

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

FALL 2010

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2



AFRECS - AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN



SUDAN CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING HOPES AND GIFTS

FALL 2010

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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:

Commander Peter Kuar,
Adar One Military Base,
Renk Diocese. Photo by
Charlie Simokaitis©



Send submissions for the next *Sudan Connections* Richard Parkins, Exec. Director, at parkinscr@gmail.com by Jan. 15, 2011.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE RT. REV. DAVID C. JONES, SUFFRAGAN BISHOP, DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA



A critical part of the mission of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) is the ministry of advocacy. As South Sudan approaches the referendum that will determine unity with the North or separation on January 9th, the importance of this ministry is heightened. We support a sustained, robust policy in support of peace and justice for our sisters and brothers in Sudan.

To communicate the importance of advocacy, a delegation from Sudan, including Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and two Roman Catholic bishops, will be in New York the second week of October and in Washington, DC, the following week. AFRECS is supporting this visit and helping coordinate critical visits on Capitol Hill. Our network is dedicated to keeping the needs of Sudan before our public

leaders. *Your membership and financial support of AFRECS supports this vital ministry.*

I am often asked, "What is needed? What can I do?" The needs in Sudan are so vast. Wherever one turns one sees the devastation of two decades of civil war. What can I do or what can my *congregation* or my *diocese* do that will make a difference?

Obviously, there is no easy answer. Thousands of pages could be written by hundreds upon hundreds of experts. In addition to joining and supporting the work of AFRECS, two priorities keep coming to mind as I pray for the Church in Sudan.

1. SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE ECS AND THE OFFICE OF ARCHBISHOP.

The work of the Province is absolutely critical to the survival of the dioceses in Sudan. Not one diocese can survive without the support of the Province. Obviously, the Province needs direct, long term financial assistance. It also needs skilled volunteers in the areas of finance, real estate, administration, and education. It is through the provincial office that donations are received and disbursed to the dioceses. The Province provides the necessary lifeline to the outside world.

2. CREATION AND SUPPORT OF DIOCESAN INSTITUTIONS.

The dioceses of the Episcopal Church of Sudan are in a position to make a significant contribution to the rebuilding of Sudan through diocesan institutions, such as schools and hospitals. Individual parishes have founded schools which are already making a huge difference in their communities. Hundreds more are needed. Each new diocesan institution adds to the fabric of the infrastructure of Sudan and strengthens the witness of the Church.

AFRECS can assist you in making connections and donations. Our network of friends is growing. Our weekly "E-blasts" keep our members abreast of the news and opportunities. Friends help friends who help friends. Those of us who support the ECS are eager to introduce others to opportunities of service and generosity.

If you are looking for a significant way to help in Sudan, please call me at the Northern Virginia office of the Diocese of Virginia (703-824-1325) or email me at djones@thediocese.net. I will help you find opportunities for service.

Faithfully,

David Jones

David Colin Jones
President of AFRECS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C. RICHARD PARKINS



Photo by Constance Wilson©

Dear Friends,

A major focus of the work of AFRECS these past few months has been linking with ecumenical partners in advancing the cause of peace in Sudan, particularly as the January deadline for the Referendum moves closer. Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, along with brother bishops from the Catholic Church of Sudan and church leaders representing the Sudan Council of

Churches, will engage officials in New York and Washington, DC, pressing for more action to ensure a peaceful and secure Referendum in January. AFRECS has been working with US ecumenical partners, connecting with officials with regard to the Sudanese church leaders getting a good hearing. It has been a privilege to share with other church friends in relaying a strong message to UN and US leaders that time is running out. If the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement are to be fulfilled with procedures in place for the Referendum in January, now is the time to act.

AFRECS is blessed that David Jones, Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Virginia, has accepted the position of President of AFRECS. As we welcome the leadership of Bishop Jones, we also acknowledge the faithful service and dedication of The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones, AFRECS founding President, who stepped down in June, retiring from the Board. Rich's contribution to the work of AFRECS is a legacy that enriches all of us who believe we must accompany our Sudanese friends on their journey toward peace. The resignation from the Board of Bishop Heath Light means the departure of another longstanding friend of Sudan whose wise counsel was always an important ingredient to the Board's deliberations and planning. I will always be grateful for

the inspiration that Rich and Heath provided when we needed to be reminded of why we do what we do.

AFRECS enjoyed a successful national conference in Alexandria, VA, and is thankful for the generous hospitality of St. Paul's Church. An evening of celebration hosted by Christ Church, Alexandria, capped the two-day gathering where fellowship and networking among conferees, buttressed by thought-provoking presentations, were truly outstanding. AFRECS is now actively planning next year's conference, *June 17-19*. Not knowing the outcome of the Referendum and what might follow, the theme chosen by the Planning Committee is **SUDAN MOVING FORWARD**, focusing on whatever new realities emerge as ongoing partners with the ECS.

The future of Sudan is uncertain; vigilance and prayer are required as we monitor the aftermath of the Referendum. A changed political landscape will impact our work. What is known is that AFRECS shall continue its faithful partnership with our friends in Sudan, no matter what the outcome. Pray always that the embrace of the Prince of Peace will shield our sisters and brothers in moving forward.

Faithfully,

Richard Parkins

Executive Director

ECUMENICAL DELEGATION SENDS URGENT MESSAGE TO UN AND US GOVERNMENT

REPORTED BY C. RICHARD PARKINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFRECS

As the countdown to the Referendum, January 9, 2011, approaches, the deepest concerns of Sudan's religious leaders about Sudan's future and prospects for peace will be expressed in the message they will carry to both UN and US officials. An ecumenical delegation from Sudan will visit New York and Washington, DC, October 9-23.

Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, ECS Primate, Roman Catholic Bishops Daniel Adwok Marko Kur (Khartoum) and Paride Taban (Torit), along with the Rev. Ramadan Chan, General Secretary of the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), the Rev. Sam Kobia, All Africa Conference of Churches, and Special Advisor on Sudan, John Ashworth, will meet with the Office of the UN Secretary General and key UN officials to underscore that the Security Council must make peace in Sudan a global priority.

There is no time to lose between now and January 2011 to deal with unresolved issues surrounding the 2005

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and to create a structure in South Sudan that ensures the vote for the South to remain part of the North or to vote to secede is fair and credible.

The same message will be conveyed to US policy makers via meetings with the Office of the Special Envoy to Sudan, the Department of State, and the National Security Council. The delegation will carry its message to Congress in meetings on Capitol Hill.

While in the DC metropolitan area, these religious leaders will meet with the Sudanese community preparing to participate in the Referendum. The two-week advocacy mission will conclude with an interfaith prayer service sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition on Sudan, Washington, DC.



Standing beneath the words of Isaiah 2:4 - "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they learn war no more." Ecumenical religious leaders from Sudan led a candlelight vigil for peace in their war-torn country. The Rev. Ramadan Chan, Gen. Sec. of the SCC, stands second from right. Photo by David Copley©. 🌿

“A SEASON OF PRAYER FOR SUDAN”

ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDING BISHOP KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI, SEPT. 15

ALERT TO AFRECS MEMBERS BY AFRECS_E-BLASTS@AFRECS.ORG, SEPT. 15

St. Mark, Jalbak, Renk Diocese. Photo by Charlie Simokaitis©.



In solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Sudan, The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, has called for a “Season of Prayer”. The Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, The Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, has issued a “Call to Prayer”.

My brothers and sisters in The Episcopal Church,

The Episcopal Church of Sudan has been a significant national leader and source for peace and reconciliation throughout the hostilities and war in recent decades. Sudan is facing a referendum in January 2011, during which most observers expect that Southern Sudan will vote to become a separate nation.

As a fellow member of the Anglican Communion, Sudan’s fragile state is a matter for our own concern. Most of us know something of the violence and bloodshed in Darfur, which has been well publicized in the media. Many of us know about, and have even met, some of the so-called “Lost Boys” of Sudan, who immigrated to the United States as refugees beginning in 2001. The Episcopal Church now has a number of Sudanese congregations and communities of faith as a result.

Episcopalians have begun to learn about the violence that continues to face the people of Sudan both in south and north. The warring factions in Sudan reached a peace agreement in 2005, which diminished the level of violence, but did not end it. Part of that Comprehensive Peace Agreement called for a referendum on self-determination and possible independence for Southern Sudan to be held in 2011.

The current political entity called Sudan is the result of its colonial history, linked with both Egypt and Britain. Since independence in 1956, it has been wracked by civil war and ongoing political and military violence. Sudan has significant natural resources, especially in the form of oil, most of which is located in Southern Sudan. The centralized Sudan government in Khartoum is led by President Omar al-Bashir, who has been charged with international war crimes. Southern Sudan has a share in the national government, and is largely autonomous as a region. Northern Sudan is primarily Muslim and Shari’a law is the basis for justice. Southern Sudan is home to Christians and those who practice African traditional religions.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan has approximately 5 million members, and has been a leader in seeking basic human rights, including religious freedom, as well as the hard work of peacemaking. Many observers believe there is a high likelihood for a re-emergence of violence in the build up to the referendum or in its aftermath, particularly over religious prejudice and control of the oil resources.

The world has a significant stake in peace in Sudan, for any violence unleashed there can quickly destabilize the surrounding nations of Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Central Africa, Chad and Libya. The Sudanese bishops I met in 2008 told me vivid stories of watching arms being moved into Southern Sudan by jeep and camel. Those bishops and their congregations, and many, many civilians around them, yearn for peace -- for the ability to raise families and crops, to educate their children, and to worship God as they choose.

“A SEASON OF PRAYER FOR SUDAN” CON’T.



Ed. Note: Resolution D007, Sudan Peace and TEC Partnership, passed at GC in Anaheim, CA, Resolved, That the General Convention request our 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 a 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 United States is a nation founded on principles based on religious freedom, self-determination, and control of the resources of the lands we occupy. Native Americans would challenge those who came later about all of those principles and the ways in which they were (not) upheld, yet most Americans, whatever their heritage, see those principles as foundational. The United Nations holds similar principles as basic to human rights. Sudan is in the throes of a national struggle for basic freedom and human rights.

I want to challenge us as a Church to pray for the people of Sudan, to learn more about the forces driving the violence, and to advocate for a peaceful referendum, and whatever the outcome, a peaceful future. Our churchwide staff has prepared resources for use in your congregation and diocese.

The Episcopal Church can stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Sudan as we enter a season of preparation by prayer, study and action. As we approach the season of preparation for the Prince of Peace, we pray that his reign may be made real in Sudan. The prayers and labor of people throughout the world can help to prepare the way.

I remain your sister in Christ,

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefforts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate of TEC

STUDY

. *American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) -*

www.afrecs.org

. *AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org*

. *Episcopal Public Policy Network -*

episcopal.grassroots.com/join

ACT

. *Contact President Barack Obama, the US Senate, and your local Representative. Urge them to support a stronger diplomatic effort on the part of the US to ensure peace in Sudan.*

IS SUDAN THE SOUTH AFRICA OF THE 21ST CENTURY?

BY THE REV. PETERO A. N. SABUNE
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP OFFICER OF TEC
AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Ed. Note: Fr. Sabune represented TEC at the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) held in Entebbe, Uganda, in August 2010.

In 1910, The Union of South Africa was formed, as was the NAACP, and two years later, in 1912, South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) was founded. The 20th Century witnessed the introduction of Apartheid in 1948 and the massacres in Sharpeville (1961) and Soweto (1976). Eventually, South Africa became a cause for youth groups and women's bible study gatherings, for corporate boardrooms and university campuses, for churches and synagogues, for labor unions and men's clubs. South Africa was the agenda. Sudan is becoming the 21st Century South Africa. Atrocities and tragedies in Sudan are similar to those which made South Africa a household word -- genocide, mass murder, mass rape -- are common occurrences.

During the 2010 Council of Anglican Primates in Africa (CAPA), it became clear that the upcoming Referendum in Sudan was on the minds of the delegates, inside and outside the assembly hall. Sudan had the largest number of attendees, which included 37 bishops and The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul, Primate, adding urgency to the issue. Week-long seminars were organized around issues of development, and midway through a training seminar, a decision was made to add urgent issues in Sudan, Congo and Madagascar to a special session scheduled Thursday evening, August 26.

The Sudanese delegation arrived with a prepared statement. The statement opened with thanksgiving. "We have been carrying a heavy burden for 50 years, 50 years of war, hunger, murder, genocide, and rape." But, they did not dwell on the tragedies of the past but the hopes for the future. The Sudanese bishops thanked their fellow Christians for their prayers and support during the Council meeting and asked for continued prayer. It was moving to



Photo by Constance Wilson©

hear the responses from Congo, Uganda, Kenya, UK, and US partners demonstrating solidarity with their Sudanese brothers and sisters. *(The session was scheduled to end at 5:00 PM. It ended at 7:00 PM.)*

As we left the Sudan, Congo and Madagascar special session, the assembly hall was filled with the spirit of courage and hope. The hundreds of delegates left that evening determined to return to their Provinces with the vision to face the challenges of Sudan, calling on the Prince of Peace. 2010, like 1910, is the beginning of a long journey to peace.

I left CAPA with a new vision of peace for Sudan, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, Chad, CAR, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Egypt, and Libya. Not unlike 1910, 2010 is the beginning of a long journey to peace. 🌿

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN APPEALS TO THE CHURCH IN AFRICA AT CAPA IN ENTEBBE

FROM VIRTUEONLINE
WWW.VIRTUEONLINE.ORG

Excerpts: Statement from the Sudanese Bishops to the All Africa Bishops Conference in Entebbe, Uganda, Aug. 2 --

The Church in Africa must recognize the inextricable situation facing Sudan and assist us in faith, guide us with love, and encourage us through prayers.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN THEREFORE APPEALS TO YOU ALL AS FOLLOWS:

1. We request your prayers for Sudan.
2. We request all the churches of Africa to stand firm with the people of Southern Sudan, Abyei, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile, and support the choice that they make in the upcoming referendum and popular consultations -- whether for unity or separation.
3. We request especial support from you all for the Church in Northern Sudan as it continues to face the official persecution from the Khartoum government. The global Church must stand united in support of our brothers and sisters who daily witness to faith in Jesus Christ whilst suffering to do so. If this does not happen, then Christianity in Northern Sudan has the most uncertain future and may even be facing destruction.

I stand before you today with the promise that whatever the outcome of the referendum and popular consultations, the Episcopal Church of Sudan will remain a united Anglican Province and will continue to be a source of spiritual unity and an advocate of peace for the people of Sudan.

May God bless us and all the people of Sudan with the ability to do as Christ commanded us and to live in love and peace with all. Amen.

Email for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan - ecsprovince@hotmail.com. 🍷



Photo by Constance Wilson©

ARCHBISHOPS APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS REFERENDUM APPROACHES

EXCERPTS FROM ENS NEWS, LONDON
BY MATTHEW DAVIES, EDITOR & INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT OF ENS

Oct. 7, 2010

With fewer than 100 days to go before southerners in Sudan vote on whether to remain a unified country or to separate from the north, Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) is making every effort to ensure that the Jan. 9 referendum goes ahead as planned and that peace holds in the war-torn country.

Deng and Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who are appealing to the international community to support the people of Sudan, briefed media at Lambeth Palace on Oct. 7 ahead of a series of meetings with officials in the UK Government's foreign office. The meetings are intended to provide updates on the situation on the ground in Sudan and to ensure that the UK Government plays a crucial role in supporting the peace and stability of Africa's largest nation.

Williams talked about the danger of Sudan "sleepwalking towards disaster...if action does not continue from the international community".

Assuming the southerners vote for separation, "there is no preparation at this moment for how to receive the influx of refugees...from the north...back to southern Sudan," Deng said. "The Government of Southern Sudan really has no capacity at this moment to administer or to welcome these people".

But the threat of open war "in and after the referendum period is the most serious thing of all," he said, "and that signals a return to what have been decades of slaughter and poverty and utter instability in a very large and very vulnerable country".

The UK Government, Williams said, "has a good and strong record of supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)...signed in January 2005...and there is no time at all to ease up the pressure on what our government can give in this way".



Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and Archbishop Rowan Williams

Earlier in the week, Deng attended the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, where he lobbied and met with UK Members of Parliament.

The Rev. Ian Woodward, priest in the Diocese of Salisbury, which has a 37-year partnership with the ECS, described the meetings as "very encouraging", noting that the UK Government is being "very supportive and open to help the churches in pushing for a better understanding of the dangers of violence if the referendum does not proceed in time".

The ECS -- with its 5 million members, the vast majority of whom are based in the south -- is considered one of the largest non-governmental organizations (NGO) in southern Sudan and is strategically placed to serve its people in the face of such great adversity.

During the Lambeth media briefing, Williams described Deng as "a colossally effective advocate for Sudan, a defender of the most vulnerable communities in his country, an eloquent spokesman for church and nation".

Deng's awareness and advocacy campaign, Oct. 9-23, will take him to New York and Washington, DC, where, as part of an ecumenical delegation, he will meet with senior governmental officials and key members of the UN, including Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

ARCHBISHOPS APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS REFERENDUM APPROACHES, CON'T.

While in NY, Deng will preach at Trinity Church, Wall Street, and join a panel discussion at the Council of Foreign Relations.

“The world’s attention has very understandably been on the dramatic violence in Darfur,” Williams told the media, “but because the international community has taken its eyes off the need to implement what has been agreed in southern Sudan, that has simply been growing more and more serious day by day for the last few years largely unnoticed.”

The Episcopal Public Policy Network issued a policy alert informing its members that their voices are making a difference, but that more advocacy is needed. (Policy Alert on page 12.)

TEC’s long-standing support for Sudan is manifested through its partnerships and companion diocese relationships, programs supported by Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), and advocacy work of the Office of Government Relations. The American Friends of the

Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS), which counts many Episcopalians among its members, also is actively involved in supporting its Sudanese partners.

There are currently four Episcopal Church missionaries posted in Sudan. 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, Rhode Island with Ezo, Southwestern Virginia and Virginia, both with the Province of the ECS.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori in mid-September called on Episcopalians to observe “A Season of Prayer for Sudan”. Acknowledging Sudan’s fragile state following decades of civil war, Jefferts Schori said in her Sept. 15 letter that the Episcopal Church can stand in solidarity “with our brothers and sisters in Sudan as we enter a season of preparation by prayer, study, and action.”

{See video of the media address with Archbishops Deng and Williams & the complete article by Matthew Davies on <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/> Oct. 7, 2010} 🌿

REMEMBER TO PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

The last issue of *Sudan Connections* announced the launch of *E-blast* announcements and a Facebook profile to keep AFRECS members “alert” to day-to-day news about Sudan. Become a member of AFRECS online, www.afrecs.org. Go to the website, click on Get Involved. You will be added to the *E-Blast* list. Or, send an email to AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org; write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

If you’re on Facebook, please ‘like’ the page and share it with others interested in Sudan. You are invited to send your pictures from Sudan.

Subscribe today - become a friend. Share the AFRECS news with family, church members, coworkers and friends.

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Sudan. *Teach* others about the plight of our Sudanese friends and families. *Partner* together to help our Sudanese brothers and sisters. *Urge* others to help. *Give* what you’re able -- time, talent, treasure. 🌿



St. Barnaba, Renk Diocese. Photo by Charlie Simokaitis©

THE EPISCOPAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

POLICY ALERT

As Sudan approaches a critical moment for peace, your advocacy is making a difference. At the beginning of the summer we wrote to you urging action in advance of a January referendum in south Sudan to determine whether the region will secede from the northern half of the country. Earlier this month, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori deepened that call, declaring a church-wide season of prayer and advocacy for Sudan in preparation for the referendum.

The good news is your voices are making a difference. After months upon months of seeming invisibility, Sudan's future is finally making headlines. President Obama participated in a high-level meeting on Sudan at the UN, and according to news reports, is receiving daily briefings on the issue from his senior staff. This week (Oct. 6), it was announced that the full UN Security Council, including American Ambassador Susan Rice, will travel to Sudan immediately in support of a peaceful referendum.

Still, as columnist Nicholas Kristof, an expert on Sudan, wrote in the New York Times, the prospect of failure -- a return to the full-scale war that has consumed most of Sudan's past fifty years -- remains extraordinarily high.

PEACE IS POSSIBLE, BUT TIME IS RUNNING OUT. Your voice is needed now to tell President Obama to apply meaningful pressure to the government of the Sudan to allow the January referendum to proceed freely and fairly and to honor its results. The actions of the world community in the coming months will be critical in determining whether Sudan's future will bring war or peace. A return to war will have deep and lasting consequences not just for the people of Sudan, but for the African continent, the region, and the United States. **SEND A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT OBAMA TODAY.**

Join the EPPN online at <http://episcopal.grassroots.com/join/>
Get on the list to receive Policy Alerts. 🌿

WITH HEART SET ON RETURNING TO SUDAN, WORK CONTINUES AT HOME

BY JUDITH GREGORY, BUSINESS MANAGER
DIOCESE OF DELAWARE
AFRECS BOARD MEMBER

(Diocese of Delaware) When you visit Sudan people say that if you drink from the Nile River you are destined to return. So while in Khartoum the summer of 2008, I concentrated on never drinking from the Nile. As fate would have it, I slipped up -- once. The result? An undeniable, intense yearning to return.

So what does one do while waiting to go back?

First, I have been raising awareness about the work of the Mothers Union in Sudan, a part of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). In particular, I've been focusing on their need for a vehicle to travel and do their work around the country. Maureen Lyons, Trinity Parish, and Danny Schweers, Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew in Wilmington, have been working with me in this venture.

Second, I am working with the ECS and the Diocese of Virginia volunteer missionary, Larry Duffee, who followed after me and continues the work that I began there. Working with Larry and Jennifer Ernst, from the ECS staff, as well as Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, has been rewarding as we coordinate what work has been done and what remains to be accomplished.

Third, I am involved with AFRECS, the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. I became aware of the organization while working in Sudan, and actually met a board member on my initial visit to Juba in February 2008. Last year, Margaret Larom, my colleague from The Episcopal Church (TEC), an AFRECS board member herself, asked if I would consider serving on the Board if elected. I have learned that, if these opportunities present

WITH HEART SET ON RETURNING TO SUDAN, WORK CONTINUES AT HOME, CON'T.

themselves, God is whispering. So, without hesitation, I said, "Yes", as did the Board.

I spent the first few months participating in conference calls, listening and learning. This past June, I attended the fifth AFRECS conference in Alexandria, VA, hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The conference calls had not prepared me for the spine-tingling feeling of being in a large nave filled with people all connected to and praying for our brothers and sisters in Sudan -- so many people working toward the common goal of "Building for Capacity for Human Rights, Peace and Security, and Governance in Southern Sudan". In attendance were representatives of the US and South Sudanese governments, Sudanese representatives of the Diaspora in the US, lay members of many Episcopal dioceses, clergy representatives from England and Sudan, and non-profit organizations, such as Five Talents International and Water for Sudan.

As an organization supporting connections between the ECS and TEC, AFRECS has encouraged partnership between Episcopal women in Sudan and the US. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in the US is eager to support peace and reconciliation initiatives in Sudan by introducing American leaders of the ECW to leaders in the ECS Mothers Union, and *Reconcile*, (Resource Centre for Civic Leadership), an indigenous ecumenical Christian peace-building institute. These relationships are growing and developing, and my connections to Mama Darías and others have been helpful in this process.

My excitement at this conference led me to volunteer in the planning for the next conference, which will be held in June 2011. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has accepted our invitation to attend.

On June 27, the Presiding Bishop preached at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland, New Zealand. The following is from her homily that day: "We will call the whole of the Episcopal Church to prayer, to study, and to action in solidarity with the Episcopal Church of Sudan. The larger body, through advocacy, prayer, and ways we haven't yet discovered, may be able to help bring greater peace in Sudan. The world is poised to observe -- and influence -- the community in and around Sudan."

The Episcopal Church has organized "A Season of Prayer for Sudan", which began in September and proceeds until the country's historic Referendum, Jan. 9, 2011, by which Southern Sudan will determine their future as a separate country from Northern Sudan. Dioceses are also invited to consider sponsoring resolutions in support for the people of Sudan, encouraging elected and State Department officials to take all possible steps to ensure the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Members of AFRECS are encouraged to pray for justice and peace in Sudan. Please join us. Pray for the work of the church's missionaries and their safety and health. Pray for bountiful crops and an end to hunger and all kinds of instability. Pray for Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, as he serves God and leads his people in these difficult times. Pray for Sudan.

Judith Gregory took a sabbatical leave as Manager of the Diocese of Delaware in 2008. She spent several months on mission as a CPA for the Province of the ECS. 🌿



Photo by Charlie Simokaitis©

“SUDAN WILL NOT BE THE SAME AGAIN”

BY STACY CARLSON

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VA

“Sudan will not be the same again,” said the September 19, 2010 Pastoral Message from Bishop Ezekiel Kondo, Diocese of Khartoum. He repeated the message in his sermon at All Saints' Cathedral the same night. “Whether there is secession or unity, things will change; they will not remain the same.”

We – a four-person delegation from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA – were among the many people attending that Sunday evening English service. We were graciously introduced to the congregation as visitors from the United States. Our host, Bishop Joseph Garang Atem, Renk Diocese, told them we would be there. Throughout our trip, Bishop Joseph was our friend, companion and keeper.

The four of us, St. Paul's Rector, The Rev. Oran Warder, Assistant to the Rector and former missionary to the New Sudan Council of Churches, The Rev. Ross Kane, parishioners Amy Millican and myself, walked from our wooden benches to the altar. We were each asked to speak. What few words could capture the faith and courage we witnessed during our weeklong visit, which started in the north and took us 460 km south to visit Renk?

St. Paul's has been connected with the people and institutions of Renk for some time. We helped build a basic/secondary school. We provide support to the Renk Theological College and St. Matthew Cathedral. Oran is an Honorary Canon at the Cathedral.

We traveled in mid-September, through Khartoum, to Renk, to renew and deepen ties between St. Paul's and Renk Diocese. Oran and Ross continued on to Juba, capital of South Sudan and seat of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), where they met with Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and The Rev. Andrew Akuak, former leader of the Sudanese congregation at St. Paul's. Andrew is working to build financial institutions in the growing city of Juba. Oran and Ross also met with, and learned about, the contributions of Provincial level mid-term missionaries, who are providing invaluable support in agriculture, finance, communication and theological education.

We wanted to offer support and encouragement before the January 2011 Referendum, when so much is at stake. We have welcomed Bishop Joseph and our long-time friend



Archbishop Daniel to our parish a number of times, and we look forward to their visits again this fall. It was a blessing that we could make the long journey to visit them, as well.

Now, we have facts, photos and memories to share: the faces of mothers and children waiting for care at the medical clinic, the students reading in the Renk Theological College library, the green acres of the diocesan agricultural field, the bright cloths sewn by the Mother's Union, the children spilling out of yellow school buildings, the blue tarp covering the outdoor Geiger church, the image of St. Matthew's white crosses against a stormy African sky, and the echoes of songs sung to celebrate our visit and Oran's birthday, which dozens shared together at the Renk Guest House.

Most importantly, we will recall how we talked and prayed together about all that lay ahead. Now, with our closer ties and greater knowledge, St. Paul's can add an even stronger voice of advocacy for the role of ECS and the U.S. government in building a stable Southern Sudan and a lasting peace.

At the AFRECS conference this past June, former USAID Administrator, Andrew Natsios, said that sound institutions are often the difference between successful and failed nations. We saw very clearly that ECS is an institution that


“SUDAN WILL NOT BE THE SAME AGAIN” CON’T.

has and will make a difference in Sudan. With the critical times ahead, ECS can again be an agent of reconciliation for a country and people still living under the threat of conflict and violence. We heard the concern in every voice. We also heard determination: the South wants peace, wants the referendum to occur as planned, safely and fairly, and for the results to be honored.

Our visit also reinforced the need for St. Paul’s to continue our specific support for Renk. Much of our local outreach focuses on children, and so we expect to continue our mission’s focus on helping Renk’s children through the “Pennies from Heaven” program to support the Basic School. We will also continue financial and scholarly support for the Renk Theological College, and support the work of the Archbishop throughout the Province of Sudan.

When we weren’t talking with people or seeing sites, we

had time to consider all we had seen and learned. The North has its concerns; Bishop Ezekiel asked for prayers for freedom and respect for the Christians and minorities in the North if South Sudan votes to secede. South Sudan has barely begun to rebuild after decades of war, and needs the capacity and support to continue its progress. And Renk, which sits very close to the traditional northern border, has an additional specific concern: if there is a mass exodus from the North, they will need to provide shelter and food for the displaced who will likely travel through, or even hope to stop permanently, in Renk.

On our last evening in Khartoum, the Bishop’s message reinforced the complexity and challenges ahead and the clarity that, no matter what, Sudan will change. St. Paul’s adds a constant prayer that the change will be peaceful, and bring freedom. 

PARTNERSHIPS...CONNECTING WITH OUR SUDANESE FRIENDS

BY JENNIFER ERNST, DIOCESE OF VA
PRESIDENT, HOPE FOR HUMANITY, INC.

Of the 31 dioceses of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS), only 8 have partners in the US. The remaining 23 are still praying for a US partner with whom to share friendship. The Sudanese are a people of deep faith; they walk daily with the Lord in ways that open our eyes and teach us much about our own faith journey. Might you be called to enter into a partnership with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Sudan?

Partnerships can take many forms. Following are some ideas to ponder.

- Think creatively. Partnerships are not limited to dioceses only. Partnerships between individuals or parishes are a source of great hope for the Sudanese people.
- Consider becoming a prayer partner. Establish communication with a bishop and his staff so prayer requests can be shared between the US and Sudan.
- Partnerships may look different in each case; e.g., supplying desks for a school, providing a scholarship for a

theological student, uniting as prayer companions or visiting an ECS diocese are some examples of things anyone can do and will mean a great deal to our friends.

- Keep it simple and achievable. If funding is involved, speak to the bishop about his priorities for his diocese.
- Never underestimate the importance of Christian friendship.
- Visit Sudan. Spend time with our Christian brothers and sisters. Take in the experience, and discern what you may be called to do.

If you are engaged with an ECS diocese, share your experiences with others. Encourage them to visit Sudan and get involved with one of the 23 dioceses in need of a partner.

Contact President, Bishop David Jones, at the Northern VA office of the Diocese of VA, 703-824-1325, or djones@thediocese.net, for information on partnerships and opportunities to serve the ECS.



MISSIONER FROM THE DIOCESE OF VA SERVES THE ECS

LARRY DUFFY SERVES AS EXTERNAL FINANCIAL CONSULTANT
FOR THE PROVINCE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

Larry Duffee, a member of St. George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA, is a missionary in Sudan, supported by AFRECS. Larry brings with him experience in running his own business, a masters degree in Public Administration, and work experience with the Virginia Dept. of Planning and Budget.

He was invited to Sudan after His Grace, Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, expressed a desire to have someone on staff that understood business and finance and could help modernize current business practices of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). To quote Larry, "The task before me is to evaluate the financial systems, to build upon the efforts of people like AFRECS Board member Judith Gregory, to help the ECS organize its financial systems into ways that satisfy the needs of the ECS' worldwide partners, and to meet the objectives outlined by the Archbishop."

South Sudan is in the process of rebuilding its economy after years of civil war, and the myriad of worldwide donor partners are providing current financial stability for many

organizations like the ECS. Archbishop Daniel and the ECS need financial systems that are models of transparency and integrity that will instill confidence in the Provincial Office to manage its financial affairs. Larry, "after months of on the ground experience", feels confident that he understands the workings of the current financial system and how it can improve. The ECS staff needs continued tutoring in the basics of good recordkeeping, understanding concepts like cash flows and income, and "delineating lines of authority in financial matters".

To assist in this work, AFRECS is providing a modest grant. It is the first time AFRECS has directly supported a project outside the annual tithe it gives to the ECS. Richard Parkins, Executive Director of AFRECS, states "AFRECS regards the creation of a credible financial system for the Province an essential step in fostering a healthy climate in which those in the Province and the external donors can feel confident". Larry began working in the Provincial Office in Juba in May. 🌿

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR THE CHURCH

THE RT. REV. HILARY GARANG DENG, DIOCESE OF MALAKAL
CHAIRMAN OF THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION, ECS

Ed. Note: Bishop Hilary Garang Deng planned to present this paper at the AFRECS Conference in Alexandria, VA, but due to a delay in receiving a visa, he was unable to come to the US.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Mtt.28:18-20/NIV

Many of us in church leadership in Sudan, and elsewhere, did not easily understand the importance of "Leadership Training" in the Church until such a time that we our-

selves became involved in training and teaching others, or received the chance for training ourselves; feeling empowered, equipped, instructed to take on Christian ministry with a fresh taste and challenges, or sometimes being called directly by God in a special way into this business of training others and beginning to do it. All these ways, and many others, would make us understand the importance and deep need of the Church for training its manpower to meet the "Apostolic roles" required of us to be felt throughout our ministry to the world...and then the "Great Commission" would be fulfilled.

In this due process, we see how simple, faithful Christians, like the first seven deacons, grew into different levels of maturity in faith, hope, great courage and integrity of heart

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR THE CHURCH, CON'T.



Photo by Constance Wilson©

changing their lives. This is simply because of shared lives and experiences and the inspiration they received from the Holy Scriptures, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The reading of the Word of God, the “Scriptures”, helps the spiritual growth in the lives of those who believe and are saved. I, myself, came to realize this after taking on the role of a trainer and becoming a “tutor” at Bishop Gwynne College for ten years in

Juba, Southern Sudan, in the early 1990’s. I praised the work of the “First Missionaries to Sudan” at that time. They shaped the formation of our faith and ministry today in Sudan. For this was the way of the Church, to disciple and teach the new converts at infancy, to establish them, and then equip them with the maturity to be sent into the ready fields of the Master to gather up the harvest.

Our story is not, therefore, different from their story or from the rest of the world; we have the same call, the same challenges and experience. They were persecuted and expelled after the independence of Sudan, and we inherited the same persecution. We never had a chance to live in peace after they left; to establish ourselves and build institutions. We have always been on the run within and without the country, running for our lives, sometimes to the neighboring countries for refuge. This has not helped the training process in the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) or the rest of the churches in Sudan. The development of theological schools remains a big issue for the Church. There are great difficulties, especially when it comes to resources, both human and financial.

It has been five years now planning the development of Bishop Gwynne Theological College into a university, to offer other courses besides theology. But we cannot, sim-

ply because it needs commitment from our stakeholders. It needs capital, energy and time to be spent. It requires the will, also, to lead the way forward.

We need training of our manpower in the Church more than any other time in our history in order to move into the world with better knowledge. We need to equip another generation for future tasks as others did for us. We are in a world that knows no borders or limits in the areas of morals, justice and equality. There are needs to be met in and outside the Church, especially with communities coming out of war, which disabled them and left them empty-handed. They need the Church to address their major problems spiritually, as well as materially. They are there waiting for the Church to take care of them.

For the last hundred years, most missionaries working in Africa, helped training of its manpower in the area of “Divinity” only, in order to strengthen the faith of the community. Recently, after reviewing their strategies, especially, the Church Missionary Society (CMS), which founded the Episcopal Church of Sudan, and others in the country, we found that they added another dimension in the area of training. They realized there were other areas needed to better serve the community. They realized that the “Wholistic Ministry Approach” had a greater impact on bringing changes and transformation to society; thus, they added other subjects, such as Management, Agriculture, Education, Medicine, Mass-Communication, I.T., Vocational Training and many other subjects that are essential to our Christian Ministry at this present time and in the times to come.

Finally, we did not experience peace and stability for a long time in this country, like the other independent churches and nations in the world. They enjoyed, lived and shared the fruits of independence as the whole “Western Church” throughout the last few centuries. It is a very strange thing to us, and God knows the root cause of all this misery of the Sudanese people. Surely, He will bring it soon to an end, no doubt. For God is supreme over all the world’s events, be it natural or man-made disasters. He knows it, and He is actually behind it. Therefore, as the Bible says: “Know, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.” Rom.8:37. “He will guide till the day is done!” says another man of God. 🌿

DISCOVERING UNITY AT BISHOP GWYNNE COLLEGE

BY JESSE ZINK

Dinner at Bishop Gwynne Theological College in Juba is usually a pretty quiet affair. Students eat their food in the small courtyard and chat among themselves, taking a break before returning to an evening of study.

But sometimes the conversations get animated. One night, I found myself sitting with Simon, Richard, and Samuel. Simon is a Dinka and Richard and Samuel are Zandes. These are two of the many tribes in south Sudan, a region that has historically experienced a significant amount of inter-tribal violence. Dinkas are pastoralists and Zandes agriculturalists.

The conversation went something like this.

"I don't understand what you Zandes eat," said Simon. "How do you get meat?"

"Oh, we get plenty of meat," said Richard.

"But how? You don't have any cows."

"We don't want cows," interjected Samuel. "They trample our fields."

"So what meat do you eat?" asked Simon, genuinely curious.

Richard used a Zande word.

"What does that mean?" asked Simon

Richard asked a friend to translate the word into English. The friend said, "It means monkey."

Simon looked shocked. "Monkey! Gross!"

"Yes, we eat monkey," said Samuel. "They are very tasty, especially the small black ones."

Later, I told Simon I had found the conversation very interesting. How did it feel, I asked, to share a big dormitory with students from tribes with which the Dinkas have historically been hostile? "That is the past," he said. "Our



tribe now is Christ."

That sounded very nice to me but a little too pat of an answer so I pushed him on it a little bit. He was insistent, however, and told me about a diocese in a Nuer region where the bishop is Dinka. That diocese is growing rapidly and the bishop has now sent several students here to Juba to study. He quoted Galatians 3:28. *"It's our natural inclination to feel uncomfortable around people who are different from us and to gravitate toward those who are similar to us. But when we allow our differences to separate us from our fellow believers, we are disregarding clear Biblical teaching. Make a point to seek out and appreciate people who are not just like you and your friends. You may find that you have a lot in common with them."* (NIV)

Inter-tribal violence, according to the pastoral letters of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, remains one of the major causes of instability and violence in south Sudan. In some small way, perhaps, by living, eating, and studying together these students are reducing the possibility of future violence.

It is this sort of learning that marked the three weeks I spent as a student at Bishop Gwynne College, universally known here as BGC. It is one of five theological colleges in the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Under the leadership

DISCOVERING UNITY AT BISHOP GWYNNE COLLEGE, CON'T.

of interim administrator Trevor Stubbs from the Diocese of Salisbury, BGC reopened in February 2010 and has been flourishing since then with 48 students in four different tracks of classes.

I came to BGC because I was interested in how other seminarians in the Anglican Communion studied and prepared for ministry. I found the conversation topics among students to be familiar: the future of the church, the relevance of the Gospel to the contemporary world, our families.

But when Sudanese talk about the future of the church, they can talk about a rapidly-growing church that is creating new dioceses as fast as it can to keep up with the growth. When they talk about the relevance of the Gospel, they talk about a situation of precarious peace after decades of civil war and oppression that many of them remember clearly. When they talk about their families, they talk about wives and children left at home so they can travel hundreds of kilometers in difficult conditions to study here.

Moreover, many of these students are priests already. They are hungry for knowledge they can take back to their communities and share with their congregations. They have specific contexts in mind in which to use their education. As a result, they work very hard. The small library is taxed heavily by the demand students place on it, reading long into the night, even when the electricity is out.

During one class, titled "Theology from the Perspective of African Women," the students had a thoughtful and wide-ranging conversation about what the Creation narratives in Genesis had to say about gender relations. They thought out loud about how their cultural backgrounds influenced how they read the Bible, the relationship between Bible and culture, what is lost and gained by looking at gender relations in the Bible in a new light, how the cultural background of the authors of the Bible influenced their views, and so on. I've had similar conversations with my colleagues in the U.S., but they never seemed to reach the level they did at BGC.

Throughout my time at BGC, I marveled at the ways in which the students accepted me and made me feel like I was one of them, simply because of our shared membership in the Body of Christ. Christ prayed for unity among his followers. I'm grateful that for a few weeks in September I was able to taste a small bit of that unity at Bishop Gwynne College.

Jesse Zink is a second-year student at Yale Divinity School who visited BGC in September 2010. He wrote more about his time at BGC at <http://jessezink.wordpress.com>. His e-mail is jessezink@gmail.com. More information about BGC is available at <http://bishopgwynne.juba.anglican.org>. 🌿



TRAINING FOR DIOCESAN AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS

BY ROBIN DENNEY, ECS AGRICULTURE CONSULTANT



A three-month agriculture training program opened in early September at the Crop Training Center in Yei. The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) has 12 candidates participating in the training from 11 different dioceses across South Sudan. Each of the candidates was selected by their bishop for their interest and experience in agriculture and their willingness to assist their diocese with agriculture programs. All 12 will be returning to their diocese after the training, qualified to be agriculture extension agents. They will work with their diocese as a diocesan agriculture officer or as a trainer of pastors. Each candidate has promised to commit at least 2 years to the service of the diocese, but we expect they will all stay for much longer.

The training covers a broad spectrum of agricultural topics, including pest control, planting methods, marketing, and much more. The focus is on sustainable improved techniques for subsistence farmers. The Crop Training Center is a well-respected institution in South Sudan that is subsidized by the government.

The tuition and transportation expenses for each of the trainees was provided by generous donors in the United States, both individuals and churches from the Dioceses of Virginia, Missouri, Bethlehem, and Colorado, and the Central Visalia Rotary Club in California.

The candidates are excited about this training course. Most of them have already begun, while a few are still on the way due to difficulties in transportation.

This training was coordinated by the ECS Agriculture Department. After the successful completion of this training program, the Agriculture Department will continue to roll out this training across all dioceses which are interested in participating. We hope to create a network of ECS Agriculture Officers who can assist their dioceses in implementation of agriculture programs, and who will be on

the ground to do agriculture advising and workshops with the people. With this added framework and expertise on the ground, the hope is to expand the agricultural efforts of each diocese and the Church as a whole.

The goal of the ECS Agriculture Department is to support the Province of ECS in implementing projects for food security and income generation, as well as support the individual dioceses of ECS with agriculture advising, training, and networking with potential donors. Since its development early last year, the Agriculture Department has carried out visits to 23 dioceses, put on 13 workshops, and begun three pilot farm projects.

Robin is a Volunteer for Mission from the Diocese of El Camino Real, assigned by TEC to the Province of ECS, serving as Agriculture Consultant, based in Juba. For further information on ECS Agriculture, contact her at redenney@gmail.com. Visit Robin's blog at <http://robin-mission.blogspot.com>. 🌿

OPENING NIGHT IN CHICAGO

PREMIERE

*“Voices of Faith: Diocese of Renk, The Episcopal Church
of Sudan”*



*“Partners in Faith: The Episcopal Dioceses of Renk, Chicago
and Virginia”*

Friday, November 12, 2010

St. James Cathedral

65 E. Huron Chicago, Illinois

Reception, Music and Photo Exhibit ~ 6:30 p.m.

Premiere ~ 7:30 p.m.

Guest of Honor ~ The Rt. Rev. Joseph Garang Atem

Produced and Filmed by: Kevin Goodman, Charlie Simokaitis, Constance Wilson

Bishops Jeffrey Lee and Joseph Garang Atem

Photos by Charlie Simokaitis©

The Renk Media Team, at the invitation of Bishop Joseph Garang, Renk Diocese, traveled to their companion diocese to film and photograph the people, places, clinics, schools, churches, and the beautiful starry night sky blanketing the cross-topped tukuls throughout Renk. The documentaries, *“Voices of Faith”* and *“Partners in Faith”*, tell the story of the power of partnership, the story of Emmanuel, God with us.

The films will be available for purchase after Nov. 12.

Contact, Constance Wilson, wilson.constance@gmail.com,

for information. 🌿



COMINGS & GOINGS, ETC.

OCTOBER TRAVELS OF BISHOP ABRAHAM YEL NHIAL

Bishop Abraham, Diocese of Aweil, newly-established, is visiting throughout the US: Ft. Worth, TX; Atlanta, GA; Grand Rapids, MI; Chicago, IL; Richmond, VA. (At the time of this writing, AFRECS did not have his full itinerary.)

OCTOBER 14 - NOVEMBER 15

Bishop Samuel Enosa Peni, Diocese of Nzara, newly-established, will attend the Diocesan Convention of Iowa and make visitations throughout the Diocese.

NOVEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 2

Bishop Joseph Garang Atem, Diocese of Renk, arrives in Washington, DC, to visit partners in the Diocese of VA; on November 9, Bishop Joseph travels to Chicago, companion diocese with Renk, to attend the Diocesan Convention, the premiere of a documentary on the Renk and Chicago partnership, and make visitations throughout the Diocese.

NOVEMBER 5 - 7

Bishop David Jones, AFRECS President, Richard Parkins, Executive Director, and Board member, Debra Smith will travel to Juba to participate in the Sudan Partners meeting. AFRECS is one of the partners in the ECS Roundtable.

NOVEMBER 12 - 13

Bishop Bernard Oringa Balmoi, Diocese of Torit, and his wife, Cizarina Asienzoo Bernard Alfred, will attend the Diocesan Convention of Long Island, and will travel throughout the diocese during their stay in the US.

FALL TRIP - DIOCESE OF MISSOURI TEAM TO LUI

A team from Missouri will travel to their companion Diocese, Lui, where they will meet with partners of Lui from Blackmore Val Deanery, Salisbury Diocese, and the Diocese of Lund in the Church of Sweden to coordinate partnership efforts. The team will facilitate conferences for pastors, teachers, youth and Mothers Union leaders. They'll do computer training and visit projects that the Diocese of Missouri sponsors.

DECEMBER 2 - 10

Phil Darrow, AFRECS Board member and parishioner at St. Michael's, Diocese of Chicago, will accompany Bishop Joseph on his return to Renk. St. Michael's supports projects in Renk, focusing mainly on Renk Theological College.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ELLEN DAVIS, DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Dr. Davis, the Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology, received the 2010 Duke

University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award. One of the many accolades said about Dr. Davis, founder of the Visiting Teachers Program at Renk Theological College, is this: "Her love of language and her close reading of texts inspire an enthusiasm that students carry beyond her classes, even into pursuits outside the University. Indeed, she has so inspired some of her students that they have followed her to southern Sudan to teach each summer, and even more, to aid the Sudanese in the construction of a seminary and health clinic in the town of Renk."

FIVE NEW ECS BISHOPS CONSECRATED

On June 20, Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul enthroned Bishop Ezekiel Diing Ajang, for the new Diocese of Twic East; and July 17 and 18, 2010, four new bishops were elected and consecrated at All Saints' Cathedral in Juba. Larry Duffee, serving in the ECS Provincial Office as External Financial Consultant, witnessed the events. "The consecrations of these bishops was significant because now, for the first time, all thirty-one bishops are in place. There are now leaders in position throughout Sudan present to carry out the important work of the Church." Bishops consecrated in Juba: The Rt. Rev. Abraham Yel Nhial, new Diocese of Aweil; The Rt. Rev. Samaan Farjalla, new Diocese of Wad Medani; The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Abiel, Diocese of Yirol; The Rt. Rev. Elijah Matueny Ajuet, Diocese of Cueibet.

LATEST ISSUE OF MAGAZINE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE ECS

The 5th issue of *Voice of the Gospel*, official magazine of the Province of the ECS, is available to read and download on the AFRECS website: www.afrecs.org - click on "Episcopal Church of Sudan Information". It is very informative and full of everything you want to know about the ECS. Highly recommended by this editor.

CORRECTION AND APOLOGY TO THE REV. JOHN CHOL DAAU

AFRECS apologizes to The Rev. John Daau, Diocese of Bor, for identifying him as Principal of Malek Bible College in the Spring 2010 issue of *Sudan Connections*. Following is the correct information about Rev. John Daau, and Rev. Nathaniel Bol Nyok, who is the Principal of Malek. Both were students at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA, 2008-2010. Rev. Daau works in partnership with Malek Bible School. He is the Founder and Director of GoodShepherd Leadership Training Centre, as well as Founder and Editor of the New Sudan Christian newspaper. Please accept my sincere apology, Rev. Daau. *Jacqueline Kraus, Interim Editor.* 🌿

DIOCESES OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

