals with Sudanese friends and friends of Sudanese people. I've even protested the actions of the Sudanese government in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, DC. As a parishioner at St. Paul's and, for a period of time, a member of its Vestry outreach committee, I participated in a number of initiatives to assist the people of Southern Sudan, which includ-

ed building and sustaining a secondary school and assisting in building the new cathedral in Renk, providing sorghum during periods of famine, and providing a welcoming place for the Southern Sudanese Community in the area to gather and worship. In 2005, St. Paul's hosted AFRECS' first annual conference, an effort that I organized on behalf of the parish, and I've been busy with AFRECS ever since. As a new member of St. Francis Church, I look forward to becoming involved with its Sudan ministry and working once again with Jack Mathias, a parishioner here who was invaluable in efforts to launch AFRECS.

How has the knowledge of Southern Sudan changed your life?

It's changed my life in a couple of ways. First, my involvement with Sudan, which has paralleled a deep involvement with Uganda, has been a central unifying theme of my family's engagement with our church. Our involvement has been a response to our call to service that has deepened our understanding of our Christian faith. From the time Ben and Taylor were youngsters in Sunday School, and Robert and I were Sunday school teachers, East Africa has been a "family affair." All four of us, plus my mom, rolled up our sleeves to help host the first AFRECS conference and all of us are members of AFRECS today! Secondly, the people of Southern Sudan--the hardship they have endured and the faith they demonstrate in the face of it--are a constant inspiration to me. I think my relationship with the Sudanese helps me be a stronger person and a better Christian. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

DR. MACKAY, CON'T.



What types of things do you do as a Board member?

As a Board member, I participate with the rest of the Board in making key decisions about AFRECS' goals, strategies, and plans. We'll be gathering in Denver next month, and I expect that we'll brainstorm about priorities for the coming year and begin planning our next annual conference, to be held in Chicago in 2008. Since Board members have been drawn from around the country and have varied experiences working either with Sudan or with Sudanese refugee communities in the US, our discussions are wide-ranging and productive and our decisions are generally good.

As a Board member living in the DC area and having an interest in advocacy, I periodically have the opportunity to accompany Sudanese guests to meetings downtown or attend interesting conferences and seminars pertaining to Sudan, which allows me to learn more about Sudan while spreading the word about AFRECS and the priorities of the ECS.

With that said, most of my time is devoted to my role as Secretary and member of AFRECS' Executive

Committee. As Secretary, I'm responsible for producing the minutes of Board meetings and maintaining key documents. As a member of the Executive Committee, which often functions as a working group, I help with the routine "business" of AFRECS. This includes recruiting speakers and organizing workshops for our annual conferences. The Executive Committee is the decision-making body that deals with matters that don't warrant referral to the full Board or that must be dealt with quickly.

What do you think the future holds for you with regard to Sudan - is there a trip in your future?

I certainly hope that my future holds a trip to Sudan. I've long felt that I needed to be with the people, among the people--in their homes, their schools, their clinics, their places of worship--in order to do the work I am called to do. A planned trip to the Episcopal Church of Sudan's Round Table in Juba, in 2006, had to be cancelled because of a last-minute health problem. God willing, I'll be in Sudan in the coming year.

ZACHARIAH
JOK CHAR
ORDAINED PRIEST
JUNE 16, 2007

By Jackie Kraus

Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI, was filled with a spirit of joy and expectation, as “Lost Boy of Sudan”, Deacon Zachariah Jok Char, was ordained priest by The Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert, Diocese of Western Michigan, for the Diocese. Fr. Zachariah will be Pastor of the Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church.

With banners representing the colors of the new flag of southern Sudan hanging along each side of the nave from trumpet-like poles; the two choirs – Grace and Sudanese Grace – facing the congregation from each side of the altar; the clergy of the Diocese surrounding their brother priest, laying their hands upon him as Bishop Gepert proclaimed him “priest in your Church”; the congregation smiling in affir-



mation through tears of joy; the drumming and ululating of the women; receiving Communion from the new priest; being blessed by him as the Service ended; and departing in unity as we all sang “Amazing Grace” in our own languages, Fr. Zachariah fully accepted his charge to be a faithful pastor.

Read a full account of Fr. Zachariah's story at

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_87145_ENG_HTM.htm

FACING SUDAN

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT WHAT “ONE PERSON” CAN DO



Bruce David Janu, high school teacher in Arlington Heights, IL, whose other passion is film making, was inspired by a young man working in maintenance at Hersey High School. Brian had met a person from Sudan and was so struck by his story that he just knew he had to go there and DO something to help the people. And, so he did.

Bruce was inspired by Brian's story, and he set out to find other "ordinary" people who followed their hearts; he wanted to document their stories. He found a doctor who went to Darfur, not only with medicine, but with "crayons and paper". He found a Chicago high school student who sent cameras to Darfur with an MTV team; she wanted the children to photograph their people and surroundings and send them back to her so she could raise awareness in her school and community with a photo exhibit. Bruce found a woman who cried when she read a Nicholas Kristof article and knew she had to DO something to raise awareness of the genocide with rallies and letter-writing campaigns to government

officials. And, he found Salva Dut in Rochester, NY, who founded Water for Sudan, Inc., drilling wells to eliminate illness brought on by bad water. Then, Bruce found John Akuak Dut in Chicago, who shared his story of being inspired by his now-wife many years ago when she heard he had dropped out of school. He has educated 3 minors in Kenya, because he knows the value of education.

Using historical films, finding composers who wrote an original soundtrack, borrowing photos from many of us who have gone to Sudan, Bruce completed the project and submitted *Facing Sudan* to several international film festivals. It has been screened from east to west and in between. To view clips, hear the music and read reviews from screenings, visit the website:

<http://www.bellbookcamera.com/sudan1.html>

Reviewed by Jackie Kraus

"The Grandmother"

SUDAN COMMUNION

A NEW ADDITION TO AFREC'S NON-PROFIT LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN SUDAN

"Sudan Communion is a multi-faith and cross-cultural gathering of prayer and response for the benefit of the Sudan and its people. We believe that through prayer, especially prayer in communion with others, our hearts, and the hearts of others, are softened to the movement of the Spirit, and that we shall thus be guided in responding to the needs of the Sudan and its people. For more information, email contact@sudancommunion.org."

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DATES TO REMEMBER

ECS July 9-12 ECS/SUDRA (Sudanese Development & Relief Agency) Annual General Assembly in Juba.
Note: First time for SUDRA to meet in Juba since the civil war ended. Funding For SUDRA activities comes from ERD/ECUSA.

Dec. 31 Retirement of The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph H. B. Marona. The Sudan Church Association appeals to partners to make donations to the Archbishop's Retirement Fund – SCA-Archbishop Joseph", send to Mr. D. B. Dragonetti, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB, UK

2008

Feb. 11-17 Provisional dates for election of new Archbishop

Apr. 27 Provisional date for Enthronement of new Archbishop

AFRECS

July 29-30 Annual Board meeting, Denver, Colorado

2008

4th Annual AFRECS Conference, Chicago

May 30 - June 1 Lutheran School of Theology-Chicago, St. Paul & The Redeemer, Hyde Park

ECUSA

2008

World Mission Conference, Baltimore, Maryland area

June 4-8 Maritime Institute/
contact Mary Brennan
mbrennan@episcopalchurch.org