

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

Spring 2010

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1



AFRECS - American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan



CONNECTING HOPES AND GIFTS

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SPRING 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:

WORSHIP AT ST. LUKE IN RENK
TOWN, RENK DIOCESE. PHOTO
- CHARLIE SIMOKAITIS©



Send submissions for the next *Sudan Connections* to Editor Robin Darrow at robin.darrow.editor@gmail.com by Sept. 15, 2010.

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Richard J. Jones



Photo by Constance Wilson©

God is still at work in Sudan. I watch and pray to see the ways God is renewing life in the midst of death. God's Church in Sudan walks, sows, and lives in hope.

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan likewise walk, sow, and pray in hope.

I am delighted to announce that the Right Reverend David Colin Jones, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, has accepted election by our board as the next president of AFRECS. Bishop Jones has been a retreat leader for the House of Bishops of the ECS at the invitation of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and a wise advocate for Sudan over the past decade in Washington, D.C. Bishop Jones listens intently, speaks clearly, and will help AFRECS cast a vision for the forms friendship with the ECS will take in the coming years.

It has been my privilege since the beginning of AFRECS in 2005 to chair a strong and knowledgeable board of directors. Russell Randle, Philip Darrow, and Connie Fegley have followed where Anita Sanborn and Jackie Kraus led, in amplifying the voice of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, in the hearing of the US church and state. Jackie Kraus has passed the editorship of *Sudan Connections* to Robin Darrow in

Chicago, while Deborah Morris Smith sends compact electronic bulletins, whether from St. Louis or Cairo, to stir us to pray, partner, teach, urge, and give. Fritz Gilbert continues to lend his diplomatic and financial experience to our able new treasurer Gwinneth Clarkson. Rick Houghton continues his thoughtful engagement with those responsible for theological education to equip pastors and leaders for four million Sudanese Episcopalians.

On behalf of the entire board and the diverse membership of AFRECS - dioceses, parishes, voluntary organizations, and individuals - I thank our Executive Director Richard Parkins, whose steady follow-through constantly helps convert our good intentions into actions. AFRECS will help The Episcopal Church respond to the call of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to pray for the church in Sudan between now and the coming referendum on southern independence.

God is working his purpose out through his people in Sudan, and through us, their friends.

I am your friend in Christ,

Rich Jones

Richard J. Jones

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C. Richard Parkins



Photo by Constance Wilson©

Dear Friends,

We launch a new stage in the life of *SUDAN CONNECTIONS* as Robin Darrow begins her work with AFRECS as the new editor. In welcoming Robin, we remember with great appreciation the work of Jackie Kraus, who as our previous editor, did much to make this periodic AFRECS publication an invaluable source of information for

many within our church and Episcopal organizations about the struggles and courage of our sisters and brothers in Sudan.

2010 is a crucial year for AFRECS, in large measure because it is a crucial year for our friends in Sudan. National elections occurred in April. Great uncertainty surrounded them and many questioned whether they would occur in an environment of openness and safety. The elections are judged by many (both advocates in the U.S. and Europe and Sudanese themselves) as seriously flawed and offer a reminder of the work that has to occur within the next six months to ensure that the upcoming referendum is a legitimate expression of the will of those deciding whether Sudan is to become two nations or remain as a unified country. Our prayers remain with our sisters and brothers, especially those of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) as they struggle to contain civil violence and recover from the years of devastating warfare.

The AFRECS National Conference will return to St. Paul's parish in Alexandria, VA, June 4-6. Five years ago, AFRECS convened its first national gathering of its friends and supporters. This year we are blessed to have our new board member, Ross Kane, as a member of St. Paul's clergy. Kane, with support from the good people of St. Paul's will host us as we gather to understand more fully the current crisis in Sudan

and what we can do to enhance our solidarity with our friends there. The Rt. Rev. Hilary Garang Deng, the bishop of the ECS diocese of Malakal, will join us representing the Archbishop of the ECS. In addition, such distinguished experts on Sudan as Roger Winter and Andrew Natsios - both of whom have served the U.S. Government as Special Envoys to Sudan and who have years of experience in working for peace in Sudan - will be key presenters at our conference.

Advocacy remains a core element of the mission of AFRECS. AFRECS members and friends, at the September 2009 board meeting, took a day to visit Congressional offices to ask for a more robust U.S. effort to protect the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) from being violated or ignored by the government in Khartoum. Other advocacy initiatives have given attention to the need for a more equitable sharing of oil revenue, and endorsement of Senate resolution 404 which underscores the responsibilities of our country and its leaders in ensuring that the peace which was hoped for at the time the CPA was negotiated is not lost because of our failure as a nation to insist upon its faithful implementation.

A repeat of our September advocacy effort occurred March 25 when the AFRECS board and friends again called on their Congressional representatives to act on an urgent basis to engage the partners to the CPA to do more to prevent its deterioration and thus threaten any chance of peace in Sudan. Otherwise there could be a return to the violence and upheaval that has taken such a heavy toll on the lives and hopes of the Sudanese people. Please join us in June as an expression of our witness and solidarity with the ECS and its 31 dioceses.

Faithfully,

Richard Parkins

Executive Director

SUDAN IN CRISIS: HOW CAN WE HELP?

5TH AFRECS CONFERENCE

June 4-6, 2010 Alexandria, Virginia

As Sudan moves from the national elections of 2010 to the referendum for South Sudan in 2011, we urge you to join us as we explore ways we can help the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) face its challenges and help our Sudanese sisters and brothers in their search for peace and stability.

Distinguished speakers with expertise in the Sudan Peace Process include ROGER WINTER, currently an advisor to the Government of South Sudan and a former US Envoy to Sudan at the time the CPA was negotiated, and ANDREW NATSIOS, currently a Georgetown University professor who formerly served as Administrator of the US Agency for International Development and Special Envoy for Darfur and Sudan. Other speakers and workshop leaders come from various backgrounds with experience on the ground.

Which topic draws you?

THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT: RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

The 2005 CPA has been the framework for peace in Sudan. The extent to which it has been fully implemented will be examined, because future relations between North and South Sudan are critical to any lasting peace for Sudan.

ROLE OF THE U.S. AND GLOBAL PARTNERS IN CONTRIBUTING TO SUDAN'S FUTURE

Sudan remains one of the world's poorest countries with its poverty compounded by decades of violent civil conflict. Whether the South separates or remains part of a united Sudan, development and infrastructure challenges remain critical. Challenges and opportunities for both government and private initiatives will be considered.

ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF PEACE IN SUDAN

Advocacy takes on added urgency as the 2011 referendum approaches and as the consequences of national elections take hold. Consideration will be given to key issues that affect peace and stability for Sudan as the country, whether united or separated, moves forward from its tragic history. Attention will also be given to

how the Sudan story can be effectively told as global partners seek to be bridge builders and peace makers.

CHURCH BUILDING

The ECS as a leading civil institution in Sudan continues to work through its 31 dioceses and its theological colleges. Learn about current training needs for the ECS's clergy and how Bible translation into local languages can be advanced.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY AND DEVELOPMENT

As the ECS plays a larger role in peace building and development, American church partners play a vital role in accompanying Sudanese Episcopalians on their journey forward. How companion relationships are developed and nurtured will be described by partners in mission with a decade or so of experience.

SPECIAL THIS YEAR:

In conjunction with the conference, we are holding a special reception and fundraising event on the evening of June 5th at Christ Church in Alexandria. This event will allow you to meet and honor leaders of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, The Episcopal Church in the United States, and leaders of diplomatic work on behalf of peace in Sudan. Invited guests of honor include: Hilary Garang Deng, Bishop of Malakal; Gen. and Mrs. Colin L. Powell; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Natsios; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Winter; Dr. and Mrs. Brian d'Silva; Ambassador Alan F. Gaulty and Dr. Lillian Craig Harris; Mr. Witney Schneidman and Ms. Lee Guerry; Manute Bol; Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Deputy Director of UNICEF; and the Hon. and Mrs. Lual Deng.

Conference registration form includes hotel information. Please send the form and payment to us as soon as possible. After May 15, registration is \$175. Registration includes all sessions of the conference and continental breakfasts, dinner on June 4th, and lunch and the evening reception on June 5th.

Please visit our website, www.afreecs.org, for more information about AFRECS and for conference updates. We look forward to seeing you in June

DOCUMENTARY FILMING TEAM TRAVELS TO RENK JANUARY 5-18, 2010

by Constance Wilson

"Third time's a charm," is an American cliché used when things don't always go as planned the first or second time.

It's a phrase AFRECS' own Constance Wilson and the documentary filming crew she put together to travel to Renk Diocese gained new found appreciation for this January 2010, when twice previously, Fall 2008 and March 2009, their documentary filming trip had been postponed.

The delay in travel wrought several wonderful outcomes. Chicago's new bishop, Jeffrey Lee, became very excited about the focus and implications of this work. He set aside time on his busy calendar to travel with the team. His support also helped lead to energized fund raising efforts to underwrite the expenses of the trip. With an estimated budget of \$26,000, the team raised over \$27,000, which included generous support from both the Diocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Virginia and many generous individual donations.

Connie first visited Renk in 2005 as part of a team sent from the Diocese of Chicago to nurture the companionship relationship that had been established in 2001. In 2007, then Principal of Renk Theological College, Joseph Garang Atem, asked her to return to Renk Diocese to photograph the people of Renk and the working of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) in the area.

Even before becoming bishop (Joseph was enthroned in August 2008), he understood the importance of sharing the story. When Bishop Joseph asked Connie to record this work, she soon realized that if this project was to encompass the whole of Renk Diocese, then a documentary should also be part of this endeavor to encourage other Chicago churches to partner with Renk's unlinked parishes. The documentary would also be produced and distributed to other dioceses to educate others about Renk's needs and to identify sources of support for development projects.

To accomplish this, Connie asked Kevin Goodman, an Emmy-winning video producer/director and Charlie Simokaitis, an award winning professional photographer to accompany her. The three-person team's initial departure was set for the fall of 2008. Due to unrest in the



St. Matthew Cathedral - Renk Town. Photo Charlie Simokaitis©.

country, that trip wasn't even booked for travel. Next with visas processed and passports ready, the team was set to depart in March 2009. This trip however was also cancelled in early January after the killing of an American diplomat in Khartoum.

Third time was a charm in January 2010, when accompanied by Bishop Lee of Chicago, the team left from O'Hare Airport and headed to meet their brothers and sisters in the Sudan. The goal of the team was to travel throughout the Diocese of Renk in Southern Sudan, filming the work of the Episcopal Church and document the impact of the Church on the lives of the Southern displaced and persecuted peoples. Bishop Joseph prepared the way for the team to capture via photographs, the people of his diocese: the priests and their families; the churches, schools and teachers; Renk Theological College with the clinic and Women's Center, new parishes and various worshipping centers, etc.; visiting remote villages along the White Nile River and traveling across bumpy, dusty roads in land to places few visitors have ever seen. - intro by Robin Darrow, Editor.

10 days, 24 locations, 45 interviews

This video filming and portraiture project was a big undertaking for the media team but an even bigger production feat for the people of Renk. The team and companions traveled over 400 square miles, shooting 45 interviews in 24 different locations. Preparations had to be made at 16 different churches and worshipping centers to welcome the media team: special worship services planned; interviewees chosen; churches of natural materials repaired or even built for our arrival; gifts readied; the purchase of a traveling generator; special food prepared to keep us from getting sick; and dances

DOCUMENTARY FILMING TEAM TRAVELS TO RENK, CON'T.



Bishop Joseph and Bishop Lee consecrating a new church at Halaga. Photo Charlie Simokaitis©.

must not eat dust!" A large "canoe-like" boat was rented to take the traveling entourage up the river to Wadakona, seeing papyrus along the way and waiting for the crocodiles to appear.

The team filmed villages and areas that have truly made major advances since my first visit to Renk Diocese in 2005. There are now services in place because the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) is present, active and growing. Only part of the success of these developments comes from support from the dioceses of Chicago and Virginia. Much change has happened because of the Southerner's belief, and their indomitable and determined spirit to make life better for all in their communities, regardless of faith. Examples of this growth include:

✿ A new church has been built at a military base on the border between North and South in Halaga and was consecrated St. Paul by Bishop Lee and Bishop Joseph while the film team was there. This community has formed out of the energetic evangelism work of Father Isaac Chol. St. Paul's ministers to the Southern People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers, their families and the chaplains that serve in the SPLA.

✿ Another new church, St. Stephen, has formed at another SPLA military base near New Paloch. The building for this church is a converted Muslim mosque. Bishop Joseph says this is a first for Sudan as far as he knows. Usually Muslims convert Christian churches into mosques

and songs practiced. An advance team had to precede the film crew gaining permits from the different county commissioners where we would be filming. While traveling into the interior South, three carloads of over 20 people traveled in a caravan leaving large pillars of dust in our wake. The goal of the driver of the bishops was to keep them in front of these clouds, so, as Deng Kuol our driver said, "Bishops

with their consuming drive to force Christians to convert to Islam.

✿ A new clinic was just being completed in Melut with the support of Emmanuel Church, LaGrange, IL.

✿ As part of the Renk Theological College, a new clinic and pharmacy has been built by the Diocese of Virginia. Support for the clinic continues from St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn, IL and support of Dr. Paul's and a midwife's salary continues from All Saints' Chicago.

✿ A Women's Center has been built to house the women's projects of the Mother's Union, the Youth Mamas and the Literacy Program. This funding has come from Hands of Hope, Barrington, IL.

✿ Renk Theological College is housed in a new complex made possible with ongoing support from St. Michael's Barrington, IL. That complex now contains classrooms, a library, cafeteria, chapel, wood working shop and a newly fenced garden that was under construction while the team was there. This site is the home of the clinic and Women's Center mentioned above.

✿ A rickshaw taxi that supports the people of St. Michael in Paloch. The taxi was purchased by partner parish Christ Church, Winnetka, IL

✿ A new restaurant that supports the people of St. Peter Parish in N. Geiger and built by funds from All Saints' Chicago.

✿ St. Andrew's new church under construction at Wadakona with the support of St. Mark's, Evanston, IL.

✿ Income-generating projects of tent and chair rentals at St. Luke's in Renk Town with the support of Grace Church, Oak Park, IL.

✿ Worshiping centers with enthusiastic dancing and singing worshippers at Pariak and Adar One. These two worshiping centers are typical of close to 90 others throughout the diocese, where believers gather and have only an Evangelist to preach to them and teach the scriptures. The hope is for many evangelists to become better educated and for many to go to seminary and return as full-fledged priests.

DOCUMENTARY FILMING TEAM TRAVELS TO RENK, CONT'.

The team also traveled into areas of extreme hunger and poverty. The further into the bush one travels, the greater the need. Even though the ECS has a growing presence in these areas, the lack of infrastructure is vastly overwhelming. Southern Sudan was the scene of Africa's longest running civil war, which took the lives of an estimated 2 million Sudanese and forced 4 million more from their homes. The wreckage of war has been exacerbated by natural disasters, civil and tribal conflicts and political instability. The signing of the CPA has encouraged displaced families to return, yet they find few resources in a region that's had no development for nearly a half-century. As the team traveled from Paloch to Jamom to Bunge in Maban County, they experienced:

✿ Hunger, readily pronounced in children and exhibited as Kwashiorkor, a prolonged protein deficiency in the diet that results in light colored hair, which normally is jet black.

✿ Details from villagers explaining that their water supplies were either inadequate or were tainted by the oil production processes in the Melut/Paloch areas. People in these areas have a hacking cough that is attributed to the unclean water and/or to unsafe water storage containers.

✿ Insecurity of the area. This is most telling because of the lack of non governmental organizations (NGOs) in the area. Maban County has been hard hit with drought and therefore lack of crops to harvest. The County Commissioner in Maban met with the team and related that if he places a request with the UN for help, it takes FOUR years to get a response. Other aid organizations are also absent because of the instability of the area as it is so close to the North. (An armed guard was with the team on the entire trip both in Renk Town and in the bush.)

✿ No schools or clinics in these areas.

✿ Southern Sudan has the highest infant-mortality rates and the lowest education indicators in the world (per Save the Children 2010).

Bishop Joseph in his interview says, "We are our own UN."



Adar One SPLA camp. Photo Charlie Simokaitis©.



Sister Monica at Glory Church - Renk Town. Photo Charlie Simokaitis©



Welcoming at St. Paul, Halaga. Photo Constance Wilson©.

MEET REBECCA COLEMAN INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR IN THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan
international@sudan.anglican.org

Rebecca Coleman started working as the International Coordinator in the Juba Office of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, in February 2010, replacing Nic Ramsden.

"My role involves managing the correspondence between the Sudan office and the partners around the world. No day is the same so it's fairly difficult to give you 'a day in the life of the ECS international coordinator,' but I can say that I get to meet people from churches and NGOs who are keen to make things happen in Sudan," she said.

During her first five weeks on the job, Coleman was able to travel to the Yambio, Nzara, Wau and Rokon dioceses. "One of the things I love most about the job is the opportunity to visit different dioceses and parts of the country," she said. She writes a report after each visit to communicate important ECS news to partners. She said Sudan is an extremely large country with a lot of diversity so one doesn't have to go far to find differences.

Coleman lives on the cathedral compound in Juba. "It's really nice to have a base in Juba amongst all the hustle and bustle where you can be yourself and have a laugh," she said. "Juba is a very vibrant place to live and is changing all the time." She highlighted the most notable changes to be the improvements in the roads. "One day you're traveling along a very bumpy dirt road and a few days later, you find it's been tarmacked over! It certainly makes car journeys a lot more comfortable," she added.

Rebecca Coleman was born and raised in Britain. Her family is from Ghana. When in England, she lives in West London. She finished a history degree at Oxford last summer so her new surroundings are not like anything she's ever experienced.



"I'm having a good time in Sudan and learning a lot about the culture, the languages and the way of life." Challenges include irregular power and not having a fridge in the house, but she is happy to be working among so many great people and getting the chance to experience the differences between what her life was like in Britain and what it is like now.



BISHOP ANTHONY POGGO BRINGS NEW HOPE TO THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM

By Kat Lehman

Reproduced with permission from "Diocesan Life"
Diocese of Bethlehem

During the first week of March, Bishop Anthony Poggo, of our companion Diocese of Kajo Keji, visited our diocese at the request of Bishop Paul.

Bishop Anthony met with Bishop Paul, members of the World Mission Commission, delegates to General Convention, and selected clergy to discuss specific issues and concerns revolving around our companion relationship. In addition, he attended the clergy Bible studies in Wilkes-Barre at Holy Cross and in Bethlehem at Nativity. While here, Bishop Anthony gave presentations at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre; Christ Church, Reading, and Church of the Redeemer, Sayre. The presentations highlighted the completed building construction at the college, Romogi, and Gaderu. During the presentation, Bishop Anthony also stressed the importance of primary education in building a foundation of literacy to combat poverty and disease. "You are bringing hope where we had none and we are grateful," he said to the crowd in Reading.

Of particular interest were his comments on the current political climate in Sudan as it readies for the first election since gaining independence from Great Britain in the 1950s. This will be the first time most Sudanese will have an opportunity to elect their own government and the first time he personally will be able to vote.

On Friday, March 5, the youth met with Bishop Anthony to discuss life and culture in Kajo Keji. When asked about school, he said that most children walk several miles to get to the nearest school often with no roads. Before the New Hope Campaign and even now, "school" was held under mango trees. Consequently, in poor weather, classes couldn't be conducted. With the new primary schools, classes can be held in a much more conducive environ-



Bishop Anthony Poggo, Diocese of Kajo Keji

ment. In the Sudan it is a privilege to be educated and it is very costly for parents to send their children to secondary or higher schools. There are few if any university level slots for students and the competition is fierce.

Bishop Anthony preached at Church of the Redeemer, Sayre, on Sunday, March 7. In his message of stewardship, he stated there are three types of givers; those like stone, those like a sponge, and those like honeycomb. Givers like stone you have to hit with a hammer to get anything from them and they are reluctant givers. Those givers like sponges, you have to squeeze to get anything from them and they are fearful givers. But those like honeycomb give their riches freely and are cheerful givers. He congratulated the diocese on being honeycomb givers and thanked everyone to date for their contributions to the New Hope Campaign.

In addition to his meetings and presentations, Bishop Anthony also had an opportunity to see Trinity, Bethlehem's Soup Kitchen, New Bethany Ministries, Trinity, Easton, REACH at St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre, and tour historic Bethlehem.

BISHOP ANTHONY POGGO BRINGS NEW HOPE TO THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM, CON'T.

Relationship between the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, Sudan and the Diocese of Bethlehem, PA

By Bishop Anthony Poggo
February 2010

The Diocese of Kajo-Keji and the Diocese of Bethlehem have had a companionship relationship for one decade. This partnership started in the year 2000.

We see this relationship as our partnership in the gospel. Over the last 10 years of this relationship, we have prayed for each other. We have also visited each other so as to get to know each other and to learn from each other. Where possible, we have had representatives at each other's major events like Diocesan Convention/ Synods.

We have also shared news on the political situation of Southern Sudan. Bishop Paul Marshall and the Christians in Bethlehem have supported us in prayer and have also done advocacy on our behalf. During the time when we had famine as a result of LRA attacks, the Diocese of

Bethlehem sent as food and non food items during this difficult time. The prayers, letters and messages of support were of great encouragement to us.

In the last three years, we have worked together on various projects under the New Hope Campaign. Christians from the Diocese of Bethlehem have raised funds for this major Campaign. The Christians in Kajo-Keji are grateful for this. The projects under the New Hope Campaign include, among others, the reestablishment of the Canon Benaiah Poggo College and the diocesan Centre back in Kajo-Keji. Two Primary schools have been completed as part of this campaign with two others are at various stages of construction. We intend to start a Micro-Finance project as well. Apart from projects in Kajo-Keji, the New Hope Campaign has included the church's compassionate work in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Through this relationship, the Christians in Kajo-Keji know that they have friends and partners in the Ministry of the Lord.



Bishop Anthony discussing the lectionary text with clergy colleagues at Holy Cross, Wilkes-Barre.



Bishop Anthony talking with youth at Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.

ROBIN DENNEY, AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

After being home on leave, Robin Denney, agricultural consultant, Episcopal Church of Sudan, has been back working in Sudan since March. "I had two and a half months in the US visiting my family, friends, and churches. It was a wonderful visit. I miss you all, but I am excited to be back. A special thank you to all my supporting churches for inviting me to visit, and to all who continue to support me in prayer or financially. You are all on my heart and in my prayers," Denney said from Juba, Sudan.

Upon Denney's return to Sudan she found the rain falling, pouring down in buckets, turning the parched ground to mud, and blowing away the sweltering heat. "It is the second rain in two days, marking the very beginning of the wet season," Denney said. "There are only two seasons here, wet and dry, both are hot. Now that rain has come it is time to start agriculture work again." Due to widespread drought in 2009, there is a severe food shortage across much of south Sudan. This means that seeds for planting are not readily available in many places. Rains began early this year in the far south. Hopefully rains will be steady this year.

"My work this year will be similar to last," Denney said. "I am continuing to assist the Archbishop and the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan to develop an agriculture department. This year I will be training someone to replace me, and hopefully implement some large-scale production projects. I'll also continue with instruction of trainers, curriculum and systems development for the department, and advising the dioceses on agriculture issues."

Denney is also on staff at the newly re-opened Bishop Gwynne Theological College where she teaches introduction to agriculture. She has 15 students, and gives lectures and guides labs. The labs are in the demonstration garden, so with the extra help, Denney expects the garden to be beautiful this year. "I'll be sure to post pictures," she said. "The students are committed, kind, interesting, and passionate people, and it is a real pleasure to be a part of their community. I also get to join them each morning for morning prayer, which is a great way to start the day!"



To see monthly reports or for any information about ECS agriculture, contact Robin Denney: agriculture@sudan.anglican.org.

AFRECS ON-LINE

In keeping tempo with current communications standards, AFRECS board members Debbie Smith and the Rev. Ross Kane are launching new efforts to keep the business of AFRECS in mainstream technology mediums including timely E-blast announcements and a Facebook profile.

"If you're on Facebook, please 'like' the page and share it with others interested in Sudan," Kane said. "It still needs pictures to give the page some vibrancy. If you have great pictures from Sudan please share them," he said.

These new initiatives are in addition to the website www.afrecs.org. Subscribe today or become a friend. Share the AFRECS news with family, church members, coworkers and friends.

AFRECS needs you to: Pray. Teach. Partner. Urge. Give.



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

MEET PETERO SABUNE AFRICA PARTNERSHIP OFFICER THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEW YORK CITY

The Rev. Canon Petero A. N. Sabune became Africa Partnership Officer for The Episcopal Church on May 17. He is responsible for serving as a liaison between The Episcopal Church and its partners in Africa. His office will be based at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City.

"I look forward to joining the Mission Team at the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, to carry out the Great Commission and the great commandment 'upon this rock I will build my church,'" Sabune commented. "I can't wait to visit and share what Jesus is doing here with our sisters and brothers in Africa and then bringing 'Good News of Great Joy' from the African continent."

Most recently Sabune, 57, was the pastor and protestant chaplain at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in Ossining, NY. Born in Uganda and the son of a priest, he came to the United States through the American Field Service (AFS) exchange program in 1969. He returned to Uganda in 1970. In 1972 Sabune came back to the States as a freshman at Rutgers University. Sabune transferred to Vassar College in NY where he earned a BA. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree. He was ordained in May 1981.

As a parish priest Sabune has served in New York and



Newark. As Dean of the Newark Cathedral, he hosted Anglican leaders from Africa for a symposium on Islam in Africa, including the primates of Nigeria, Uganda, Sudan and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

Sabune has visited 28 African countries and 10 of the 12 Anglican Provinces on the African continent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN SUDAN

Richard Parkins

First Published as an Opinion Piece for Episcopal News Service - May 14, 2010

[Episcopal News Service] The next six months could be the most critical for Sudan as those in the south move toward January 2011 when they will be asked to determine their future, whether it be a separate state or a part of a unified country. The seriously flawed national elections of this past April serve as a preface to what lies ahead. There remains an unfinished agenda which most believe deserves urgent attention if the referendum in January is to be seen as a fair and credible verdict on Sudan's future.

Controversy about the legitimacy of the elections hovers over the process as many see the violations of international standards of fair elections as symptomatic of the treachery of the Omar al-Bashir regime and the likelihood that such mischief will plague attempts to carry out a transparent and trustworthy referendum. However, whatever one's assessment of the reliability of the government in Khartoum, those committed to peace in Sudan must hope that the seemingly insurmountable obstacles to an acceptable referendum can be overcome in order that the long-hoped-for peace can become a reality. Otherwise, we are on the precipice of a cataclysmic humanitarian disaster that will once again commit the people of Sudan to suffering and upheaval.

The challenges stem from the many provisions of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which have either been neglected, postponed, or compromised. Of immediate concern is the need for a registration process and an electoral structure that give those eligible to vote in 2011 a chance to do so in a safe environment. The challenges of reaching all possible voters in a vast country with limited access to information and transportation are formidable. Compounding this problem is the lack of experience which the Sudanese have with elections. The exceptional efforts made to carry out aggressive education and outreach in advance of the April elections need to be enhanced and accelerated. Likewise, voting must occur in a secure environment lest violence or the prospect of violence and intimidation undermine the process and place a shadow over whatever results emerge. Given the lack of confidence which most South Sudanese and marginalized groups feel toward the Khartoum government, any suggestion that the electoral process has been violated or manipulated will place in doubt the results of the referendum and possibly usher in a period of dangerous instability.

The critical issue of resource sharing demands an early

solution as both parts of Sudan covet and need the revenue from oil production. If an equitable, transparent system for sharing resources can be established prior to next January, the prospect of the election outcome -- whether for separation or independence -- stands a chance of being more palatable to both sides. Murkiness around the way in which revenue is allocated could be a major factor which could contribute to an unstable post-referendum period. Coupled with the revenue sharing issue are those unresolved border issues which add to the fuel of uncertainty that will plague Sudan's future regardless of the verdict rendered next January.

This litany of pre-referendum tasks is indeed daunting. They demand that the U.S. administration pursue a robust strategy with international partners and primarily with the key Sudanese parties to tackle these vexing issues. U.S. leadership needs to be unrelenting in pressing for time sensitive measures which hold all parties, and most especially the ruling party in Khartoum, accountable for implementing provisions which could make a difference in whether Sudan moves toward peace or tilts toward violent separation.

A corollary to all of the above is the need to anticipate now the many issues which will demand attention as the prospect of a separate South Sudan looms ever more likely. It is hoped that looking now at the possibility of a separate South Sudan and how the separation happens will make it less wrenching and less prone to conflict and confrontation.

As of this writing, conflict continues to disturb parts of the south and does not bode well for a safe environment for the referendum nor for a stable South Sudan should that be the result of the referendum. It is in this climate that our friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and its primate, Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, constantly seek to be a reconciling force in their troubled country. As a major civil society player in the life of Sudan, an enormous burden rests upon the shoulders of our Christian sisters and brothers in Africa's largest country. Our partnership with them as they face the ominous terrain before them has never been more urgently needed nor are our voices and that of our church more desperately needed as advocates with our government is aggressively to pursue a viable strategy of peacebuilding in Sudan.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

JANUARY 2010

The Rev. Susan and Ed Eastman spent three weeks in Renk, from Raleigh, where Susan is a professor at Duke. Ed accomplished amazing things in getting a new fenced vegetable garden well on its way, and making arrangements for planting fruit and shade trees, which will improve the Renk Theological College campus tremendously. They will also provide needed food for the students. Susan's classes grew in size in the second week as the students gradually arrived from their remote towns and villages (3-5 days by bus over incredible "roads" or else coming down the Nile by boat.) They were grateful to be in Renk and grateful for the support.

David Romanik and Patrick Funston, two students from Virginia Theological Seminary, taught at Renk Theological College until Feb. 1.

The Chicago Media Team, Constance Wilson, Kevin Goodman, Charlie Simokaitis, and Bishop Jeffrey Lee traveled throughout the Diocese of Renk filming a documentary.

MARCH 2010

The Rev. John Dau, from the Diocese of Bor, where he has served as Principal of Malek Bible College has been visiting the U.S.

APRIL 2010

The Rev. David Vence Bako, former Acting Principal of Bishop Gwynne College, Juba, visited the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia April 3-19, 2010.

MAY 2010

Buck Blanchard, Director of Mission and Outreach for the Diocese of Virginia, traveled to various dioceses within Western and Eastern Equatoria and visited the Diocese of Juba and the Provincial Office.

Sally Rawls, from Suffolk, VA accompanied her brother, Buck, to various dioceses in Western Equatoria.

Jennifer Ernst, Coordinator of Partnerships for the ECS, visited the Provincial Office and the Dioceses of Wau, Maridi, Ibba and Juba. She is a member of the Diocese of Virginia.

MAY 11-20, 2010

A team from the US traveled to Sudan with the intention of solidifying relationships between particular dioceses

in The Episcopal Church (TEC) and the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). At the invitation of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and the bishops, the team traveled together to Juba and divided into smaller teams to visit various ECS dioceses. Some team members experienced the Sudan for the first time, others visited new ECS dioceses, still others hoped to better define their relationships and move forward in solidifying companion partnerships.

The Rt. Rev. Duncan Gray, bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi and Mr. Greg Miller, a professor who volunteers with the Sudanese community in Mississippi, traveled to Twic East along with the Rev. Canon Judi Yeates and her husband, Jim, from the Diocese of Nebraska. Both dioceses have been active in Twic East.

The Rev. Andrew Merrow and his wife, Cameron, visited the Provincial Office and the Diocese of Juba. The archbishop also serves as the bishop of Juba Diocese. Merrow is the rector at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia in the Diocese of Virginia.

The Rev. Kim Seidman, Clergy Resident at Christ Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia in the Diocese of Virginia, visited the Diocese of Wau and the newly enthroned Bishop Moses Deng Bol.

Larry Duffee, a member of St George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, also in the Diocese of Virginia, traveled with the team and will remain in Juba for four months at the invitation of Archbishop Daniel. He will serve in the Provincial Office as an External Financial Consultant.

Diana Church, a member of St Mark's Episcopal Church, Louisville, Kentucky in the Diocese of Kentucky, will be traveling to Juba and the Diocese of Wau. This is Diana's first trip to the Sudan.

MAY/JUNE 2010

Bishop Hilary Garang Deng, Diocese of Malakal, comes to the U.S May 30- June 11. He will participate in a program at Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC May 30-June 2; the AFRECS Conference, St. Paul's Alexandria, VA, June 4-6, and the EPGM Annual Meeting, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, June 9-11. Bishop Hilary is Chairman of the Theological Education Commission of ECS, and will represent Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and the ECS.

DIOCESES OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

