

# SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2008

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2



**SALISBURY  
SUDAN LINK**

AFRECS - AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN



# SUDAN CONNECTIONS

## Connecting Hopes and Gifts

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

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[www.afrecs.org](http://www.afrecs.org)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

*American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS)*  
3737 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
[info@afrecs.org](mailto:info@afrecs.org)

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### SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

JULY 3, 2008

21 OF 24 ECS BISHOPS



Nov. 14, 2008 is the deadline for submissions for the next *Sudan Connections*. Send information to Susan Jones at [susanmjones@verizon.net](mailto:susanmjones@verizon.net) or [afrecs@afrecs.org](mailto:afrecs@afrecs.org).



GREETINGS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
*Nancy Frank*

Dear Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan,

The 4th Annual Conference of AFRECS in Chicago was wonderful! It was designed to feature the Companion Diocesan Relationships currently existing between the ECS and the Episcopal Church, USA, and to encourage "Growing Relationships....Building Partnerships" more expansively. From Chicago to Virginia, from Indianapolis to Missouri, from Bethlehem, PA, all the way to Salisbury, UK, there are mutually beneficial companion relationships. And, we heard success stories, war stories, humorous happenings along the way, cultural clues...and many inspirational reports of efforts to bring aid to the war-ravaged people back home by Sudanese refugees committed to helping development in their villages, through healthcare and education.

The Conference was blessed with the presence of The Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, newly-consecrated Archbishop of the ECS, and his wife, Deborah Abuk Atem, along with The Rt. Rev. Francis Loyo, Bishop of Rokon Diocese and Secretary of the House of Bishops of the ECS. Their addresses to the plenary were powerful in presenting vision for the Church in Sudan as it moves into a new era. They brought greetings and gratitude from the people, and encouraged continued support through companion relationships.

Many, many thanks to Board member, Jackie Kraus, the Commission on Global Ministry of Chicago, and the volunteers who made the event a success! The Lutheran School of Theology at

Chicago was a wonderful venue, and the people of St. Paul & the Redeemer Church, where the closing Eucharist was celebrated, offered warm and gracious hospitality. Thank you one and all!

This will be my final newsletter as Executive Director of AFRECS. AFRECS is up and run-



ning, with new challenges ahead. It is a serendipitous moment for AFRECS, and the Board is working hard to build on the new energy in the Church of Sudan...new Archbishop, new vision, new Commissary for development of companion relationships, new challenges all around. I have high hopes for the future growth of AFRECS and its direction in support of the ECS. After 3 years, it is time for me to move on. I will stay involved with AFRECS by working as a volunteer on the Project Registry.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Nancy Frank



# ARCHBISHOP DANIEL DENG BUL ADDRESSES PARTNERS' CONFERENCE IN SALISBURY



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIS ADDRESS

On behalf of our Bishops and the entire Sudanese Church, and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to thank you, especially those who sacrificed in supporting the church in Sudan through the period of 21 years of war. We greatly value our

friends in the Spirit. You who have walked alongside us during the most difficult times for the Sudanese people.

We give thanks to God for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army on January 9, 2005. The Referendum to be held in 2011 on the future political status of the South is central to the CPA. As the Church, we affirm the right of every human being to decide his or her destiny, and so we support the right of self-determination, whether for unity or separation, and we, the Church, have committed ourselves to raise awareness of the Referendum.

We are very concerned about the fighting in several places in the South, which threatens stability and the

peace agreement. Abyei, an oil-rich area on the border between Northern and Southern Sudan, was completely destroyed in May, displacing the population of over 90,000 people and its surrounding area. The Khartoum government refuses to recognize the Abyei Boundary Commission as provided by the CPA, and is delaying formation of an administration for the area. And, we are deeply concerned about the conflict in Darfur, which is intractable and as serious as ever.

I am thankful for the contributions of Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Marona, who led the Church through the difficult war years, and wish him and his wife good health in retirement. As I said at my enthronement, I have a dream, and I want you to dream with me. Let us restore hope, peace and justice to the people of Sudan and bring about reconciliation. For us to rebuild Sudan, we must share a vision to build our Church and our nation.

For us to be effective, there are a number of immediate challenges we need to address:

### **Administration of the Provincial Office of the ECS**

Indebtedness of the offices in Juba and Khartoum must be cleared as soon as possible and provision found for sustaining the level of staffing for administration of the Province. Communication remains a challenge within Sudan, and the Province needs modern equipment to communicate effectively with dioceses and internationally. Since the Province of the ECS was created in 1974, there has been no refurbishment, and overdue repairs and new furnishings are needed.

## ARCHBISHOP'S ADDRESS CON'T.

### **Evangelism**

For the Gospel to be preached to the whole Sudan, evangelism needs to be strengthened and supported with equipment, including sound systems, a generator and vehicle.

### **Peace Building, Reconciliation and Advocacy**

There is an urgent need to intensify the activities of the ECS Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission, begun with workshops in many different parts of Sudan to enlighten communities and help them move from a culture of war towards building peace with one another. The war caused trauma to thousands of people and had a serious effect on families and friends during the war.

### **Rehabilitation and Relief for IDP's and Returnees**

The Church has a major role to play in helping rehabilitate refugees who fled to neighboring countries and beyond and to those who experienced internal displacement to the north and from the east. Huge numbers of people have been displaced and are homeless in the west, the region of Darfur. Such care sets a good example and practical demonstration of the Gospel message.

### **Agriculture and Food Security**

We welcome overseas volunteers with professional expertise to help the Church to develop appropriate modern farming techniques and educate local farmers. We lack equipment and seeds. Sudan could be a breadbasket for the whole of Africa.

### **Health**

ECS has established a Commission for Health and HIV/AIDS. The level of healthcare inside Sudan is minimal. Help from partners, particularly Salisbury Medical Link, has enabled the dioceses to offer some basic primary healthcare, but the needs are enormous. Much work is needed in this area.

### **Capacity Building and Leadership Development**

Twenty-one years of war have been a tremendous set back for the availability of educated and trained personnel, both to serve as church leaders and other disciplines. Priorities for ECS include: theological training; general capacity building for leaders; and development training for parishes, dioceses and Provincial staff

### **Reconstruction of Churches**

Most churches in Sudan were destroyed during the war. Samaritan's Purse has volunteered to rebuild some churches on a cost-sharing basis, with the local Christian community providing bricks, timber and labor. Additional support is needed to address this difficult challenge.

### **Professional Mission Personnel**

The ECS is requesting you to give us a helping hand to train our people in disciplines needed to address the needs of our people and equip the Church for its mission. We need professionals, such as teachers, agriculturists, nurses, doctors, and other technical experts. Friends, we have come out of civil war only three years ago, and have been enjoying this peace because of your solidarity and support. The time has come for all our dioceses to be linked to partner dioceses to strengthen the relationships among Christians in our different countries and within one Body of Christ. The 2011 Referendum is approaching. We need to walk together, pray together and support one another in the context of all these challenges.

*The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul*

*Excerpt from the Statement of the Sudanese Bishops to the Lambeth Conference  
on the Situation in Sudan....*

## DESTRUCTION OF ABYEI

The destruction of the town of Abyei and displacement of the area's population of over 90,000 people in May 2008 represents the most serious violation of the CPA to date. As an oil-rich area on the border between Northern and Southern Sudan, Abyei was accorded special administrative status under its own Protocol within the CPA. The Government of Sudan failed to honor these terms, declining to accept the binding recommendations of the Abyei Boundaries Commission and delaying in providing an administration for the area. Instead, a build-up in troops of both parties to the CPA resulted in fighting and the destruction of the town and displacement of its entire population, for many people the third time they have been displaced by their own government. They are now in urgent need of assistance and of support for rebuilding Abyei and resettling there. The non-implementation to date of the Abyei Protocol constitutes a serious threat to the CPA. Vigilance will be needed from the international community to ensure that the parties' commitments are honored.

We appeal to the whole Anglican Communion to continue to stand in solidarity with the Sudanese church and people.

*News alert received August 8, Reuters News Service:*

Sudan's former north-south foes have agreed on an administration for the disputed oil-producing Abyei region.... <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L8125282.htm>

## ANNOUNCING CLUB 157 & HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

In response to the \$157,000 indebtedness of the Provincial Office of the ECS, which Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul brought to our attention on his visits throughout the U.S., and at the AFRECS Conference in Chicago, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington, IL, is spearheading a fundraising campaign, "Club 157". The goal is to raise \$1,000 from 157 donors, and to date, there are 12 members.

Membership checks can be made out to

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, with Club 157 in the Memo,  
and mailed to the attention of Kim Lessner, 647 Dundee Ave.,  
Barrington, IL 60010. For further information, contact  
Chairs Robin and Phil Darrow, [bardar5@aol.com](mailto:bardar5@aol.com).

# DIOCESE OF SALISBURY HOSTS 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LINK WITH ECS

*By The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones, Pres. of AFRECS*

Salisbury Cathedral has a new Cathedral Canon. Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, Episcopal Church of Sudan, was installed during the celebration of Salisbury's 35-year link with the Church in Sudan -- and the celebration of the 750th anniversary of the consecration of Salisbury Cathedral.

The Diocese of Salisbury invited friends of the ECS from around the world to gather prior to the opening of Lambeth Conference, to meet, renew friendships and make new ones, but most importantly to hear from the 24 Bishops, leading their people out of war and into peace and rebuilding Sudan.

Bishops spoke to the continued Islamic pressure in Sudan, and one spoke to the potentially useful inter-religious council of the Government. The Chairman of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and medical care spoke to the awareness of the need for prevention as well as treatment. Secretary of the Council of Bishops raised the urgent need for diocesan infrastructure. Chairman of the Theological Education Commission spoke to the need for education of clergy and need to revitalize Bishop Gwynne College. One of the newly-consecrated Bishops, former Director of SUDRA, defended the past year's planning work done by dioceses.

When asked to name his highest priority, the Archbishop responded that most of the urgent challenges of the ECS could be subsumed under the single imperative of evangelism. He held up the work of the ECS Commission on Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation, and that community empowerment has been its consistent aim, through workshops held in various population centers around Sudan the past four years.

The names of Western Christian laborers have long been preserved across Sudan -- Comboni School, Bishop Gwynne College,

Frank Gray Hall, Marc Nikkel School, and now the name of one Moru Christian laborer, representing the many who lost their lives in solidarity with the Crucified and Risen One, has a niche in the 750-year-old Salisbury Cathedral. The statue of Canon Ezra Baya Lawiri, who was killed on Good Friday, 1991, was unveiled by Canon Daniel Deng Bul, and can be seen at the northwest door, to the left. In times of trial, Canon Ezra, unvaryingly responded, "God is not defeated."

In the framework of past and present-day Sudan, voices of over a hundred friends shared and celebrated the hope that lives in communion.

*Contact Richard Jones for information on who to contact, if you have an interest in one or more of the following: Schools, theological schools, advocacy, mission, youth service, reconciliation/community engagement, Project Registry - [RJones@vts.edu](mailto:RJones@vts.edu)*



*Photo by Phil Darrow ©*



# “PRAYER REVEALS GOD’S AGENDA”: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE SUDAN ELECTS TWO NEW BISHOPS OF RENK AND IBBA

*By Nic Ramsden, ECS Province*

All Saints’ Cathedral, Juba, Sudan  
Thursday 12th June 2008

The Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS) today elected two new diocesan bishops – Rev. Joseph Garang Atem was elected as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Renk in Upper Nile, whilst Rev. Wilson Kamani was elected as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Ibba in Western Equatoria.

The provincial elections were carried out in Juba after the candidates were selected by their respective dioceses. The See of Renk was contested by two candidates, Rev. Joseph and Rev. Daniel Deng Anthiang, whilst Ibba Diocese put Rev. Wilson forward as the only candidate.

The election itself took place in All Saints’ Cathedral, Juba, and was overseen by Provincial Chancellor Hon. Majok Mading Majok with usual efficiency and aplomb. In the Renk contest, Rev. Joseph, the diocesan favourite, took an early lead, and by half way through the vote counting it was clear he would win by a large majority. The final result was that Joseph was elected by 58 votes to 7 out of a total of 65. As Ibba was uncontested, Rev. Wilson was declared the Bishop-Elect by the Chancellor with no election.

Before the voting the assembled were led in worship by Assistant Bishop of Juba +Micah Leila and Dean of the Province +Nathaniel Garang. +Nathaniel spoke of the power and necessity of prayer in the lives and works of leaders, as well as for us all, stressing that “prayer reveals God’s agenda” and brings the wisdom and strength of God to our decisions and

actions. He urged the successful candidates to pray and read their Bible in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit and that God might reveal himself today in the Sudan.

The See of Renk was vacated on 14th February 2008 when +Daniel Deng Bul was elected as the Fourth Archbishop of the ECS. Ibba was vacated in March on the retirement of +Levi Hassan, a key figure in the church’s struggle during the 21-year civil war.

Both the bishops-elect have a popular mandate to continue the excellent work of their predecessors, and as their new bishops are former director of a theological college and former head of the ECS development agency, SUDRA, respectively, the dioceses of Renk and Ibba have every reason to celebrate God revealing his agenda in Juba today.



*The Ibba diocesan delegates:  
Bishop-Elect Rev. ---Wilson  
Kamani is closest on the left.*



*The Renk delegates. Bishop-  
Elect Joseph is in the middle of  
the second row in full collar.*



# FORMER PRINCIPAL OF RENK THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE ELECTED 2ND BISHOP OF RENK DIOCESE - JUNE 12, 2008 SUCCESS STORY OF A PARTNERSHIP

*By Jackie Kraus*

*Honorary Canon of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Renk Diocese  
& Coordinator of Renk Subcommittee of Commission on  
Global Ministry, Chicago, & Member of St. Michael's,  
Barrington, IL*

At 6:30 AM, CDT, the Diocese of Chicago received word that Fr. Joseph Garang Atem, Principal of Renk Theological College, had been elected 2nd Bishop of Renk Diocese on the first ballot of the Bishops and delegates gathered at All Saints' Cathedral in Juba, June 12, 2008. He and Bishop-elect, Wilson Kamani, elected Bishop of Ibba at that time, were consecrated by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul the following day. (See news article by Nic Ramsden, also in this newsletter.)

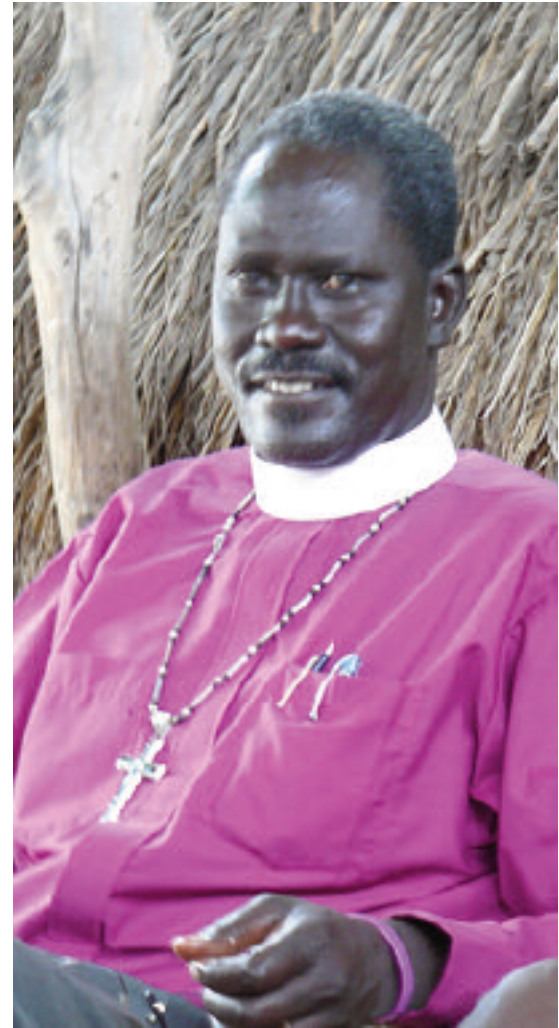
Bishop Joseph, upon being called to join Bishop Daniel (then Bishop of Renk) in the development of the new Diocese, studied at Nile Theological College. He was ordained deacon in 1998, and priest later the same year. He was assigned to serve on the Dinka Cam Bible Translation project.

His Bishop had a vision to appoint him Principal of Renk Bible School and sent him to study for a Masters of Theology degree at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL. He graduated in 2000, having completed his thesis, *Death and Life in Sudan: Will There be Reconciliation?* He returned to Renk and was appointed Principal of RBS. With the support of St. Michael's parish, Barrington, IL, a

partner with Renk Diocese since 1998, RBS was built with local materials and on its way to training church leaders. A small tukhul served as a dormitory, with another one used as the kitchen. There were two larger buildings used for chapel, classroom, and a library. Two of the staff had also earned MTS degrees in the US, with the support of St. Michael's - Bishop Daniel's vision and God's mission being fulfilled.

That is until May 2005 when the buildings were demolished by the GOS to clear the land for the "peace" highway. Years of hard work and dedication were wiped out in a few hours. When Fr. Joseph came to St. Michael's that year, for his annual visit, he said, "I thought I would be coming to give you a progress report on the Bible College, but instead I have to come to ask you to rebuild it." (RBS had been elevated by the ECS to Renk Bible College.)

An emergency capital campaign to raise the \$50,000 it would take to rebuild Renk Bible College was under-



## BISHOP OF RENK, CON'T.

way, and in a short time, plans for new buildings were in place and construction was underway. The plan called for the new campus buildings to replace the smaller ones, and would have many more improvements, such as concrete floors, offices, dormitories and a chapel, to be named St. Michael's.

Bishop Joseph currently serves on the Diocesan and Provincial Synod committees for theological education. As Principal of the Bible College, he was responsible for overseeing the Visiting Teachers Program, founded in 1999, by Archbishop Daniel, in cooperation with Duke Divinity School Professor, Dr. Ellen Davis, and Virginia Theological Seminary Professor, Dr. Richard Jones, for training of clergy in the strategically important location, Renk Town, gateway city to southern Sudan. Due to the excellent teaching resources, the ECS Committee on Theological Education has advanced RBS to college level, qualifying it to grant diplomas, and is now known as Renk Theological College.

Taking the lead from St. Michael's Covenant of Relationship with Renk Diocese, the Diocese of Chicago, by resolution at its Diocesan Convention 2002, in agreement with then Diocesan, Bishop Daniel Deng Bul, entered into a formal Companion Diocesan Relationship, and in 2007, renewed the CDR for five more years. The journey of companionship will not miss a beat, and there are alleluias all around at the election of Bishop Joseph Garang Atem.

Bishop Joseph was born in Bor in 1962, and is married to Roda Samuel Chol, whose father is a retired priest. They have twin daughters, Grace and Michelle, born in December 2006. His enthronement will be August 31, in Renk, and on September 1, St. Michael's Chapel will be dedicated, where Grace and Michelle will be baptized, with their Godparents, Jackie Smith and Phil Darrow from St. Michael's, present.

*I met Archbishop Daniel when he was a student at VTS in 1996-97, and he accepted an invitation to be the Overseas Partner at the Episcopal Council for Global Mission annual meeting at St. John's Island, SC. Many others in VA came to know the Bishop, and six Virginians and myself found ourselves answering his invitation to "come and see, and you'll know what to do" in January 1998, and have continued to walk in partnership ever since.*



*Prof. Ellen Davis  
teaching students  
at RTC in July.*



*photos by Dr. Peter Morris ©*



# MEET THE RT. REV. FRANCIS GRAY, APPOINTED U.S. COMMISSARY TO THE ECS

*Interviewed by The Rev. Debra Andrew Maconaughey*  
Sudan Connections Columnist

The Episcopal Church of Sudan has a powerful witness in the voice of The Rt. Rev. Francis C. Gray, retired Bishop of Northern Indiana and Retired Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia. Bishop Gray has been active in his advocacy for the people of Southern Sudan since his first meeting with Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul in 2000, then Bishop of Renk Diocese. That meeting resulted in an invitation to Sudan, which Bishop Gray accepted and undertook, a trip that he has made three times, in addition to leading a retreat for Sudanese bishops in Uganda.

What followed has been a lifeline of love and activity to Southern Sudan. Bishop Gray was instrumental in raising funds to build St. Matthew's Cathedral in Renk, helped purchase a home for Archbishop Daniel's family, and a truck for Diocesan work. He also supported a campaign to raise funds for a tractor for use in planting in Renk. He has spent the past eight years actively engaged in advocacy for the people of Southern Sudan. As a result of the depth of this commitment, following his election, Archbishop Daniel appointed Bishop Gray to be Commissary for the ECS in the U.S.

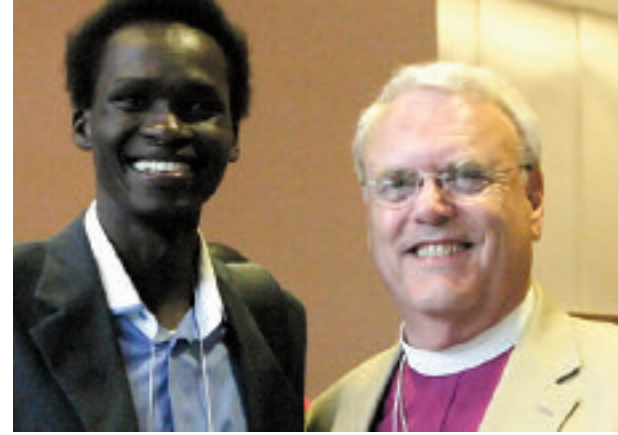
Bishop Gray spoke enthusiastically about his new role as Commissary. He is seeking to improve com-

munications between the ECS and the ECUSA by building and strengthening relationships.

His priority is to engage dioceses in the U.S. to "pair up" with dioceses in Sudan. Each diocese would become yoked to another in joint ministry. The dioceses will set the parameters for their relationships. Bishop Gray offers some ideas that the companion diocese relationship might include:

- A covenant agreement to pray for one another during worship;
- A covenant between the Executive Committees or Diocesan Councils;
- A covenant might involve financial help, or building projects, a program of witnessing and supporting the Sudanese refugees in the United States;
- In the case of the dioceses in Sudan, the covenant might involve telling the story of the diocese, acting as witnesses to the dioceses, of the power and the sustainability of faith through evangelism in the most desperate conditions.
- This companionship would result in mutual visitations of both clergy and laity in order to strengthen the bonds of relationship. Bishop Gray invites Bishops from around the U.S. to embrace a leadership role in making their diocese a companion of a diocese in Sudan. With the leadership of Sudanese and U.S. Bishops, each diocese can undertake a period of education and discernment about how best to be in relationship with one another.

Through his ongoing commitment to relationships between the ECUSA and the ECS, Bishop Gray will continue his important work helping all interested in Sudan to communicate and advocate for and with one another in order to better to overcome the obstacles of war, poverty and alienation. For more information, please contact Bishop Gray, [karenandfrank@comcast.net](mailto:karenandfrank@comcast.net), or at 574-807-1997. (*At this writing, 20 of 24 dioceses are without partners.*)





# THE HIGH PRICE OF PEACE IN SUDAN

*By The Rev. Lauren Stanley, Contributing Columnist to McClatchy-Tribune News Service & Appointed Missionary by Mission Personnel, TEC, to serve as Lecturer and Chaplain at Renk Theological College*

April 1, 2008

RENK, Sudan -- The signs are everywhere. New foundations being dug. Double truckloads of bricks being unloaded. Donkey carts hauling zinc panels for roofing. Massive piles of dirt are dumped in the middle of a street. Holes are dug, dirt is shoveled, water is delivered.

Everywhere you look in this town that sits almost on the border between Northern and Southern Sudan, you see people building and the town expanding.

With all the expansion, the prices of all things related to construction have skyrocketed. Just as in the United States, cement, wood, nails, aggregate, sand, even dirt cost more to buy. Cement alone has gone up 20 percent in just the last six months. Branches for building huts cost 15 percent more. Thatch for roofing has gone up more than 50 percent.

Still, the building continues.

In part, all the construction is taking place because it is the driest part of the dry season. In the next six to eight weeks, the rains will come. Right now, the winds fluctuate daily, first coming out of the North (meaning more dry weather) for days on end, then suddenly switching overnight and coming out of the South (a sure harbinger of the rains that are to come). So naturally, all construction needs to be done now, before the truly heavy rains stop all construction for three or four months. People are hurrying to finish whatever projects they might have: A new pit latrine, a new tukul (mud hut), a new kitchen (almost always separate building), new thatch on the roof, new mud on the walls.

And then there are the new people in town, the people returning from the North, where many have been living for decades. Daily, they move south by foot, or on buses that are jam-packed with people and their belongings, or by boats that are booked up weeks, sometimes even months in advance.

Just the other day, we woke up to find more than 30 “country” buses parked in the local soccer stadium, each bus carrying between 75 and 100 people, each piled high – sometimes 10 feet high – with the people’s belongings. Several thousand people had arrived late at night; the buses went to the soccer stadium to form a circle for protection. They spent one day in Renk; by the second morning, all had moved on, either farther south, or to the outskirts of town, to set up a new life there.

These people are flooding back into the South in part because a national census is under way, county by county, province by province, very slowly in some areas, quickly in others. And the people want to be counted.

Those are some of the reasons for all the change that is taking place.

But the real reason for all the construction, for the increasing cost of construction, for the tremendous flow of people South is the result of something else, something that hasn’t happened here in this border area in decades:

The people are betting on peace.

They are betting that the peace agreement, signed in January 2005 and implemented in July of that same year, really is going to hold.

They are betting that the fighting that has dominated the lives of Southern Sudanese for most of the last five decades will not resume, even as North and

## HIGH PRICE OF PEACE, CON'T.

South still dispute what the peace agreement really says, what it really means, and how it is to be implemented.

The people, despite problems between the two halves of the country, despite the continuing presence of irregular militias who want nothing to do with peace, and disputes between both sides on where the border truly lies, and how the oil revenues should be split, and whether one side is telling the truth to the other, the people are gambling all of their savings to move back to their home areas and to build as fast as they can.

Because they believe, deep down, that the peace they have will grow into the peace of which they dream.

Sudan is not, and has not been, a peaceful land in decades. The last three generations of people have grown up in turmoil, civil war, internecine war and tribal wars.

So for them to suddenly back a building boom – and it is amazing how fast mud huts are going up, how quickly brick-and-mortar buildings can be built, how many new paths can be made, how many new little shops of one kind or another can be opened – and for them to uproot whole families to go home to a “home” many of them have never seen, means only one thing:

They are gambling that peace will not only stay, but grow.

Will the peace they have last? Will the two sides, North and South, be able to figure out how to live in peace? Will all these new huts and buildings and businesses and roads survive?

People don't know.

But they are optimistic enough to try.

And that is something that hasn't happened here, in the gateway to the South, in living history.

## COMINGS & GOINGS

### JUNE 30-JULY 12

A team of Visiting Teachers, sponsored by Duke Divinity School and VTS, taught for 3 weeks at Renk Theological College, Renk Diocese -- Dr. Ellen Davis, Prof. of Bible and Practical Theology, Duke Div. School, Dr. Peter Morris, Pediatrician and divinity student at Duke, and Clarisse Schroeder, graduate student at VTS.

### JULY 7-9

Attending the ECS Partners Conference, hosted by the Diocese of Salisbury, UK, to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the consecration of Salisbury Cathedral and the 35th anniversary of Salisbury's link with ECS, were The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones, representing AFRECS, and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Darrow, representing St. Michael's, Barrington, and the Diocese of Chicago, both companions with Renk Diocese.

### AUGUST 12

The Rev. Lauren Stanley, appointed Missionary by TEC Office of Mission Personnel to serve as Lecturer

& Chaplain at Renk Theological College, returns to Sudan.

### AUGUST 20-MAY 18, 2009

The Rev. Samuel Enosa Peni, Dir. of Development for the Diocese of Yambio, arrives to complete an MTS degree at Wartburg Lutheran Seminary, Dubuque, IA. Contact Jackie Kraus, 847-381-5518 or [kraus.jackie@yahoo.com](mailto:kraus.jackie@yahoo.com), for information about scheduling an invitation for diocesan or church visit. Also check the website: <http://ecsyambiodiocese.org> to learn more about Yambio Diocese.

### AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 6

Chicago will be represented at the Enthronement of Bishop Joseph Garang, Renk Diocese by Connie Wilson, All Saints' Church, and Jackie Smith, Phil Darrow and Jackie Kraus, St. Michael's Church, Barrington, IL, Aug. 31. They will visit Diocese of Chicago partner churches, clinics, schools, and Renk Theological College.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## AUGUST 31

*Entronement of The Rt. Rev. Joseph Garang Atem, 2nd Bishop of Renk Diocese, Upper Nile, elected June 12.*

## SEPTEMBER 1

*Dedication of St. Michael's Chapel, Renk Theological College campus.*

## SEPTEMBER 7

*Feast of the Rev. Dr. Marc Nikkel, priest from the Diocese of Southwestern VA, who dedicated his life and ministry to the People of Sudan. He is remembered as an evangelist and teacher who was instrumental in the growth of the Christian faith during the 1980's and 1990's, and as a peace-maker who helped bring together more than 2,000 feuding tribes in southern Sudan. The Diocese of SWVA is providing its churches with worship material for celebrating this memorial to Marc Nikkel. Recommended readings are:*

**Lamentations 3:22-26**

**Psalms 96**

**Philippians 4:4-9**

**Matthew 5:1-6**

Check website [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc\\_Nikkel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Nikkel) for biography of his life and recommended reading. Also contact [www.dioswa.org](http://www.dioswa.org) for further information.

## SEPTEMBER 14

*Entronement of The Rt. Rev. Wilson Kamini, Bishop of Ibba, Western Equatoria, elected June 12.*

## NOVEMBER 6-7

*2008 Round Table in Juba, Sudan, preceded by a Core Group meeting, November 3-5. Contact Rev. Canon Enock Tombe, Provincial Secretary/ECS for information: [ecsprovince@hotmail.com](mailto:ecsprovince@hotmail.com).*

## WEBSITES: ALLIANCE OF SUDANESE NGO'S WEB SITES AS OF JULY 2008

<http://www.johndaufoundation.org>

<http://www.aycda.org/home.html>

<http://www.nesei.org>

<http://www.helpsudaninternational.org>

<http://www.sudansunrise.org>

<http://www.awerbul.net>

<http://africansoulamericanheart.org>

<http://hopewithsudan.org>

<http://www.waterforsudan.org/>

<http://www.hopeofsudan.org>

<http://www.theluoldengfoundation.org/>

<http://www.valentinoachakdeng.org/>

<http://www.lostboynomore.com/book.html>

<http://www.rebuildsudan.com/index.php>

### UPDATES ON SUDAN

<http://groups.google.co.za/group/sudan-john-ashworth>

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN - ANGLICAN COMMUNION

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/tour/province.cfm?ID=S6>



# MISSION OF LISTENING, LOOKING & LOVING

## TEAM FROM ST. COLUMBA, MARATHON, FL REFLECTS ON THEIR JOURNEY TO JUBA & MALAKAL



*By The Rev. Debra Andrew Macaunghey*

The Sudan Mission Team of St. Columba Episcopal Church, Marathon, FL, spent two weeks in Southern Sudan “Listening, Looking and Loving,” one week in Juba, the location of the Provincial headquarters of the ECS, and the other in the Diocese of Malakal, meeting with Bishop Hilary Garang and his people. We were amazed at the faithful spirit of the people of Southern Sudan, at the depth and the strength of their belief in the Risen Christ, and though we went there as helpers, I believe that their strength has helped our faith to grow.

Our journey took us from Miami to Detroit to Amsterdam, to Entebbe, Uganda, where we rested for a day before boarding a small single prop plane, operated by Mission Air Fellowship, to Juba. We were in Juba in two hours, and with combined time in the air, eighteen hours, and wait time, the journey took over two days. As we landed, we could see the bluff mountains that tower over the city in the distance.

### JUBA

Juba is a war-torn city; there are bombed and crumbling buildings everywhere. The roads are difficult, and the displaced refugees crowd every inch of the city. There is a lot of clay in the soil, so the dust that tinges everything is reddish color. There is a shortage of clean drinking water sources, so the people often drink dirty, disease-borne water.

We stayed in the White Nile Lodge, in tents, located on the Nile River. It was very basic, but very beautiful. We slept under the mango trees at night and could hear mangos as they fell, hitting our tents and

the ground. During the mornings, orphan children came up from the riverbanks, where they lived, to pick up the fruit to eat and to sell. There were many children, and it was extremely sad.

The ECS had reserved places for guests from all over the world to stay at the White Nile, so when we were not involved directly at the church, we had additional opportunities to meet with people from the UK, Kenya, South Africa, Canada and Egypt to talk about what had brought us to Southern Sudan. For most, the Enthronement of The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Bul as Archbishop and Primate of Sudan was the event that drew long-time partners for this celebratory event. I was glad to see old friends, and what a celebration it was. There were thousands of people at the service, which lasted four hours (but did not feel long, honestly), and included a great deal of singing, a sermon of hope delivered by the Archbishop of Rwanda, and some remarks by the President of Southern Sudan. It was a wonderful celebration of new birth.

We remained in Juba for several days and participated in the Sudan Census. It was interesting because due to the Census, no one was allowed to move from where they were staying. We filled out forms as visitors, and as a result of that experience, I do not think I'll ever be able to read about the census during the time of Jesus with the same eyes. We were counted.

We met with the Consul General of the US, and we were able to arrange a meeting between him and the Bishops of Sudan. It was a fruitful meeting. The ECS is very busy in Southern Sudan, working on clean water, schools, and clinics. They are continuing the

## ST. COLUMBA TRIP, CON'T.

work they began and struggled with during the war.

### MALAKAL

We flew out of Juba, up north to the very hot area of Malakal, the Diocese where we, at St. Columba's, have been doing our work. Due to some unrest, we were unable to visit our school, but learned a great deal about it, and were able to give the gift of money to add an additional classroom to the school. This will bring the number of classes to three and the number of children whom we are educating, each and every day, to 240.

The school is located in Panreing, in Unity State. It is very isolated and difficult to reach. It is an interesting situation, because the Diocese has been able to partner with Christian Aid (CA has provided clean water and latrines), the Government of Southern Sudan is paying the teacher salaries, and the World Food Programme provides a meal at school, as well as a meal for the girls to take home to ensure daily attendance. It is a blessing to think that each and every day that we wake up here in the Florida Keys, that across the world, there are children in dire straits being helped through our faith.

In Malakal, we encountered difficult living conditions -- no running water, little electricity and high temperatures. We had stocked up on peanut butter and canned fruit, which managed to keep us healthy.

We visited a school, met with teachers and students, visited the clinic that the Diocese built, and where the major illness treated is malaria, toured the local hospital, met with the people of the Diocese, including the Mother's Union, and learned more about the situation in the Diocese.

Malakal is nearly on the front lines between the north and the south. It is a one-day drive to the north, and there is a military presence there at all times. We saw soldiers and were careful not to take photos when they were about town. Malakal is anchored by a market place that is both Christian

and Moslem. People were generally nice reserved, but many seemed happy to see us and greeted us with blessings.



We experienced a rainstorm that shut down the city, due to the deep mud everywhere. It dried in five hours, and we were able to take a boat trip on the Nile. It was beautiful, and through the riverbanks, we got a better picture of the devastation of the war. Massive riverboats, destroyed by bombs, lay on their sides; ruined power and rice plants were being rebuilt; electrical generating plants were operating at a small capacity.

We went to church on Sunday, and I was invited to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. What a moving experience, looking out into the congregation, seeing our team in the midst of so many new friends. There is a very hopeful air coming from the Diocese, as the people begin rebuilding their lives.

We returned to Marathon, knowing that our school will soon have an additional room, and that we will begin raising money for another room to be added. The plan is to begin a revolving loan fund for the Diocese to use for different projects, most likely a guesthouse in Malakal (as we have direct experience with the limited accommodations). We are planning to return to Southern Sudan in three years.

It was a joy to know that our little church in the islands was offering so much to so many people. Listening, Looking and Loving opened our eyes, our hearts and our spirits to the God-given possibilities ahead.

*Debra and St. Columba's Episcopal Church can be reached at 305-743-6412 and <http://www.stcolumbamarathon.org/>. Look for the slideshow on the website. Wouldn't you like to know more about how to partner with a Diocese in the ECS?*

# HOPE FOR SUDAN:

## INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SUDANESE NGO'S

Two streams of coalition building between Sudanese initiated NGO's came together in July. The International Alliance of Sudanese NGO's (IASF) began communicating with twelve American Sudanese NGO's. July 12 and 13, nine representatives of five Sudanese NGO's met in Rochester, NY, to develop strategy and a proposal for the Beach Boys, who are interested in doing concerts for Sudan. The organization hopes to raise \$9-\$10 million over the next five years. A potential name and mission statement for the coalition emerged:

*Hope of Sudan*, the International Alliance of Sudanese NGO's, are committed to working in common for the transformation of the social and economic environment so that the people of Sudan have the opportunity to

live well and improve their quality of life. This umbrella organization will invite collaboration of Sudanese NGO's to "do together what we can't do alone." A meeting is scheduled for September 20-21, in Rochester, NY, to bring all NGO's represented together to review the developments out of the July planning meeting (there are many), and to come to an organizational agreement of how to proceed.

For the complete report of this planning meeting and for further information, contact Fr. Drino, [jdrino@sbc-global.net](mailto:jdrino@sbc-global.net) or 408-806-4506; Jerry Deluccio, [jjdeluccio@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jjdeluccio@rochester.rr.com), or 585-582-2648.

Reports on both organizations contributed by The Rev. Jerry Drino, founder of SLI and board member of AFRECS.

## SUDANESE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING IN CHICAGO

*It was easier to preach and minister in a traditional society than in the Modern or Post-Modern world of the U.S. In Africa, we would preach in one village, people would give us food and water and a place to stay and then we would move to another village. In the U.S., who will give us a cup of water?* Major Malou, Pres., St. Luke's Refugee Center, San Diego.

Sudanese Episcopalians now make up approximately 40,000 members of the Church in the U.S. During the 21-year civil war, the Church held the society together, as it was targeted by the north. Bishops and

clergy were killed, schools of theological learning were destroyed. Many clergy had only a few months of formal education while running in the bush, with nearly 80% holding no diplomas or degrees.

In the U.S., there has been no formal network of Sudanese clergy or any previous national efforts for continuing education. The Sudanese Leadership Institute (SLI) is being formed to strengthen the ministries within Sudanese communities through leadership development and to deepen the relationships with the larger Church.



## SLI, CON'T.

Twelve clergy and lay pastors gathered at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago May 29-30, for the inaugural meeting of the Sudanese Leadership Institute, "Connecting Our Pastoral Stories." They heard from Paul Boyle, Exec. Dir. of the Holistic Trauma Healing Center, Nairobi, who gave a ten-hour workshop on trauma and the particular responsibilities of pastors. Ronald Fox, Dir. of Formation for the Diocese of SE Florida, gave a workshop on Moving Towards Self-Sufficiency, based on Richard Kew's book, *Brave New Church*. He gave an overview of history and structure of the Episcopal Church in this country, noting that there are significant differences from the Church in Sudan, Kenya and

Uganda. He also gave them a handbook on Clergy Tax Deductions to help the clergy understand the benefits they should be taking advantage of, if they are employed by the Church.

The future plan is to have an annual Institute with the possibility of regional gatherings. Conversations will continue with Virginia Theological School, Trinity Theological Seminaries, and the newly-formed ELCA training institute in Atlanta.

Contact Fr. Drino at [jdrino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdrino@sbcglobal.net) or 408-806-4506, for the complete report on the Sudanese Leadership Institute inaugural meeting. Reports on both organizations contributed by The Rev. Jerry Drino, founder of SLI and board member of AFRECS.



AFRECS  
CONFERENCE  
MAY 30-JUNE 1,  
2008  
CHICAGO,  
ILLINOIS

*Photos by  
Constance Wilson*







