

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

FALL 2009

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3



AFRECS - American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan



CONNECTING HOPES AND GIFTS

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

FALL 2009

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

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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Cover:

CHOIR FROM ST. JOHN, MELUT,
AT ENTHRONEMENT CELEBRATION
OF BISHOP JOSEPH GARANG
ATEM ZORIAL, 2ND BISHOP OF
RENK. PHOTO - CONSTANCE
WILSON©



Send submissions for the next *Sudan Connections* to Susan Jones
at afrecs@afrecs.org by Feb. 15, 2010.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Richard J. Jones



Photo by Constance Wilson©

As we approach the fifth anniversary of AFRECS, I rejoice that eager friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan continue to arise and offer leadership.

Four new Board members have recently been elected. Debra Morris Smith, Diocese of Missouri, works in St. Louis as an adult education

administrator, has visited their companion diocese of Lui, and has a useful knowledge of Arabic. Philip Hokanson Darrow, Diocese of Chicago, is a lawyer for Ryland Homes, a member of St. Michael's, Barrington, has visited Renk Diocese, companion of Chicago and his parish, and founded, along with his wife, Robin, Club 157 seeking to eliminate the debt of the Province of the ECS. E. Ross Kane is assistant to the rector of St. Paul's, Alexandria, VA, Diocese of Virginia, and served for two years as a Young Adult Youth Corps (YASC) volunteer with the Sudan Council of Churches in Nairobi. Judith Lane Gregory, Business Manager for the Diocese of Delaware, spent six months in 2008 working alongside the treasurer of the Province of the ECS. I welcome the strength these leaders have to offer.

I thank God for the five years of labor below deck and off the podium which Frederick E. Gilbert, Treasurer, and Carolyn Weaver Mackay, Secretary,

gave so diligently. Drawing upon their prior experiences with the US Government and their keen understanding of voluntary organizations, Fritz and Carolyn have set high standards. I am especially grateful they are continuing on the Board. Ongoing Board members, Connie Fegley and Gwinneth Clarkson will step into their shoes, Connie as Secretary and Gwinneth as Treasurer.

And, behind all our efforts stands our able Executive Director, Richard Parkins, turning heartfelt intentions into deeds.

You are reading the last issue of *Sudan Connections* to be assembled and edited by the well-connected woman of prayer and push, Jackie Kraus. Jackie retires as an active member of the Board, passing the editorship on to Robin Darrow. Thank you, Mama Jackie, on behalf of your readers on three continents, for helping us connect hopes and gifts.

With you all for God's peace in Sudan,

Rich Jones

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C. Richard Parkins



Photo by Constance Wilson©

Dear Friends,

AFRECS was a visible and effective presence at the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Our exhibit, organized and managed by board member Connie Fegley, allowed the AFRECS story to be told and exposed countless conventioners to the achievements of several of

the dioceses who enjoy companion relations with the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS). It was good to be able to introduce many to the crisis in Sudan, the faithfulness of our sisters and brothers there, and to the many American Episcopalians who are in solidarity with Sudanese Christians in their journey to recovery and peace. The crisis of Sudan and the challenges faced by the ECS is still an unknown story to far too many Episcopalians. Hopefully, our presence in Anaheim helped close that knowledge gap a bit.

We are all hearing news that adds to our concern about the fragility of the peace in Sudan. Frequent compelling messages from the primate of the ECS keep us posted as to the turbulence with which the ECS continues to struggle. What became clear from the Archbishop's presence at the General Convention is the need for all of us to voice our expectation that the US Government will be persistent and strong in enlisting global support for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). His statement to the General Convention (www.afreecs.org, click on Episcopal Church of Sudan Information), which AFRECS distributed to all deputations and his subsequent remarks before a Washington gathering, underscored the

urgency of action that would halt a resurgence of civil conflict. The Archbishop could not have been clearer in his desire to enlist our support for the relentless effort that he and the ECS wage for peace and reconciliation.

As we move forward with new and exciting opportunities for service and advocacy, we must acknowledge the immeasurable support that AFRECS has enjoyed through the early years of its history. Jackie Kraus will bow out from her role as AFRECS editor with this issue of *Sudan Connections*. Fritz Gilbert hands the task of treasurer to Gwinneth Clarkson, and Connie Fegley takes over the job of secretary from Carolyn Mackay. Fritz and Carolyn will continue to serve on the Board. Jackie, Fritz, and Carolyn have, in addition to the specific duties which they have so ably performed, been passionate, dedicated supporters of our work. In many ways, they have laid the foundation stones upon which the ongoing work of AFRECS will rest. We are immensely grateful for their spirit and faithfulness to this fledgling organization.

As violence and suffering continue to be inflicted upon our Sudanese sisters and brothers, let us remain committed to doing whatever we can to accompany and encourage them as faithful witnesses to the Gospel of hope that is at the heart of who we are as followers of Christ.

Faithfully,

Richard Parkins

Executive Director

FORMER ARCHBISHOP DR. JOSEPH B. H. MARONA DIES SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

"This was the man of God, Dr. Joseph Marona"



Photo by Nicholas Ramsden©

From The Episcopal Church of Sudan Edited by Jackie Kraus

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, retired Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and Bishop of Juba, Joseph Biringi Hassan Marona, passed away at the home of a relative in Khartoum. He was the third Archbishop of the ECS. His body lay in state on the 23rd in Khartoum (in a glass-windowed coffin), and was flown to Juba, then on to Maridi. Current Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul accompanied the coffin to Maridi for a final farewell service in Dr. Marona's hometown and former episcopal see.

On Sept. 24, the very large afternoon welcoming party at the airport in Juba was led by the 1st Vice President of the Republic of Sudan and President of the Government of South Sudan, H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, and included many Equatorial bishops. He visited with Bishops Ezekiel Kondo of Khartoum, Francis Loyo of Rokon, and Micah Leila, soon to be of Terekeka, in the VIP lounge before leading the group out onto the tarmac to greet Archbishop Deng and the coffin.

The coffin was mounted onto a pickup truck. The President climbed up next to it, removed his iconic hat and prayed for the late Archbishop in front of the assembled crowds. From a practicing Roman Catholic, President Kiir's gesture was one of heartfelt personal remorse, respect from the government, and ecumeni-

cal Christian solidarity. The coffin was then driven in a motorcade of over thirty vehicles to All Saints' Cathedral, where it was carried in to rest in the sanctuary for a final night.

Bishop Bismark of Mundri, led a short reflection on coping with the deaths of senior Church leaders, and the bishops led a procession around the coffin, paying their last respects, before leaving the body to lie in state overnight, to be watched by relatives and the faithful drawn to the Cathedral for mournful prayer.

On Friday, Sept. 25, Christians from all over the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS) gathered in All Saints' Cathedral to celebrate the life and mourn the death of the former Archbishop who headed the ECS as Primate, as well as being Bishop of the Diocese of Juba from 2000 to 2007. The sanctuary was packed with bishops. The front rows were filled with government dignitaries, relatives and senior former colleagues. Bible readings, biographies and condolences were read. Ret. Gen. John Maswa gave a family biography of the late Archbishop, as well as a moving biography of his work for the education and evangelism of the Sudanese people both before and during his career in the ECS, which culminated in his election as Archbishop in a General Synod-in-exile in Kenya in 2000.

Born in 1941, Marona was ordained deacon in 1981, priest in 1982, and consecrated bishop in 1984. He served as assistant bishop of Yambio Diocese, and later became the first bishop of Maridi. He served as chairman of the New Sudan Council of Churches from 1997-1999.

In 1996, Marona was awarded a Certificate of Recognition of Services, and in 2001, he received an honorary doctorate from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He holds bachelors and masters degrees in theology from Freelandia Bible College and Seminary in Broadway, VA. He and his wife returned to Mardi in their retirement.

Dr. Marona's second son and MP for Maridi in (con't)

FORMER ARCHBISHOP DR. JOSEPH B. H. MARONA DIES, CON'T.

the Government of National Unity Assembly in Khartoum, spoke for the family, highlighting special moments when the late Archbishop's holiness truly shone through, repeating again and again after each example, "this was the man of God, Dr. Joseph Marona".

Canon Ian Woodward, Acting Chairman of the Salisbury-Sudan Diocesan Link, delivered messages from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, and from the Bishop of Salisbury, Dr. David Stancliffe. Friend of the ECS, The Rev. Andrew Wheeler, offered condolences and greetings, and Nicholas Ramsden listed condolences received from global partners as far afield as Chicago, Adelaide, Bradford, and Pretoria.

The Rev. Mark Akec spoke on behalf of the Sudan Council of Churches, and government representatives from Western and Central Equatoria, the GoSS Ministry of Religious Affairs and the South Sudan Legislative Assembly, all spoke. Deputy Gov. H.E. Manasseh Lomole, Central Equatoria, praised Dr. Marona's Christian leadership and involvement in the process that led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005.

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. James Wani Igga, gave a vision of the ECS and Roman Catholic Churches united behind their Juba-based leaders, Archbishop Deng and Archbishop Lukudu, leading the people in peace to elections and referendum as the best way to honor the memory of Dr. Marona.

After final prayers from Bishops Paul Yugusuk, Michael Lugor, and Ezekiel Diing, and a closing plea for unity and peace by Archbishop Deng, the coffin was carried out by the bishops and processed around to the prepared grave alongside the resting places of the first and second Archbishops of the ECS, Elinana Ngalamu and Benjamina Yugusuk. It was lowered into the ground surrounded by bishops, government dignitaries and the congregation -- the final commendation and committal being pronounced by Archbishop Deng:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God



Photo by Nicholas Ramsden©

our Father Archbishop Joseph Marona, and we commit his body to the ground. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: the Lord bless him and keep him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him, and give him peace. Amen. Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Ed. Note:

Archbishop Marona was a special guest at the 2006 General Convention of TEC, where he wept openly when he spoke at a press conference because his people were killing each other and there was "no way to make that stop. Before independence in 1955, the first civil war broke out. At that time I was a teenager. Now I am an old man. I grew up and was educated and became a leader during the civil war. The civil war in Sudan has destroyed the lives of about 2.5 million people, including my own." (from *The Witness Magazine*, 2/05)

During his primacy, Dr. Marona established the Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (based on a passage from Jeremiah 33:6-15), appointing then Bishop Daniel Deng Bul as Chair. Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul was elected Primate of the ECS upon the retirement of Archbishop Marona. (Sources: ACNS and *The Witness Magazine*)

See <http://www.sudan.anglican.org/maronarip.php> for complete article and photos.



AFRECS GOES TO 76TH GENERAL CONVENTION



Connie Fegley and Richard Parkins, Executive Director at the convention booth.

**By Connie Fegley,
AFRECS Board
Member from the
Diocese of Bethlehem**

"AFRECS really needs to have a presence at General Convention," I heard myself say at a Board meeting late in 2008. "In the Diocese of Bethlehem, our World Mission Committee had an exhibit at diocesan convention every year, and it really made a difference in strengthening our ties

with Kajo Keji."

Little did I know what lay ahead as the Board endorsed the concept, with the caveat that this exhibit needed to be professionally prepared. After securing a highly-recommended graphic artist in Lancaster County, PA, who does work for the Mennonite Central Committee, we were off and running.

Months later, seeing the exhibit finally in place in Anaheim, made the hours and hours of work worthwhile. The exhibit had a warm, welcoming feel to it. At one time or another, it seemed that everyone who had any connection to the church in Sudan made their way to visit and congregate. Board member, Russell Randle, commented that the presentation was thoroughly professional and attractive and drew numerous visitors. Board members Ellen Hanckel, Gwineth Clarkson, and family Andrew Reinholz, and Ken and the Rev. Hillary Raining gave of their time and support, adding to the success of AFRECS' presence. Connie Wilson, Designer of *Sudan Connections*, gave invaluable input.

One of the main purposes of the AFRECS exhibit was to feature the existing companion diocese relationships between the U.S. and Sudan, and to encourage other dioceses to consider beginning a relationship of their own. On the Bethlehem/Kajo Keji Day, it was a beautiful sight to see our entire delegation, resplendent in

African shirts, gather at the booth.

The highlight of day three was the appearance of Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury. One of the exhibit panels featured an engaging photo of him taken at the dedication of St. Matthew Cathedral in Renk, Diocese, in 2007. He was kneeling in front of Bishop Andudu Elnail, Diocese of Kadugli, captivated by the Bishop's daughter, Grace, nestled on her father's lap. It appeared to bring back a very good memory for him.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori visited the booth and added her encouragement for the efforts of AFRECS. She shared her concerns about the state of affairs in Sudan, engaging in conversation with Executive Director, Richard Parkins and other volunteers.

The AFRECS exhibit was honored by the visit of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and his wife, Mama Deborah Abuk Atem. They arrived at the end of the first week. The evening before they left Anaheim, they joined AFRECS board members for dinner. During that dinner, we were sobered by the grim picture he painted of the situation on the ground in South Sudan. Because we had a presence at GC, AFRECS was able to mobilize and arrange several dinners with key people, all of whom care passionately about the people of Sudan. An immediate result was a letter prepared to be sent to President Obama by the House of Bishops. Ninety-six Bishops signed that letter.

While some exhibitors were disappointed that there seemed to be less people in the Exhibit Hall than in the past, we definitely felt it was worth all the energy and expense for AFRECS to be on the scene, raising awareness, making connections. And, in the evening, in the beautiful solitude of my hotel room, I thanked God for giving me the privilege and challenge of coordinating the AFRECS exhibit at GC, for the support and enthusiasm of the Board and volunteers, for being at Convention on behalf of our dear Sudanese brothers and sisters.

(Read letters written to John Kerry, Chair, Committee on Foreign Relations by the P.B. and Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, and to President Obama by the House of Bishops on AFRECS website: www.afrecs.org)

FEAST OF THE MARTYRS OF SUDAN + MAY 16

76th General Convention Adds Martyrs of Sudan to Calendar

**By The Rev. Jerry Drino,
Exec. Dir., Office of InterCultural
Ministry Development of Prov. VIII
& Exec. Dir., Hope With Sudan**

In 2004, the Diocese of El Camino Real began observing a local Feast Day for the Martyrs of Sudan. As executive director of the Office of InterCultural Ministry Development of Province VIII, I commended the nine dioceses of the Province where Sudanese ministries existed to promote this Feast Day. A set of Propers (prayers and readings) were written and sent to the Standing Commission of Liturgy and Music to be considered for inclusion on the Calendar of The Episcopal Church (TEC). Seven other dioceses of Province VIII authorized the use of these Propers on May 16, and joined the petition which went forward to the 2006 General Convention.

Resolution A095 passed both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, and a second “reading” was required at the 2009 General Convention, according to the Canons. The Feast of the Martyrs of Sudan, May 16, is now included in the revised supplementary text, “Holy Women and Men” (which replaces “Lesser Feasts and Fasts”). Therefore, May 16, the traditional date for

the refusal of Christians of southern Sudan to convert to Islam, is officially designated for the Martyrs of Sudan.

Early in 2009, artist and Lost Boy from Sudan, Awer Bul, was commissioned to paint an icon of the martyrs. Unlike other paintings, Awer said he never tired of working on this piece until it was done in time for

General Convention in Anaheim. The icon represents a priest, a mother and child facing yet another attack on their village. The priest holds fast the symbols of his faith, the cross and Bible, which have led the people through all the turmoil for over fifty years -- sadly continuing even today. Awer lives in Richmond, VA, and is studying for a degree in Fine Arts. Reflecting on the icon, he says, “Throughout the struggles in Sudan, mothers, fathers and children never lost hope in the Cross. The words of the Bible in their hands led them on their way to find doors that were opened in the face of horrendous attacks.”



Icon painted by Lost Boy Awer Bul.

(Copies of the icon, Martyrs of Sudan, are available through the office of Hope With Sudan, www.hopewithsudan.org, or Fr. Jerry Drino, jdrino@hopewithsudan.org.)

COMINGS AND GOINGS, ETC.

O God, surround those who travel, in Your service, with Your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 25-OCT. 5

The Rt. Rev. Joseph Garang Atem Zorial, former Principal of Renk Theological College, and now Bishop of Renk, visited partners in the US -- Dioceses of Chicago and Virginia, and Duke Divinity School. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree by Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, where he had earned an MTS in 2000.

NOVEMBER 7-23

The Rev. Thomas Anei, Project Officer, Lietnhom Project of Five Talents International, will be keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary celebration, of Five Talents, *Uniting Communities: 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner* at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, VA, Saturday, Nov. 7. Five Talents will commemorate a decade of fighting poverty, creating jobs, and transforming lives. For details, contact Laura Verinder, fivetalentsevents@fivetalents.org.

Fr. Thomas may be traveling to a city near you in November sharing about his work with Five Talents in South Sudan. Contact www.fivetalents.org for detailed information in your area...

Nov. 8: Falls Church, VA
Nov. 10: Westin Richmond, Richmond, VA
Nov. 11: Vienna Rotary Club, Vienna, VA
Nov. 12: Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna, VA
Nov. 13: Highland Park Country Club, Highland Park, IL
Nov. 15: Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, IL
Nov. 16: Chicago, IL
Nov. 18: Washington, DC
Nov. 21-22: Bellingham, WA
Nov. 23: Seattle

Fr. Thomas Anei, born in 1980 in Aweil, was 6 years old when the civil war began. He is a "Lost Boy of Sudan", one of more than 27,000 boys separated from their families in the 21-year war and was a child soldier in the SPLA, until he began to read the Bible and found that God had a different plan for him. Learn more

about Fr. Thomas on www.fivetalents.org.

NOVEMBER 18-20

Call to Meeting: Sudanese Leadership Institute Kanuga Conference Center, North Carolina For Sudanese clergy and lay leaders in the US, the Institute will develop continuing opportunities for Sudanese clergy and lay leaders in the US to be connected as a network and equipped to be more effective and share the gifts of Sudanese Christianity with the larger Church. Contact Jerry Drino for information: 408-259-2111, office, 408-806-4506, cell, or jdrino@hopewithsudan.org

NOVEMBER 18-28

Darryl Ernst and The Rev. Hillary West, Christ Church Episcopal, Richmond, VA, will travel to Rumbek to prepare for the third year of operation of Hope and Resurrection elementary school supported by Hope for Humanity, Inc.

NOVEMBER 18-27

Richard Parkins, AFRECS Executive Director, will attend the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the ECS in Rumbek, Nov. 23-27, representing AFRECS. He will continue on to the UK for meetings until Dec. 2

NOVEMBER 18-DEC. 8

Jennifer Ernst, Coordinator for Partnerships for the ECS, will attend the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the ECS in Rumbek, Nov. 23-27. She will visit Hope and Resurrection elementary school prior to the Synod, and will extend her stay for visits to other ECS dioceses.

DECEMBER 16 TO MARCH 2010

Robin Denney, External Agriculturist for the ECS and Volunteer for Mission of TEC, will be on home leave in the Diocese of El Camino Real, CA, until March 2010. She will be available by email, redenney@gmail.com, as well as by phone, 805-835-8538. Contact her to learn how you can support her and the work in the Province of the ECS.

JANUARY 5-18, 2010

Diocese of Chicago is sending a media team to (con't)

COMINGS AND GOINGS, CONT.

the Diocese of Renk, at the invitation of Bishop Joseph Garang Atem, for the purpose of filming a documentary of the diocese. Connie Wilson, All Saints', Chicago, Fr. Kevin Goodman, Associate Dean of St. James Cathedral and award-winning photographer, Charlie Simokaitis, award-winning videographer, also member of All Saints', and Bishop Jeffrey Lee will travel throughout the Diocese of Renk. The Dioceses of Chicago and Renk are companion dioceses, now in their 6th year. For further information, contact Connie, wilson.constance@gmail.com.

JANUARY 9, 2010

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sudan, British, American and Norwegian diplomats have invited Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul to travel to London and participate in a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) event, Jan. 9. He will also testify before a UK Parliamentary hearing on the CPA during that visit.

ECS Appointment: Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, ECS, and Francis Gray, retired Asst. Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia and former Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Indiana, now serving as ECS Commissary to the US, have appointed a Coordinator for Partnerships for the ECS, Jennifer Ernst, member of Christ Church Episcopal, Richmond, Virginia. Jennifer's mission as Coordinator for Partnerships is to increase the number of partners working to strengthen the ECS and to bridge the lines of communication between the ECS and its partners, both present and future. In this new role, she will be an initial point of contact for the ECS Provincial Office and the Archbishop's requests and concerns. Working together with other organizations involved with the ECS, she will help to develop plans on how best to respond to those concerns. Jennifer will communicate the pressing needs of the ECS to dioceses, NGO's and other organizations that have the ability to assist in addressing those issues. A website, www.ecspartners.org, will be maintained with pertinent information regarding the ECS.

Advocate for Peace in Sudan: Listen to Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul's concerns on the new "Sudan Emergency" website, www.sudanemergency.org. Express

your concerns to President Obama about Sudan through a simple electronic letter included on the site. Make your voice heard on this important issue! AND, revisit the Spring 2009 issue of *Sudan Connections*, page 8, www.afrecs.org, for other US government contacts.

Wanted: AFRECS is looking for a polycom or similar device, which would allow its members to be connected telephonically from various parts of the AFRECS network.

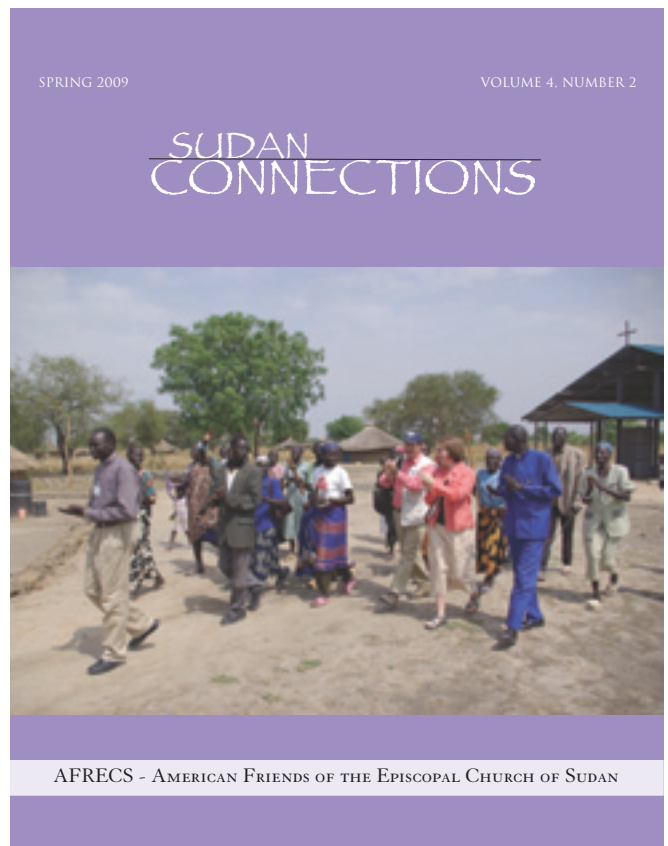
If you wish to donate this item, or can connect AFRECS with a source for a donation, contact Richard Parkins, Exec. Dir. of AFRECS, parkinscr@gmail.com.

AFRECS IS RECIPIENT OF A GADSDEN ENDOWMENT GRANT

By Gwinneth Clarkson, Treasurer of AFRECS

AFRECS was chosen to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Gadsden Endowment in June to assist with the costs of materials for the AFRECS exhibit at the General Convention of TEC in Anaheim, CA, in July, as well as further communication and promotional materials throughout the year. These materials include the newsletter, *Sudan Connections*, and the AFRECS brochure.

The Gadsden Endowment's Mission and Outreach Committee contributed significantly to the mission of AFRECS, which is to inform The Episcopal Church, USA (TEC) about the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), its needs, and the ways in which members of TEC can connect with and support development of the ECS. The AFRECS Executive Committee and Board of Directors are pleased to make this announcement, in appreciation for this grant. The Gadsden Endowment of the R. E. Lee Memorial Church provides grants for projects in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, education for diocesan clergy and seminarians, funds for local concerns and for third world needs.



AFRECS NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ATLANTA

Watch the website, www.afrecs.org, AND keep an eye out for news of the next

National Conference of AFRECS, June 6-9, 2010, at All Saints' Church. The

Conference theme will lift up the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and prospects for

peace in Sudan SAVE THESE DATES June 6-9, 2010

A REPORT CARD FOR RENK THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE DIOCESE OF RENK - ECS

By Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, Associate Prof. of the Practice of Christian Ministry and Bible, as well as Director of Anglican Studies

Professor Wells is associated with the Visiting Teachers Program developed jointly by Duke Divinity School and Virginia Theological Seminary. She recently made her third trip to Renk Theological College (RTC). Teams of visiting teachers travel to Renk twice a year for three week terms, which has elevated RTC to the level of accredited theological institution for the Episcopal Church of Sudan. In her "report" to St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington, IL, which supports operation of RTC, Prof. Wells wrote:

Dear Friends,

I want to pass on a couple of memorable moments from classes this past week. I've been teaching Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Introduction to Anglicanism.

I asked for examples of an experience of good pastoral care that the students could recall receiving. One student, Gabriel, described an encounter with his pastor in Kakuma refugee camp. Gabriel had received news that his two brothers had been killed in the war. He was so angry that he had already packed his few things, determined to go to fight in revenge. The pastor asked him about the look in his eyes. "Nothing," he said, not wanting to talk. "No, I can see you are different. What has happened?" the pastor persisted. Gabriel told him.

The pastor counseled him, "Do not go to war to fight for your brothers. Can you bring your brothers back to life? No, you can't -- and you could die with them. What good is that? Fight for them with your mind. Use your mind to get a good education to fight for your country in a different way; do this to honor your brothers." (Gabriel is one of three students who Bishop Joseph hopes will go on for higher education to equip them as



Bishop Joseph Garang Atem presiding with the Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells at Duke Divinity School.

future faculty for RTC.)

In Anglicanism, I was describing how the Church of England started to spread around the world, thanks to British explorers and traders who were settling from Newfoundland to Georgia, in the West Indies, the Cape and India building churches for themselves. I explained that they did not set out strategically to grow the Anglican world; rather, that it happened by historical accident. "But, why did they travel if not to spread the Word of God?" I was asked.

The students struggled to understand why any Christians would go anywhere except for the mission of God. In the end, one of the students helpfully explained, "You mean it is like us traveling to Kakuma refugee camp. We didn't go for the sake of the Gospel, even though we found God was there with us growing His Church?"

And, now it's time to go visit the cattle camp...for the Dinka, cows are the local gold!



AFRECS FOCUSES ON ADVOCACY AGENDA

By Russell V. Randle, Chair of AFRECS Advocacy Task Force & Secretary of the Committee on National and International Concerns for General Convention

The Board of AFRECS agreed that a major part of its advocacy strategy with The Episcopal Church (TEC) was to focus on General Convention in order to raise its visibility with the rest of the church. Because of the efforts of Exec. Dir., Richard Parkins, and Board members Connie Fegley, Ellen Hanckel, Margaret Larom, Gwinneth Clarkson and others, AFRECS made a very strong showing in Anaheim.

The first class exhibit, coordinated by Connie Fegley, attracted numerous visitors. Efforts from different TEC dioceses were highlighted each day, also helping staff the exhibit. Among the visitors to the AFRECS exhibit were the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who spoke encouragingly of our efforts, as well as our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, who supports the advocacy agenda of AFRECS, Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, who also encouraged continuing efforts in securing partnerships for the ECS dioceses, and numerous TEC bishops and bishops' spouses, indicating interest in building companion relationships.

Two resolutions, D007 and A033, were passed, unanimously, by both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. They set forth objectives for government advocacy of TEC's Office of Government Relations and objectives for companion diocese and other partnership relationships. Resolution D007 specifically addresses a season of prayer for peace in Sudan in 2010 to be designated by the Presiding Bishop, working with other denominations. Deputies from the Dioceses of Virginia, Chicago, and Newark sponsored the resolution with further support from Colorado and Southwest Virginia Deputies. Resolution A033 was introduced by the Standing Commission on Anglican Peace and Justice Concerns. (Resolutions D007 and A033, as passed, are on www.afrecs.org.)

Both of these resolutions set clear, but broad, mandates for our future advocacy work as a church, favoring the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), increased relief efforts by the US

government, relaxation of sanctions hindering South Sudan, and an early end to hostilities in Darfur. Moreover, D007 sets forth clear mandates for companion diocese and other partnership relationships with Sudan, with a reporting date in mid-2010 for decisions about such efforts. General Convention efforts clearly give AFRECS the support and mandate to move forward with its advocacy and partnership agenda.

Working with the Bishops and Deputies, AFRECS requested a letter from the Bishops to President Obama, encouraging his increased involvement in the Sudan peace efforts. With assistance from Richard Parkins, Margaret Larom and Alex Baumgarten, I drafted the letter, and it was circulated in the House of Bishops by Bishop David Jones, Suffragan of Virginia, obtaining 96 signatures. (www.afrecs.org)

Shortly after General Convention, AFRECS Board members and Archbishop Daniel attended a meeting in Washington, DC, where the Archbishop spoke to the need for substantial US help with election monitoring, as well as the help of TEC, on the ground in the South. As a result, I drafted a letter from him and the Presiding Bishop to Senator John Kerry, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to be sent prior to that Committee's hearings on Sudan strategy. Alex Baumgarten, Office of Government Relations was instrumental in this timely and successful effort. At that hearing, Senator Lugar, the ranking member, focused strongly and positively on election monitoring with the National Democratic Institute, suggesting that this is a fruitful avenue for AFRECS to pursue in its advocacy. (www.afrecs.org)

A key part of what AFRECS can offer, given its Board membership, is access to critical parts of the US government. When this is joined with our detailed on-the-ground knowledge of our companion relationships, our members across the US, and credibility with the leadership of TEC, we are uniquely positioned to advocate specific steps for peace and development in Sudan. This unique position should not be wasted, especially not, given the acute threats to peace and our colleagues in Sudan.



ADVOCACY SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY AFRECS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Call for Urgent Action

Excerpts from a report by Matthew Davies, Editor of Episcopal Life Online & International Correspondent of ENS

Editorial comments by Richard Parkins, Exec. Dir., AFRECS

Efforts to build up partnerships with the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) and advocacy for Africa's largest country have been bolstered in recent months with US Episcopalians recognizing the growing urgency to take action and ensure that the fragile peace agreement doesn't collapse and plunge the country back into civil war.

Among recent efforts by Episcopalians that support a lasting peace in Sudan are two resolutions passed by the 76th General Convention, an advocacy letter from 92 bishops to President Barack Obama, and a joint letter by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and Sudan Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul to the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. (Go to www.afreecs.com, click on Advocacy)

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan hosted a symposium in Washington, DC, September 10, that brought together board members, advocacy experts and Episcopal Church leaders to gain a fuller understanding of the challenges in securing peace in Sudan and to strategize on the most appropriate steps for action. Following the morning session, board members visited their individual congressional offices and delivered an urgent message about the fragile nature of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the need for senators and representatives to act immediately.

At its September 10 meeting, AFRECS agreed that its main advocacy positions for advancing peace in Sudan are to uphold the integrity and effective implementation of the CPA; enhance the UN peacekeeping presence and mandate; support procedures for fair elections (democratic election, April 2010, and referendum to determine if the South will remain united as one country, or secede, 2011); and continue to rebuild the infrastructure of southern Sudan and provide essential services to

its people.

AFRECS also encouraged US Special Envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, to meet with Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul when next visiting the country "to understand more fully the concerns of the ECS about the current crisis facing Sudan and to become aware of the potential of the ECS through its presence throughout Sudan to be a resource in enhancing the credibility of the 2010 elections," said Richard Parkins, AFRECS Executive Director. With four million Episcopalians, the ECS is the largest civil society institution in Sudan.

Parkins said the AFRECS members and other Episcopal colleagues who spent time on Capitol Hill "felt encouraged that their message was heard but that sustained follow up was needed. One advocate noted that a single or occasional visit with a congressperson would not mean much unless reinforced with frequent messages from constituents about what needed to happen to make peace in Sudan a reality."

The Episcopal Church has long-standing partnerships with the ECS through companion diocese relationships, Episcopal Relief and Development programs and the advocacy work of the Office of Government Relations. Current companion relationships include Albany (NY) with the Province of the ECS, Bethlehem (PA) with Kajo Keji, Chicago with Renk, Indianapolis with Bor, Missouri with Lui, Southwestern Virginia with the Province of the ECS, and Virginia with the Province of the ECS.

"Our people have been uplifted by seeing the courage and faithfulness of our Sudanese brothers and sisters in great tribulation and by being asked to work together with them for the Gospel in a place where the Gospel's commands -- and life in general -- are tough," said Russell Randle, AFRECS board member and a General Convention deputy from the Diocese of Virginia.

"Our Sudanese work has been a point of unity and focus in a difficult decade," said Randle, noting that such relationships not only form friendships but also find bishops clergy and laity, "actively working together with partners in Sudan to translate the Bible into native (con't)

ADVOCACY SYMPOSIUM, CON'T.

languages, to drill wells, build schools, clinics, and a cathedral, train new clergy, relieve famines when they occur, and witness to the power of the Gospel together."

In Resolution D007, submitted by Randle, General Convention urged each diocese in the Episcopal Church (TEC) "to consider...entry into a companion diocese relationship or other covenant-based link relationship with a diocese in the Episcopal Church of Sudan...as a means...to further the cause of peace in Sudan."

General Convention also requested the Presiding Bishop "to designate, after consultation with other interested denominations, a period of several weeks in 2010 as a Season of Prayer for Peace in Sudan, where our churches are urged to include prayer for peace in Sudan in each public liturgy, and that such Season of Prayer culminate in a National Day of Prayer for Peace in Sudan, including the celebration of relationships by TEC dioceses and churches with the ECS."

The AFRECS briefing, hosted by Patton Boggs, a public policy and lobbying firm, and Russell Randle, a senior partner, included presentations from:

- o Roger Winter, former US Special Representative to Sudan and longtime advocate for the rights and welfare of the southern Sudanese;
- o Bishop Joseph Garang Atem, Diocese of Renk, Episcopal Church of Sudan;
- o Christina Hartman of the National Democratic Institute;
- o Buck Blanchard, World Mission Coordinator, Diocese of Virginia
- o Alexander Baumgarten, Interim Dir. of TEC's Office of Government Relations.

Winter, who worked with Episcopal priest and former Senator John Danforth in negotiating the CPA, provided a historical perspective on the peace agreement, its purposes and the factors now contributing to its possible demise.

Hartman described the work of NDI in supporting an extensive on-the-ground educational and public awareness effort to educate the people of Sudan about the elections, how to participate, and how to identify and

report fraud that brought into question the honesty of the election process.

Atem offered an account of recent violence in his community and called for continued advocacy and awareness by the US government of warring tribal factions, and the causes.

Blanchard, urged US Episcopalians to visit Sudan and to use these visits as a way of developing new relationships with the ECS. He noted at present about 26 dioceses lack a US connection of any kind.

Baumgarten commented on the longstanding efforts of TEC to advocate for peace in Sudan, and assured the group that that priority will continue, even in the midst of many other policy concerns. He advised participants to be succinct and focused in presenting action objectives (to congresspeople and representatives on Capitol Hill), and said that their attention on enhancing credibility of the election process was a worthy goal which should resonate well with congressional offices.

AFRECS will also continue to collaborate with international partners involved in similar advocacy work in Sudan, including the Church of England's Diocese of Salisbury, which has shared a partnership with the ECS for more than 36 years.

The September advocacy event serves as a prelude to a more robust advocacy campaign in the coming months as Sudan prepares for national elections in 2010 and a national referendum the following year. Readers and AFRECS members should consult the website, www.afrecs.org, for updates on advocacy news. AFRECS will be considering a sequel at its next board meeting in February.

What can you do to help?

According to Randle, Episcopalians concerned about the impending outbreak of war in Sudan and their brothers and sisters there can do several things:

- o Pray for peace in Sudan and for the church's efforts for peace there. Get your church to pray as well. Resolution D007 provides for (con't)

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a season of prayer for peace in Sudan next year, but there is no reason to delay;

- o Contact Richard Parkins, Exec. Dir. of AFRECS, 3737 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA 22304, parkinscr@gmail.com, and participate in advocacy efforts for the US government to work harder for peace in Sudan and to increase development assistance;
- o Work with your diocese or church to help set up a partnership with colleagues in the ECS, a partnership which might include support for Bible translation and literacy there, as well as various development projects which have so far

included schools, well drilling, medical clinics, micro-finance, and similar efforts to empower the people in Sudan and to spread the Gospel.

- o Seek opportunities within your parish and diocesan community to educate Episcopalians about the current crisis in Sudan and ways in which they can become advocates with their elected representatives in advancing policies that support the peace process in Sudan.

(Complete article at http://ecusa.anglican.org/78650_114611_ENG_HTM.htm)

AFRECS LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE ON ADVOCACY FOR PEACE IN SUDAN

By Philip Darrow
AFRECS Board Member - Diocese of Chicago

In connection with its September board meeting Washington, DC, AFRECS successfully launched a new campaign for peace in Sudan, aimed at educating key members of Congress about the importance of the US role in supporting full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The effort began with a symposium on the current state of affairs in Sudan hosted at the firm of Patton Boggs by AFRECS board member and Advocacy Chair Russ Randle. The AFRECS board and other friends of the ECS heard from several speakers with on-the-ground experience, including Richard Winter, former Special Envoy to Sudan who was deeply engaged in the process of establishing the CPA. Following an orientation session on visiting congressional offices presented by Patton Boggs, board members and friends fanned out for an afternoon of fruitful visits to the offices of Senators Burr and Durbin of Illinois, Webb of Virginia, Lincoln of Arkansas, and Levin of Michigan, and Representatives Moran and Perriello of Virginia and Jackson of Illinois. These members were chosen for initial visits based both on their committee roles being related to foreign affairs and based on the visiting AFRECS members being their constituents.

The visits were focused on the critical importance of the CPA to the upcoming national elections in Sudan, much-delayed but now planned for April of 2010. Congressmen were presented with a suggested draft letter to Secretary of State Clinton emphasizing the need for the US to marshal sufficient funding and resources for support and monitoring of the elections, especially given the serious challenges posed by the lack of transportation and other infrastructure (especially during the rainy season) to efforts to gain full participation in the voting. As one tangible result of the visits, Representatives Moran and Jackson ultimately co-signed and delivered to Secretary Clinton a revised version of the letter suggested by AFRECS. Senator Durbin's staff also went about obtaining the requested information on budgeting and other plans for supporting the elections directly from State Department Staff. In addition, AFRECS was made aware of a planned meeting of Senator Durbin and Special Envoy Gration, and Executive Director Richard Parkins was able to deliver a letter to Senator Durbin on the day before the meeting outlining AFRECS' views on the election process and other issues critical to preserving peace under the (con't)

AFRECS LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE ON ADVOCACY FOR PEACE IN SUDAN, CON'T.

CPA. One point of emphasis was to suggest that the Special Envoy reach out to leaders of the ECS and other church leaders, as churches are in a strong position not only to encourage participation in the election but also to provide trusted monitors and otherwise help assure that the voting process is fair.

AFRECS is continuing its dialogue with the contacts

established during the September visits to Capitol Hill, and will pursue advocacy directly to the State Department between now and the February board meeting. That meeting has also been planned around a day of advocacy, during which board members and friends will follow up on previous visits and seek new contacts to advance its message in support of peace in Sudan.

ARCHBISHOP INAUGURATES FOUR ARCHDEACONRIES OF THE DIOCESE OF JUBA

September 20 -- October 18, 2009



Inaugurating Kator Archdeaconry held under awnings with His Grace preaching. Photo by Nicholas Ramsden©.

By Nicholas Ramsden, International Coordinator for the ECS

The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul, Archbishop of the Province of Sudan and Diocesan Bishop of Juba, toured his diocese in order to inaugurate four new archdeaconries.

The Juba Diocesan Synod that met in early December 2008 approved the splitting of the Juba Town Archdeaconry into three new archdeaconries -- the main sub-diocesan administrative unit in the Anglican

Church -- Gabat, Munuki and Kator. Alongside these geographical units would be a fourth "floating" archdeaconry comprising Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) chaplaincies. Over the past month, His Grace has visited each new archidiaconal headquarter parish to present the certificate of each new archdeaconry to the new archdeacon personally.

On Sunday, September 20, His Grace inaugurated Gabat Archdeaconry, based at ECS Buluk Parish, where he was warmly welcomed by the combined Bari and Moru congregation and a host of clergy. Following the Morning Prayer service from the Bari Prayer Book, he gave the sermon outlining his strategy for developing the Diocese of Juba into three archdeaconries. *"Isaiah 57:14 talks of clearing the way, preparing the road and removing the obstacles. In the same way, Juba Diocese must build up the country and work as a team to remove obstacles that the devil throws in our path."*

During the inaugural liturgy of the archdeaconry, all members of the new Archidiaconal Council were required to swear to uphold the principles that His Grace had outlined in his sermon, and the certificate of Gabat Archdeaconry was presented to Archdeacon, The Ven. Eliakimo Kenyi Nyombe, to much rejoicing.

Sunday, September 27, His Grace inaugurated Munuki Archdeaconry, based at ECS Munuki Parish. The large delegation, which included visiting former Bishop Gwynne College lecturer, The Rev. Andrew (con't)

ARCHBISHOP INAUGURATES FOUR ARCHDEACONRIES, CON'T.

Wheeler, and current new Interim Administrator of BGC, The Canon Trevor Stubbs, was warmly welcomed. Morning Prayer service from the Bari Prayer Book was followed by the Archbishop's sermon and the liturgy of inauguration. "We are created to be God's team", he told the people, warning them of the evils that tribalism could wreak and that despite their independence as an archdeaconry, they had to work diligently with the rest of the dioceses, the ECS as a whole, and with the entire worldwide Church. The certificate of the archdeaconry was presented to Archdeacon, The Ven. James Maker, and the congregation presented His Grace with a gift of a lamb at the end of the service.

His Grace and a delegation, which included The Canon and Mrs. Stubbs, and Norwegian Consul to Juba, Mr. Stein Erik Horjen and his wife, Danielle Rapisarda, who will begin teaching at BGC in January, arrived at Kater Parish, on Sunday, October 4, for the inauguration of Kator Archdeaconry. Under colorful awnings outside the small Kator Parish Church, the familiar Morning Prayer service from the Bari Prayer Book opened the archidiaconal inauguration. The Archbishop again emphasized the teamwork of the Church, quoting Ecclesiastes on teamwork. "Southern Sudan is infected by the disease of tribalism in its heart, and is not progressing because of this disease. Only uniting behind God can cure us of this disease, stop the fighting and lead to progress. The Church of Christ is not divided on tribal lines. All of us are Christians. If we can kill tribalism in the Church in Juba, we can change all of Southern Sudan." Archdeacon, The Ven. Jonathan Dici accepted the certificate of the Archdeaconry from His Grace.

The Army Chaplaincy Archdeaconry at the Chaplaincy Parish Church, Custom, Juba, was inaugurated on Sunday, October 18, using Morning Prayer from the Dinka Prayer Book, as the chaplaincy serves mainly Dinka servicemen and their families. Sunday School children performed and the "Youth Mama", who started in exile in Kakuma refugee camp during the war to act out moral stories, performed the story of women milking cows who are set upon by evil spirits and use the power of their faith in Christ to defeat them. The Rt. Rev. Nathaniel Garang, Bor Diocese and Dean of the ECS, accompanied the delegation and preached from

2 Corinthians about the cost of discipleship. He likened good Christians to a good army -- always being united and alert for enemies, ready to sacrifice themselves, and planning well for the future. Again, following the inaugural liturgy, His Grace presented the certificate of the Archdeaconry to Archdeacon for the Chaplains, The Ven. John Majak Thon.

POINTS OF ACTION FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATIONS OF THE ARCHDEACONRIES: *the way forward for a better Diocese of Juba*

1. Due to the cosmopolitan nature of Juba and the growth of Juba as a mixing pot of all the cultures and traditions of Sudan and abroad, Juba needs strong evangelism from the ECS.
2. Since Juba is host to all tribes of Southern Sudan and beyond, the Diocese of Juba must work hard towards the unity of Christians from different tribes and the stamping out of tribalism amongst Christians. If the unity of Christians in Juba can be achieved, the unity of the people of the South can be achieved.
3. The Diocese of Juba must work towards training its clergy and having more intellectual priests. This will lead to better ministry, especially towards the intellectual laity and institutions of higher learning, such as Juba University. The Church's intellectual members must be well ministered to, welcomed to participate fully in the Church and included in Church processes so that God can use them to build up a strong ECS.
4. The Diocese of Juba needs to conduct four peace conferences within the four archdeaconries before the approaching referendum in 2011.
5. The staff of the Diocese of Juba must be open to change and to being transferred between posts. The archdeacons and all clergy must be transparent with their congregations in order to build trust and confidence in the Church and in each other, again working to reduce tribal mistrust and the potential for division. These practices and attitudes must be first demonstrated in Juba so that they can be spread to the rest of Southern Sudan.

PROVINCE OF SUDAN ELECTS SEVEN NEW BISHOPS

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Juba, Sudan



By Nicholas Ramsden, International Coordinator for ECS

The Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan has today elected seven new bishops in All Saints' Cathedral, Juba. Five of the seven are to be the first bishops of newly-created dioceses, while two are replacing bishops who have retired this year from existing dioceses.

The new dioceses electing their first bishops-elect are Terekeka, Pacong, Akot, Twic East, and Nzara. Existing dioceses that elected new bishops are Wau and Rejaf.

The election was presided over by Provincial Chancellor, The Hon. Majok Mading Majok, who first confirmed as bishops-elect those candidates from dioceses where they were the only episcopal nominee. In three of these dioceses, the single candidates are already assistant bishops. Candidates were: The Rt. Rev. Micah Leila Dawidi, Terekeka; The Rt. Rev. Joseph Maker Atot, Pacong; The Rt. Rev. Isaac Dhieu Ater, Akot; The Rev. Samuel Enosa Peni, Nzara.

Chancellor Majok continued with the election of bishops for the contested dioceses of Wau, Rejaf and Twic East, which was conducted by secret ballot, the successful candidate requiring a simple majority for victory.

The Diocese of Wau was contested between The Rev. Martin Maker, The Rev. Moses Deng Bol and The Rev.



Angelo Aguer Akue. The Rev. Angelo stepped down.

The Electoral College elected The Rev. Moses Deng Bol Bishop-elect of Wau by 53 votes to 32, out of 86.

Candidates for the Diocese of Rejaf were The Rev. Canon Enock Tombe Stephen and The Rev. Canon Thomas Kedini Legge. The Rev. Enock Tombe was elected Bishop-elect by 66 votes to 21, out of 87.

The Diocese of Twic East had three candidates, The Rt. Rev. Ezekiel Diing Ajang, The Rev. Mark Atem and The Rev. Lt. Col. Elijah Biar Kuek. The Rev. Elijah stepped down, saying he wanted to continue to devote himself to his army chaplaincy work. The Rt. Rev. Ezekiel Diing was elected Bishop-elect by 64 votes to 21, out of 85.

The various consecrations and enthronements will take place in the respective dioceses, over the next few months, beginning in Terekeka, Sunday, Nov. 1, All Saints' Day. The Archbishop closed in prayer, asking that these new leaders will further unite and develop the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.



PROVINCE OF THE ECS ANNOUNCES CONSECRATIONS AND ENTHRONEMENTS OF NEW BISHOPS

Oct. 26--Following the recent elections of new bishops for the Episcopal Church of Sudan, the Office of the Archbishop announced the schedule for their consecrations and enthronements.

Nov. 1 (All Saints' Day)

Diocese of Terekeka
Enthronement of Bishop-elect,
The Rt. Rev. Micah Leila Dawidi

Nov. 22 (Christ the King)

Diocese of Pacong,
Enthronement of Bishop-elect,
The Rt. Rev. Joseph Maker Atot

Nov. 29 (Advent Sunday)

Diocese of Akot
Enthronement of Bishop-elect,
The Rt. Rev. Isaac Dhieu Ater
Consecration of Asst. Bishop-elect of Awerial,
The Rev. David Akau

Dec. 13 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Diocese of Rejaf
Consecration and Enthronement of Bishop-elect,
The Rev. Canon Enock Tombe Stephen
Consecration of Asst. Bishop-elect of Wonduruba,
The Rev. Francis Luga

Dec. 20 (4th Sunday of Advent)

Diocese of Bentiu
Consecration of Asst. Bishop-elect,
The Rev. John Gettek

Dec. 27 (St. John the Evangelist)

Diocese of Twic East
Enthronement of Bishop-elect,
The Rt. Rev. Ezekiel Diing Ajang

Feb. 28, 2010 (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Diocese of Nzara
Consecration and Enthronement of Bishop-elect,
The Rev. Samuel Enosa Peni
Consecration of Asst. Bishop-elect of Barolo,
The Rev. Tandema Obede

Mar. 14 (4th Sunday of Lent)

Diocese of Wau
Consecration and Enthronement of Bishop-elect,
The Rev. Moses Deng Bol
Consecration of Bishop-elect of Aweil - election
scheduled on Mar. 13

Mar. 28 (Palm Sunday)

Diocese of Wad Medani
Consecration and Enthronement of Bishop-elect -
election scheduled on Mar. 27
Consecration of Asst. Bishop-elect of Kassala,
The Rev. Abdu Al Nur Kodi

Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul will preside at all consecrations and enthronements, with appointed bishops leading retreats for clergy of each diocese. As Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, keep the Archbishop and the bishops-elect in prayer, especially in Prayers of the People on these designated dates.



PANYIKWARA AGRICULTURE PROJECT

From ECS Agriculture Department Monthly Reports
September & October 2009



Workers in the field on the Panyikwara Project.

By Robin Denney, External Agriculturist for ECS

(Excerpts from the monthly reports by the ECS Agriculture Department)

Panyikwara Project: As reported in August, planting of 10 acres was completed by the 20 project participants -- soybeans, k-20 bean, sorghum, and simsim (sesame).

- > The crops are growing well; there has been sufficient rainfall, so far.
- > The only employee of the project is currently the Project Supervisor, Ochira Franco. All other participants are investing their labor for a 90% share of the harvest.
- > We continue to await funding for this project so that we can further develop it, and plant crops for profit.

Other challenges in October continue to be transfer of funds from our largest funding partner, which put hiring of an agriculture officer on hold, as well as vegetable and tree planting projects in Yei and Lainya, profit-making crop production in Panyikwara, and vehicle acquisition. Insecurity in Jonglei State, Western Equatoria State and parts of Central Equatoria State is still a concern. And, widespread drought across East Africa had a significant effect on the first season harvest in the

Equatorias, as well as the second planting season. There may be severe food shortage issues across much of South Sudan earlier than usual next year.

In November, I plan to visit the Dioceses of Lui, Ibba, Yei, and Akot. I'll attend the Standing Committee meeting of the ECS in Rumbek. SUDRA General Manager, John Sebit, and I will return to Panyikwara for a meeting with the Project Committee and the Supervisor.

Special thanks to all our partners for helping make this work possible!

(News received from Robin, Nov. 5: My first year in Sudan is nearly up! I think most of you know that this ministry in Sudan is not done yet. After prayerful consideration, I have committed to stay for a second year to continue my work with the ECS, as missionary agriculture consultant. Next year, I will also be teaching an agriculture course at Bishop Gwynne College here in Juba.) Keep in touch with Robin on her blog - <http://robin-mission.blogspot.com/>



