

# SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2011

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3

JULY 9, 2011 - INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR SOUTH SUDAN



AFRECS - AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN





## Map of Sudan (United Nations)

*The blue tone marks the expected bounds of the South Sudan States.*



CONNECTING HOPE AND GIFTS

# SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2011

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3

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

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## COVER:

Celebrations of South Sudan independence - July 9, 2011.



Send submissions for the next *Sudan Connections* to Richard Parkins, Exec. Director, at [parkinscr@gmail.com](mailto:parkinscr@gmail.com) by January 15, 2012.

# RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING A FRIEND

THE RT. REV. DAVID C. JONES  
SUFFRAGAN BISHOP, DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA  
PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

Dear Friends,

One of the surprises of my first year as President of American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) is the positive response we have experienced to our ministry of *advocacy*. I did not expect the positive welcome we would receive from government officials or the sense of interfaith partnership I have witnessed. For AFRECS, advocacy means standing alongside our Sudanese friends as they tell their story, affirming their plight. It means introducing bishops and Sudanese church leaders to our elected and appointed leaders and allowing them to give first-hand testimony otherwise not available through official channels.

This fall, we hope to arrange a visit from Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul to New York and Washington. Doors will open for them as they bring fresh insights to Capitol Hill, to the United Nations, the State Department and the White House. Such visits require much planning and coordination, especially by the invaluable efforts of Executive Director, Richard Parkins. You make that ministry possible through your membership in AFRECS.

Another surprise for me has been the depth of knowledge our Board members have about the Church in Sudan. There is a steady flow of information that comes to Board members through ongoing sharing. In recent days, we have been receiving news from Kadugli and the Nuba Mountains and are profoundly concerned with reports of attacks on innocent civilians. This information informs our prayers on a daily basis.



The biggest surprise for me, however, has been the weight of concern our Board feels for the Church in Sudan. It is the responsibility of *BEING A FRIEND*, and this responsibility is not taken lightly. Our friends in the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) need us. They need our prayers and our financial support right now. I invite you to join me in that ministry. Gifts beyond membership dues support peacemaking and reconciliation efforts in Sudan and support capacity building for the Province of the ECS.

Faithfully,

David Colin Jones  
President of AFRECS

AFRECS website: [www.afreecs.org/getinvolved.htm](http://www.afreecs.org/getinvolved.htm)



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C. RICHARD PARKINS



Dear Friends,

Lest anyone think that the creation of the Republic of South Sudan would allow us to relax our advocacy, the circumstances in Sudan, particularly in South Kordofan and Abyei, present a daunting, horrible reality of human suffering that begs for our prayers and our voices. The recent AFRECS national conference at Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen, VA (near Richmond), provided opportunities for the two bishops from these war-ravaged regions, Bishops Andudu Adam Elnail and Abraham Yel Nhial, to offer authentic witness to the devastation being visited upon their people. With their accounts indelibly imprinted in our minds, let us be forthright in telling their story -- one that has taken on added urgency in the weeks following the conference.

It was somewhat disturbing to hear at a recent House hearing on the tragedy of the Nubian people that the voice of the religious community was not being registered as frequently and as strongly as the crisis in Sudan warrants. AFRECS arranged for the bishops to have audiences with the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan,

Princeton Lyman, and the Assistant Secretary for Africa, Johnnie Carson, where both gave compelling accounts of the plight of their people. Still we must do more.

Recently, many of us heard spokespersons for the National Security Council (NSC) lay before non-governmental organization (NGO) activists the Administration's plans for giving heightened attention to responding more effectively to incidents of mass atrocities in the world. The assault on the people of the Nuba Mountains was offered as an example of where a more robust and coordinated effort to hold Khartoum accountable for its actions was needed. NSC colleagues acknowledged the work of religious and human rights advocates in prompting the Administration to examine how it can anticipate and, hopefully, deter future atrocities in a world where the potential for such is growing.

As I reflect upon our excellent 2011 conference, where distinguished experts noted challenges facing the new South Sudan and the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), I experienced the solidarity of those who care deeply about South Sudan and its future, and who are equally committed to speaking out against the horrors that are perpetrated against those Sudanese who do not enjoy the freedom and independence that have come to those in the South.

It was uplifting to celebrate a victory and to acknowledge unfinished business facing this new nation. It was also encouraging to experience the renewed commitment required of us if we are to help make a difference in the lives of unprotected Sudanese brothers and sisters.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Richard Parkins".

Executive Director  
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN

# THE CHURCH & SUDAN: PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE

6TH AFRECS CONFERENCE, JUNE 17-19, 2011...CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL, GLEN ALLEN, VA  
BY MARGARET S. LAROM, AFRECS BOARD -- CHAIR OF CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
CONFERENCE PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH BOE AND EMILY CHERRY



*Bishop David Jones introduces Bishop Abraham Nhial to the AFRECS Conference*

A sober, but Spirit-filled, group of people profoundly concerned about the welfare of the Sudanese people gathered at Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen, Virginia, in mid-June to share knowledge, experience, questions, and prayers.

More than 100 persons registered to spend a weekend focusing on “The Church and Sudan: Partnering for the Future.” Independence for South Sudan was imminent, violence and bloodshed were ripping through some communities, and refugees were streaming through others. The specter of more turmoil raised doubts and fear for the future, even as participants discussed practical tactics for supporting the Church’s leadership and strengthening its institutions.

Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) bishops from two of the most volatile regions – Abraham Nhial, Diocese of Aweil (which includes Abyei) and Andudu Adam Elnail, Diocese of Kadugli (and the Nuba Mountains) – were present throughout the conference. It was moving and, indeed, heart wrenching, to witness their exhaustion as they struggled to stay in communication with their people back home, promising help, even as they responded to

endless queries from government workers, news media, church partners, and others here.

The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul, Archbishop and Primate of the ECS, sent a message to the conference, thanking Americans for their support and advocacy, adding, “The work is not over and the challenges are great. Now is a critical time for us to rescue, encourage and enlighten our people.” He raised a number of areas of concern -- disagreements between the governments in Khartoum and Juba, armed rebel militias within Southern Sudan, outbreak of war between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), cattle raiding, and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).



*P.B. Katharine Jefferts Schori commissions AFRECS & congregation of Christ Church*

Through plenary sessions and workshops, the conference offered “macro” and “micro” views of challenges and opportunities in Sudan. “Sudan 101” set the stage by offering some historical reflection and analysis. Dr. Randall Fegley focused on political, economic, cultural and other aspects, while the Rev. Dr. Richard Jones described the Christian endeavor, in general, and the Epis-

## THE CHURCH AND SUDAN: PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE, cont'd.



*Grey Maggiano, Craig Cole, Debra Smith & Larry Duffee networking at conference*

copal/Anglican experience, in particular.

Ambassador Alan Goulty, former British Ambassador to Sudan, reviewed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the context of the July 9 deadline for an independent Republic of South Sudan, and explained unresolved issues and unfinished business that were fueling violence in three border areas. U.S. Ambassador Dane Smith, appointed by President Obama to be his Sr. Advisor for Darfur, drew attention to details of the Darfur impasse that were impacting the overall Sudan situation in his presentation.

Seven workshops offered answers to the question, “What can I do?”

- ❖ Partnerships: Opportunities to Build and Contribute
- ❖ Seeking Peace After the Long War
- ❖ Education in South Sudan (Project Education Sudan & Hope and Resurrection High School)
- ❖ Theological Education and Clergy Training for the ECS
- ❖ The “Companion Connection” (CDR between Dioceses of Missouri & Lui)
- ❖ Effective Advocacy in Washington
- ❖ Micro-enterprise as a Means of Empowerment (Five Talents & United Thank Offering (UTO))

Energized and chattering, participants came back together for a summary plenary and were thrilled to discover that they now had an audience – the Presiding Bishop.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori had driven from Baltimore, where the Executive Council had finished its meeting the evening before, in time to hear their report-backs. The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia and President of the AFRECS Board, asked participants to share what they had learned. Their responses, as well as succinct highlights from workshop reporters, became grist for further discussion.

At the close, the Presiding Bishop noted that significant time was spent at Executive Council discussing Sudan, and a strong resolution on the human rights situation was the result. After taking a folded paper from her pocket and reading it, she said, “You and your work in Sudan are in the prayers of many Episcopalians. I’m grateful for the opportunity to gather with you, and be here in the Diocese (VA). It is a tragedy, what has taken place in Sudan. Continue to pray for justice and peace, and for the flourishing of all people in Sudan, north and south.”



*Fr. Paul Elliot, Larry Duffee & Bishop Abraham Nbial addressing the plenary*

Although the flag of the new Republic of South Sudan hung in the meeting hall, and hopeful excitement about the approaching Independence Day was palpable, still participants were very mindful of the challenges that the Episcopal Church of the Sudan would face as it tried to continue as one church in two nations. Moreover, many voiced concerns about the safety of Christian Sudanese living in the north, under the Khartoum regime that has proved so oppressive in the past.



## THE CHURCH AND SUDAN: PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE, cont'd.




*Ambassador Alan Goulty, speaking to the plenary*

Sunday morning, participants met in interest groups for follow-up discussions on workshop themes, as well as brainstorming about other topics, such as water and health, women's empowerment, the Sudanese diaspora in the U.S., Bible translation, and AFRECS, itself. It was also the last chance to peruse the exhibits prepared by more than a dozen Sudan-related organizations, and to purchase books written by Bishop Abraham Nhial, Mariak Machok Chuor, and the late Marc Nikkel.

The conference concluded with Holy Eucharist. Conference participants and the congregation of Christ Church Episcopal worshipped together, with the Presiding Bishop as preacher and celebrant. The worship team of the Rev. Paul A. Johnson, Rector; the Rev. Hillary T. West, Associate Rector; Keith Tan, Music Minister, and others created a service filled with prayers and hymns deeply relevant to the Sudanese situation on the hearts of so many. The plate offering was graciously given to AFRECS to support its work with the ECS.

Richard Parkins, Executive Director of AFRECS, and Bishop Jones presented Jennifer and Darryl Ernst with a print of the "Crown of Thorns" woodcut by Bishop Hilary Garang, in thanks for their intense and tireless efforts, making the conference a tremendous success. They led a team of volunteers from other Richmond area churches, including Epiphany, St. James, St. Martin's, and

St. Mary's, arranging for meals, financial support, local transportation, sound systems, room set-ups and other logistical details.

An inspired, Spirit-filled, group of people departed the 6th AFRECS National Conference having been commissioned by the Presiding Bishop to be more fully aware of the profound connections that need to continue, that need to begin, and the ongoing pursuit of the question, "What MUST I do?" 



*Dr. Ellen Davis in Theological Ed. workshop*



*VA Bishops Johnston & Jones with P.B. Jefferts Schori*



# VISITING TEACHERS PROGRAM STRENGTHENS TRAINING & EDUCATION FOR ECS CHURCH LEADERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

BY DR. ELLEN F. DAVIS, KEARNS PROFESSOR OF BIBLE & PRACTICAL THEOLOGY  
DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

AND PRESENTER OF WORKSHOP ON “THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & CLERGY TRAINING FOR ECS” AT  
THE AFRECS CONFERENCE

**T**he Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) seeks to prepare teachers, pastors, and administrators for a thriving church of 4 to 5 million. The ECS grew dramatically through civil war of more than twenty years; millions of southern Sudanese were massacred or driven into exile. Now, there is an urgent need to strengthen educational institutions for clergy and lay leaders, so there can be a stable peace for the new Republic of South Sudan, where the church provides most of the functional infrastructure.

The Visiting Teachers Program, sponsored and coordinated by Duke Divinity School and Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), is designed to meet that need. Since 2004, we have been helping the ECS to strengthen its residential training program for seminarians and also to establish a continuing education program for clergy, lay leaders and theological educators. The first team of two Visiting Teachers traveled to Renk Theological College (RTC) in Upper Nile State in early January 2005 -- the same week the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) was signed -- and taught an intensive two-week program in biblical Hebrew, a priority identified by the ECS. Teams of two to four teachers now travel to Renk and other locations for intensive courses twice a year, January and July. During the July term, teachers have been in residence for extended periods of five or six weeks.

Course offerings have been extended into other areas, including Anglicanism, peace and justice, biblical theology and languages, spirituality, English composition, community health, the church's ministry. Course attendance can be anywhere from 14 to 45 students, clergy, lay leaders and bishops. In May 2011, the Program began engaging in joint work with the Presbyterian Church of Sudan in



Malakal, also Upper Nile State.

This effort between educational institutions and churches in Sudan and in the U.S. has been recognized by the Archbishop of Canterbury as offering a promising model for collaborative theological education in the Anglican Communion, and beyond. The pattern of partnership that has emerged between RTC and Duke/VTS is beginning to be replicated within Sudan and in other parts of Africa.

The Program bears fruit on both sides of the partnership. North American faculty, students and churches are discovering a clarified sense of vocation and a joyful appreciation of the global church. The ECS, isolated by two lengthy wars lasting for nearly a half century, is now engaged in an active international partnership whose aim is to develop a holistic model of theological education, which includes community health and community agriculture, alongside traditional theological subjects. **The Visiting Teachers Program** invites those with teaching skills to contribute their ef-

## VISITING TEACHERS PROGRAM STRENGTHENS TRAINING, cont'd.

forts to this work.

In 2007, the Program established partnerships between RTC and North American congregations to fund students. (Since 2000, St. Michael's Church, Barrington, IL, Diocese of Chicago, has been in partnership with RTC, building its first campus, which was destroyed by the northern government to build a road, then rebuilding the College, standing today on a campus that includes a women's training center, St. Michael's Chapel, a clinic and restaurant, and it continues to support students through scholarships.) For \$3,000, a congregation or individual can support one student for a full year.


For further information about the Visiting Teachers Program, or to arrange for a speaker about the Program, please contact:

Dr. Ellen F. Davis  
Duke Divinity School  
edavis@div.duke.edu  
919-660-3461

Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, Dir.  
Anglican Episcopal House of Studies  
Duke Divinity School  
jwells@div.duke.edu  
919-660-3576

Dr. Stephen Cook  
VTS  
scook@vts.edu  
703-461-1703

For further information about scholarship assistance for students, please contact:

Dr. Davis, Dr. Cook, Dr. Wells, or  
Jackie Kraus, St. Michael's Barrington, IL  
Renk Ministry Partnership & Canon  
to St. Matthew Cathedral, Renk  
847-381-5518  
[kraus.jackie@yahoo.com](mailto:kraus.jackie@yahoo.com) 



*Dr. Ellen Davis makes a point to students at RTC*



# AFRECS RECOGNIZES EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN AT 6TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BY MARGARET S. LAROM, AFRECS BOARD MEMBER



*Bishop Jones presents P.B. Jefferts Schori with AFRECS award*

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) honored two individuals and one organization for outstanding efforts on behalf of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) at the 6th National Conference in June, at Christ Church Episcopal, Richmond, VA.

Certificates of Appreciation and framed prints of a woodcut by ECS Bishop Hilary Garang, Diocese of Malakal, entitled “Crown of Thorns,” were presented to the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church (TEC); Ms. Janette O’Neill, former Africa Program Officer with Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), now General Secretary of USPG (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) in England; and Samaritan’s Purse, Inc., a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization dedicated to providing physical and spiritual aid to people and the Church around the world.

The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia and President of the AFRECS Board, along with AFRECS Executive Director, C. Richard Parkins, made the presentations.

The Certificate for the Presiding Bishop noted her leadership in “giving prominence to the need for peace and justice for the Christians of Sudan and for strong advocacy with the Government of the United States in promoting a peaceful and timely Referendum, the results of which would be honored and respected by all parties.

As chief Pastor and head of The Episcopal Church, Bishop Jefferts Schori has been an important voice of the faith community in lifting up the plight of Sudanese Christians and in supporting their quest for peace and justice after nearly a half century of civil war and upheaval. In calling for a season of prayer in anticipation of the Referendum that would give South Sudanese a voice in determining their future, the Presiding Bishop offered a clear call for Episcopalians to be united in prayer with our Sudanese sisters and brothers in achieving a peaceful and just outcome to a protracted civil war that resulted in untold suffering for the Sudanese people. Her leadership continues to remind Episcopalians that prayer and advocacy are still needed as the Republic of South Sudan encounters new challenges and opportunities.”

In accepting the award, the Presiding Bishop recalled meeting the bishops of Sudan in the Diocese of Salisbury, England, just before the Lambeth Conference in 2008. The ECS bishops were invited to lead a procession in celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral, and set a pace that many found a challenge. “This is an image of what we are called to do,” she said, “to walk with our brothers and sisters at whatever pace they need to go. They will need us to walk with them for a good long time. Get ready. Get ready,” she repeated.

The citation for Janette O’Neill highlighted her “dedicated work” while at ERD “in partnering with the Episcopal Church of Sudan in creating an infrastructure to support the development of key social and economic projects urgently needed by the people of Sudan.

“Janette O’Neill played a key role in bringing church partners together to foster a coordinated approach in helping the Episcopal Church of Sudan meet the challenges of development and humanitarian assistance. Both direct support of development within the Episcopal Church of Sudan and the strengthening of church partnerships stand as lasting tributes to Janette O’Neill’s tireless work on behalf of Sudanese Episcopalians.”

Accepting the award on behalf of Ms. O’Neill was Grey Maggiano, a student at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), who also serves as a network representative for ERD.

## AFRECS RECOGNIZES EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN AT 6TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, cont'd.


Later she wrote from London, "Yesterday I received a gorgeously framed woodcut of Christ wearing the crown of thorns by +Hilary. It is absolutely stunning -- now hanging in my office, just an inspiration!"

Samaritan's Purse was honored for "monumental and continuing efforts in rebuilding over 430 churches in Sudan destroyed by the government in the long civil war, most of them churches in the Episcopal Church of Sudan. This program is continuing with the goal of rebuilding five hundred churches altogether. To date, over \$34 million have been spent in this effort. Samaritan's Purse has a long and brave history in helping the Church in Sudan during the war; this church rebuilding effort began in 2005 and continues today, part of an ongoing Sudan ministry by Samaritan's Purse including skills training, well drilling, and medical aid.

"We honor Samaritan's Purse," the citation says, "not only for this huge tangible commitment, but equally for the way it has chosen the churches for rebuilding, and for its full engagement of the local church community in the rebuilding effort. Churches to be rebuilt are those destroyed during the civil war by an act of war and which have a congregation meeting regularly with viable leadership. Samaritan's Purse sends teams of four or five staff to oversee construction, handle logistics, and teach local residents how to make bricks and other skills needed to build the church. Ninety percent of the workers are from the local congregation. Building begins after all the bricks are prepared, a task that can take months.

"The theology is even more compelling, as Dr. Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, explained: Helping believers rebuild their churches is a reminder that they have not been forgotten by God or by believers around the world.

"Our partners in the ECS have taught us this is very true. For acting boldly on this truth, we are delighted to honor Samaritan's Purse and its outstanding ministry in Sudan. We honor them as Best Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan."

Jim Loscheider, Vice President for Donor Ministries, accepted the award at the Saturday evening banquet. On Monday afternoon, he sent a word of thanks to the AFRECS leadership, adding, "Franklin was in the office today, and I was able to personally present him with both the Certificate and the woodcut. He was humbled and grateful. They will be displayed in a prominent location here to remind all of us to remain vigilant in the midst of this crisis and in the cause of Christ for our brothers and sisters in Sudan. I briefed him on your efforts for which he is grateful. On behalf of Mr. Graham, thank you again for your initiative in meeting the needs of those suffering in Sudan while sharing the hope of Jesus Christ." 

While a student at Virginia Theological Seminary in 2000, and before he was elected Bishop of Malakal, Hilary Garang Deng studied woodcutting with Margaret Adams Parker, Washington artist and adjunct instructor at VTS. "Bishop Hilary made the woodcut "A Crown of Thorns" in lieu of a final paper in my course, The Artist as Theologian." As an artist/theologian, he encouraged young local artists in war-torn Malakal by exhibiting their work. Bishop Hilary gave permission to AFRECS to have prints made in 2010 by Rosemary Feit Covey, whose studio is in the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA. Sales of prints are used to support the work of Malakal Diocese in South Sudan.



# PASTORAL LETTER ADVISING SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

ISSUED BY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE SUDAN HOUSE OF BISHOPS  
JULY 9, 2011

**T**he House of Bishops, comprised of 31 dioceses of the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), under the leadership of the Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, has issued a joint pastoral letter to the children of South Sudan to be a guide and framework for them as citizens of the new Republic of South Sudan. Under the title, *Caring for God's Gift of Independence, A call for practical action*, are three priorities for action.

- ❖ Achieving peace and non-violence by promoting the Rule of Law (customary and modern)
- ❖ Achieving unity by promoting the Transitional Constitution and reducing tribalism, nepotism and corruption
- ❖ Promoting equitable development through effective decentralization

The Bishops of the ECS conclude this 'instrument of peace' with the following statement:

*Realizing a greater sense of peace, unity and development has been the core message of this letter, its advice has largely been directed to the Government of South Sudan, the elected officials whose mandate is to represent the people of South Sudan and operate within the letter and spirit of the transitional constitution. However, it would be an error to conclude that the transformation of our nation from weakness to strength, from poor to rich, and from volatile to stable is the sole responsibility of the Government. In the Holy Bible, 1 Cor. 12-27 teaches us the importance of different members of the body working with one another. St. Paul clearly states that we have been commissioned to work in unison, using our diversity and the various talents we each have, to help ourselves and one another. We must look at our differences from a new perspective, not continue to believe that it is because we are different that we are divided. These differences that we assume are dividing us are actually the key to our development and pivotal to harmonious coexistence. We are all responsible for ensuring that the new Republic of South Sudan is built on a strong foundation. Therefore, let us begin working together from this point onwards to ensure that we can achieve peace and non-violence, reduce tribalism and its devastating effects on our communities, and promote equality of opportunities, human rights and access to justice. If we strive in earnest to adhere to the principle of the Body of Christ, no one and nothing*

*can hold back or hinder the people of the Republic of South Sudan again. Amen.*

Ed. Note: The full document, including The Episcopal Church of the Sudan Independence Prayer, is posted on the ECS website, [www.sudan.anglican.org](http://www.sudan.anglican.org) ❖

THE PROVINCE OF THE ECS ANNOUNCES THE HISTORIC FIRST SYNOD AT ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL, JUBA, NOVEMBER 13 TO 17. IT IS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ENTIRE ECS COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER SINCE THE CREATION OF TWO SUDANS, SHOWING THE WORLD COMMUNITY THAT THE ECS REMAINS A STRONG, UNITED CHURCH. THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE ECS, WHETHER IT WILL REMAIN ONE PROVINCE, HOW IT WILL BE ORGANIZED WILL BE DISCUSSED AND DECIDED AT THIS MEETING. DECISIONS WILL BE MADE THAT WILL IMPACT THE ECS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. FOR THESE REASONS, THE ECS IS ENCOURAGING IT WORLDWIDE PARTNERS, IF THEY CAN, TO ATTEND THE SYNOD SO IT CAN BENEFIT FROM [PARTNERS] WISDOM AND GUIDANCE. THE PROVINCE IS SEEKING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE SYNOD DUE TO HIGH INFLATION IN JUBA, AND THE ECS HAVING LIMITED RESOURCES. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO RAISE "IN-HOUSE" SUPPORT, AS WELL.

# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN JUBA

BY LARRY DUFFEE, TEC MISSIONARY TO THE ECS FROM THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA  
JULY 9, 2011



The celebrations surrounding the independence of South Sudan from the Republic of Sudan were some of the most exciting and wonderful events I have ever witnessed. Juba was abuzz with excitement for the week leading up to the 9th, independence being the only subject on everyone's minds.

Many visitors from around the globe were in Juba to celebrate. Around 10:30 PM, Friday, we could hear the sounds of great celebrations coming from nearby streets, so we all piled into our vehicle and drove around Juba joining one of the largest street parties in the world! For miles around Juba the streets were thronged with people out celebrating, people cheering and singing. We were greeted everywhere with great joy.

At just about midnight, we returned to All Saints' Cathedral for a special service to mark the actual moment of independence. Like churches all over Juba and all over South Sudan, the bells of the Cathedral were rung in celebration. Prayers were offered and candles lit within the Cathedral to mark the occasion. Afterwards, we again drove through the streets to rejoin the celebrations, getting to bed near 1:00 AM.

Saturday dawned early for us as we needed to get to the Dr. John Garang Memorial site where the official celebrations would take place. The ECS had been asked to submit names of those it wanted to attend the ceremonies for special security clearance. Since many of the invited guests from Anglican churches throughout Africa could not attend, the Provincial staff was allowed to attend in their stead. I, for example, attended for the Archbishop of

Kenya. We had to go to the Foreign Ministry to obtain our special passes, a keepsake if there ever was one!

All morning long dignitaries from 84 countries arrived. I saw diplomats, world leaders and Church officials from around the globe...U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice, accompanied by former U.S. Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell; General Secretary of the U.N. Bang-Ki Moon; and heads of states from 13 nations.

The entire area of the celebrations was packed with tens of thousands of people as South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit arrived. I estimate there were at least 25,000. The first order of business was to unveil a new statue of the late Dr. John Garang across the road from the memorial site. This was done to great acclaim. Then there was the announcement of the Declaration of Independence of the new state of South Sudan, a final lowering of the Republic of Sudan flag, and the raising of the flag of South Sudan, all done to loud cheering from the crowds.

Speeches and other ceremonies marked the rest of the afternoon, finally concluding around 5:00 PM, nine hours after we arrived! It was a great day and an unforgettable experience. Also unforgettable is the experience of joining members of the ECS staff, bishops and other international visitors in the Provincial Secretary's office to practice singing the new South Sudan national anthem. Equally unforgettable is the depth of emotion expressed when this same song was sung at a special combined service at All Saints' on Sunday morning. At this service many prayers were offered to give thanks to God for allowing the people of South Sudan to gain their freedom and to attain the dignity and respect which having their own nation affords them.

Overall, the entire weekend was one of great celebration and joy! ❖





# “THE DAWN IS HERE AT LAST”

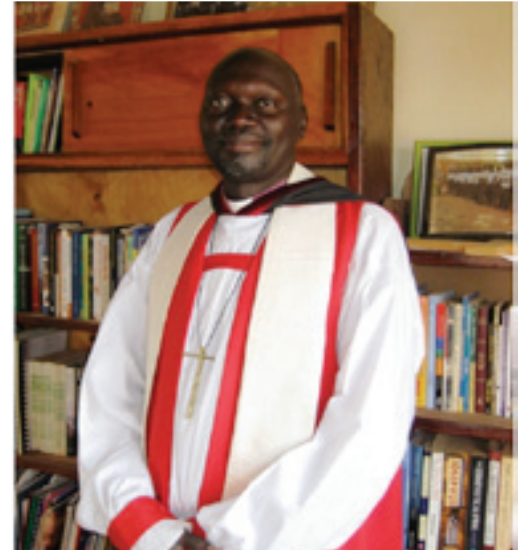
A PERSONAL REFLECTION FROM BISHOP BISMARCK AVOKAYA OF MUNDRI DIOCESE

**T**hank you for your prayers. We are enormously grateful to God for His gracious gift of freedom and liberty at last. When the old flag of Khartoum of oppression and all forms of sectarianism, racial discrimination, injustice, etc., was being lowered down and the new flag of independence, freedom and liberty was being lifted high, it became so emotional, and most of us shed tears of joy in the process!

The previous day, in our Cathedral, we had organized special prayers for the dedication of the new nation to God, and we called on all our people to take part, including the County Commissioner and the heads of departments. Many turned up for the service, and we interceded for the orphans, widows and widowers, war victims, including amputees, those internally displaced in Khartoum, in need of returning to the South but stranded in Kosti, the exiled, etc. Also, we prayed for the government leaders, the Church, etc. But, we also prayed for the conflict areas of Abyei, South Kordofan, Nuba Mountains in general and the Blue Nile, because we firmly believe unless these areas are free as well, we shall never really be free.

And, then I officiated at the special prayers for our land and river waters. So, we literally brought some soil and river water into the service, because we know we had lost a lot of innocent people over the years on this land whose blood is crying out to God like the blood of Abel which may bring a curse instead of a blessing on the land! Hence, we cried to God in prayer for His forgiveness. And, finally, I led the prayers of dedication of the nation to God in which I dedicated the copy of the local land act, the copy of the national Constitution, the new flag and the state flag. We believe unless the Lord builds, the work of the builders is in vain, and unless the Lord guards the city, those who stand guard are in vain, as the Psalmist says in Psalm 127:1f. We emphasized that this new flag remind us of God's grace every time we see it, because if it were not for God, we wouldn't have this gift of freedom...

And, we ended the service with the celebration of the Holy Communion for yet another great reminder that although we celebrate this political freedom, we should never forget that the greatest freedom offered to us by Jesus supersedes this temporal freedom. Moreover, we should never forget that He will sooner or later return to take us to His glory. It was such an emotional and heart searching service and



was much appreciated.

Presumably, this prompted the Commissioner to ask the Bishop of Mundri to the event of the actual lifting of the flag at the County Head Office the following day to offer the prayers of the dedication for the new flag again.

Therefore, we thank you very much for your prayers and thoughts about us in this new dispensation. ❖

## SUBSCRIBE TO AFRECS E-BLASTS TODAY

For up-to-date weekly E-Blasts, which provide the most current news in and about Sudan, send an email to [AFRECS\\_E-Blasts@afrecs.org](mailto:AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org) with “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line. For more information about AFRECS, visit our website [www.afrecs.org](http://www.afrecs.org) or our Facebook page.

# STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH ON THE VIOLENCE IN ABYEI

STATEMENT ISSUED BY  
THE MOST REV. PAOLINO LUKUDU LORO,  
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF JUBA & METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF SOUTH SUDAN

THE MOST REV. DR. DANIEL DENG BUL,  
ARCHBISHOP AND PRIMATE OF THE ECS & BISHOP OF JUBA

**W**e, the leaders of the Catholic and the Episcopal Churches in the Sudan are sad that the region of Abyei is back to war. On behalf of all the Christians, we categorically denounce the recent fighting that took place in Abyei Town, in the midst of thousands of men, women and children, leading them again to a mass and panicked exodus. These same civilians have been displaced several times because of belligerence between different clusters of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) during the war and in the time resettlement has taken place.

It is well known that there have been difficulties resolving the status of Abyei politically, but there is no excuse whatsoever for war to break out at the center of a civil population, no excuse for endangering the lives of innocent people, no excuse for mindless destruction of homes and livelihoods. Failing to care for citizens at this time is indicative of the lack of seriousness taken over the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement).

As the Church, which is the voice of God and moral conscience of the nation, we are very concerned about the violence which has claimed many innocent lives in Abyei and rendered many people homeless at the time when the hope of our people is growing high for the independence and the birth of our God-given nation. We urge the leadership,

which has endorsed the belligerence and issued a decree that has crippled local governance and impeded humanitarian efforts and the subsequent occupation of Abyei, to withdraw the order and decree.

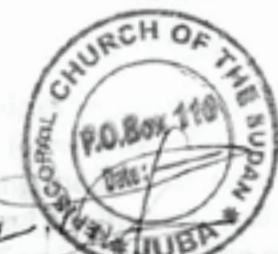
For the sake of the people of God in Abyei, we call for immediate action from the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to break the deadlock and to initiate negotiations and peace talks once again, with the help of the regional partners, U.N., and all those countries which are witnesses to the signature of the CPA.

We demand that our government make an immediate concerted effort to agree upon a ceasefire and withdrawal of northern troops from Abyei to allow deployment of a neutral security force, safe passage and speedy resettlement for all the displaced and to work towards a genuine and lasting peace agreement. We also ask the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to assist in humanitarian efforts and relief for those who have been displaced and co-operate with other organizations that seek to help in this way.

Finally, we ask all those around the world to remember the suffering people of Abyei in their thoughts and prayers at this time. May the risen Christ, who is the Prince of Peace, bless us with true peace. ✠



**+Paolino Lukudu Loro**  
Archbishop of Juba and  
Metropolitan Archbishop  
of South Sudan



**The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul**  
Archbishop and Primate  
of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan

# STATEMENT FROM THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE SUDAN ON THE VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN

ISSUED JUNE 14, 2011 BY THE MOST REV. DR. DANIEL DENG BUL YAK

ARCHBISHOP, PRIMATE AND METROPOLITAN OF THE PROVINCE OF THE ECS & BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF JUBA

On behalf of all the Christians of Southern Kordofan and the Nuba people, I wish to condemn the violence and bombardment of civilian settlements since June 5, which has resulted in widespread suffering and destruction. From the time the initial fighting began, it has been reported that the number of civilians requiring immediate relief has increased to over 53,000 and is set to rise, bombing and looting has continued, 75,000 people have been displaced, and houses and other buildings have been torched and deliberately destroyed.

The Episcopal Church of the Sudan has not escaped the effects of violence and destruction. Some of our pastors have been arrested and tortured without reason or charge. The windows and doors of the ECS Guest House and All Saints' Cathedral, Kadugli, have been broken. The altar, vestments, church documents in the Cathedral and the official residence of the bishop have been destroyed by fire. Our solar panels, gifted to us by generous partners, and three motorcycles have been stolen. Secular buildings have also been damaged, and, indeed, all people, both Christian and Muslim, have been impacted by the fighting. However, the church and its personnel have clearly been targets for the northern army since the fighting began. The calculated damage to our church buildings and the threats to, and arrest and torture of, pastors and known Christians because of their faith, is indisputable.

Without a doubt then, the most worrying aspect of this recent conflict is the way in which fighting that originated between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has now transformed into what can only be described as a deliberate strategy to rid Kadugli of its indigenous African and Christian population by the SAF, in short, a policy of ethnic cleansing. This is not the first time a government policy of ethnic cleansing has been applied in Sudan; the genocide in Western Darfur is very well known. Moreover, activities of a similar nature occurred just a few weeks ago when the Dinka Ngok, indigenous to Abyei, were slaughtered and displaced from their homes within Abyei Town in mass numbers.

We categorically condemn the use of force by the Government of Sudan towards its own people. We condemn the use of aerial bombardments on civilians and the



arbitrary arrest of citizens in Southern Kordofan. No one is willing to return to war; therefore, we insist that the Government of Sudan release those who have been arbitrarily arrested and return to the negotiating table with the Government of South Sudan on its consultation framework.

We appeal to the international community, particularly the signatories of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to unite and do everything in their power to intervene quickly to stop the fighting and the killing of innocent people, and to protect those residents of Southern Kordofan and Abyei who are Christian and African, and, as a result, are suffering persecution. Genocide is highly likely without international mediation. Therefore, we implore you all, especially the Troika (the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Norway), the African Union and the United Nations to endeavor to prevent genocide and the deliberate killing of certain groups by others before it is too late.

We appeal to both indigenous and international non-governmental organizations (NGO's) that can assist with aid and relief to coordinate their efforts and work together with local and trusted organizations, such as the churches, to address the physical needs of the sick and needy in Southern Kordofan. The ECS is ready to facilitate the distribution of medicines, food and non-food items using our extensive network in Southern Kordofan and Abyei. We request food and non-food items, as well as donations, to support their purchase. We strongly urge the United Nations Mission in Sudan and NGOs within Sudan to make use of the ECS as a well-placed partner to help with efficient distribution of relief items.



## VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN, cont'd.

Finally, we appeal to members of the Anglican Communion around the world and those of other denominations to intercede on our behalf to Almighty God so that the people of Southern Kordofan and Abyei may be delivered from this trauma and distress.

As the Archbishop of all of Sudan, I write this statement with great sorrow and commiseration for my brothers and sisters in Southern Kordofan. Despite the country's divide, the clergy and laity of the Episcopal Church of Sudan believe they serve a living God unimpeded by political

boundaries. We strive to remain one church, united in the body of Christ and steadfast in the midst of this current tribulation.

In this season of Pentecost and beyond, may those who mourn and suffer take respite in the Holy Spirit, our Comforter. May He also touch the hearts and minds of the compassionate and the able and guide them in their defense of the oppressed. ✠

## APPEAL ON ABYEI CRISIS FROM BISHOP ABRAHAM YEL NHIAL, AWEIL DIOCESE

SOURCE: SUDAN-LINK <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/appeal-on-abyei-crisis-from-bishop-abraham/>

**T**he Rt. Rev. Abraham Yel Nhial, Diocese of Aweil, is calling for increased international attention to the situation of internally displaced persons in Abyei area on the border between the north and South Sudan.

Speaking at the conclusion of a four-day pastoral visit in Abyei area, Bishop Abraham said, "While international attention has drifted to the attacks in the Nuba Mountains, my people in Abyei continue to suffer. Emergency aid efforts are concluding, but people still lack the necessary food, shelter and medication." Classrooms in a diocesan school have been turned into shelter for refugees, delaying the start of the school year.

The northern army and allied militias attacked Abyei in May, displacing tens of thousands of people across three states. The displacement meant that one planting season was missed, creating a huge need for food. As part of his visit, Bishop Abraham delivered nearly 50 tons of relief material donated by church groups. "We are grateful for the support from the international partners, but the need still remains," he said.

Ethiopian peacekeepers under the auspices of the U.N. began to deploy in Abyei during the bishop's visit. "But my people are deeply suspicious of the U.N. -- with good reason," he said. "During the attacks in May, some sought shelter in U.N. compounds but were denied. They were



killed while U.N. personnel did nothing." The Ethiopian mission has a stronger mandate, but displaced people are not yet convinced of the credibility of the mission.

Bishop Abraham has been trying to visit displaced persons across his large diocese, but has been stymied by logistical challenges posed by the onset of the wet season in South Sudan. "My people need pastoral care, and my priests need support as they deal with this crisis," said Bishop Abraham. "I have been unable to visit all of them as is necessary." Other logistical challenges were created by the attack. The only bridge connecting the northern and southern halves of Abyei was destroyed in May, so he was not able to visit the entire region.

To secure peace in Abyei, Bishop Abraham is calling for the following actions:

## APPEAL ON ABYEI CRISIS, cont'd.

✦ A high-level meeting between church leaders, government officials, and Ethiopian commanders so church leaders can brief peacekeepers with on-the-ground information they have collected over the last several months; and receive assurances that the Ethiopian mission will provide credible security. Bishop Abraham has written to U.S. Assistant Sec. of State Johnnie Carson and Special Envoy Princeton Lyman for help in arranging the meeting.

✦ Continued international aid to the internally displaced persons from Abyei, including those in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, and Warrap State.

✦ Logistical and financial assistance so that the bishop and his staff can visit displaced people throughout the diocese to continue assessment of their needs and provide much-needed pastoral care.

"It is critically important that the people of Abyei be able to return to their homes to take advantage of the second

planting season in September, and reduce their dependence on food aid," he said. "But, they will not return under current conditions. As we celebrate the recent independence of South Sudan, we must remember that some issues remain unresolved. The steps I am calling for will lay the foundation for future peace in Abyei."

*Bishop Abraham Nbial was a guest at the AFRECS 6th National Conference at Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen, VA, in June, calling for action and prayers. He is a former "Lost Boy" who walked from Aweil to refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya during the Sudan civil war before being resettled in the U.S. The author of Lost Boy No More: A True Story of Survival and Salvation. Bishop Abraham is a graduate of Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA, and a noted speaker on peace and reconciliation in the Church. He will be visiting the U.S. in October and is available for speaking engagements. Contact Richard Parkins, [parkinscr@gmail.com](mailto:parkinscr@gmail.com).* ✦

## BISHOP ANDUDU ADAM ELNAIL, KADUGLI DIOCESE, TESTIFIES AT EMERGENCY HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE ON "A WAR OF HORROR"...

AUGUST 4, 2011



**B**ishop Andudu Adam Elnail called on U.S. lawmakers to deploy satellites over war-torn Southern Kordofan to help locate mass graves to ensure evi-

dence of killings does not disappear.

Giving evidence to a House Committee, Bishop Andudu spoke of a "war of horror...creating ethnic cleansing in the Nuba Mountains." Witnesses had told him of seeing two diggers move in at night to dig two big pits at a school in a town called Tilo. Bodies had been brought to the place and "the people were put in the body bags, wide body bags, and they were put in the pit," he said.

"The United States should deploy its own satellites to ensure that the reported mass grave sites are not tampered with. This evidence, from eyewitness reports and satellites, should be preserved and investigated, and the perpetrators must be held accountable."

Fighting has raged in the ethnically divided border state of South Kordofan since early June between the Sudanese army and Nuba militiamen, who fought with the SPLA, the former rebel army of the south, during their decades-long civil war with Khartoum. After South Sudan won in-

## BISHOP ANDUDU ADAM ELNAIL, KADUGLI DIOCESE, TESTIFIES AT EMERGENCY HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE ON “A WAR OF HORROR”...., cont’d.

dependence in July, Southern Kordofan remained under the control of the government of Khartoum.

“We are not alone calling for the international community to help us, but all the people in the world,” the bishop pleaded. “We are calling for real action in the region of Nuba Mountains and other marginalized areas.”

Africa specialist, Bradford Phillips, Director of the Persecution Project, which works with repressed populations said, “It is essential that the international community

bring pressure to bear on the United Nations to immediately declare a humanitarian emergency in the Nuba Mountains and impose a no-fly zone to stop the bombing campaign and allow humanitarian access.”

Congressman Frank Wolf (R) railed at what he saw as U.S. inaction. “The U.N. has failed. These are war criminals. They’re war criminals. That’s it.” ☒

## FROM BEYOND THE RIVERS OF KUSH... GIFTS WILL BE BROUGHT

BY THE REV. JAMES TOMKINS - FOUNDER  
RIVERS OF KUSH TRADING COMPANY



In May of this year, Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail, Diocese of Kadugli in South Kordofan, Sudan, arrived at my home in Covington, LA. We had arranged for him to come to the States for urgent medical care. We were soon to learn that his Cathedral and home were destroyed, his friends

shot and beaten, and his beloved Nuba Mountains were being bombed. The Muslim government of President Al-Bashir had decided to once again reign down terror on innocent civilians. Tens of thousands fled to the mountain hideouts without food or water. Genocide is the goal, stopping at nothing until all black Africans, Christian or Muslim, are exterminated. Up to now, the bombing continues.

I first met Bishop Andudu as a newly-ordained Deacon at the Diocese of Louisiana annual convention in May 2004. In October 2004, God offered me a unique experience that only He could have orchestrated. My family and I were attending Holy Spirit Church in Baton Rouge, LA, while I prepared for ordination to the Diaconate. At that time, a third of the church was Sudanese refugees. Twenty years of genocide in Sudan had taken its toll on each of the families

represented in the pews. They sat together, not because of segregation, but for the sense of community these displaced Christians so desperately needed.

My family and I were welcomed into the Sudanese community, and our two children attended the Sudanese Camp each summer. As our friendships grew, our love for the people of the Nuba Mountains grew as well. It was then that one man, George Tuto, asked me to help him get home to Nuba. He had not seen his mother in twenty years. Funds were raised, and I got all the necessary shots in preparation for the trip. But, nothing could have prepared me for what awaited me on the other side of the world.

George and I first flew into Uganda. After a twelve-hour bus ride to Kenya, we picked up Bishop Andudu’s wife and George’s sister and proceeded to buy our way onto a U.N. plane going to Koda in the Nuba Mountains. At every border we had to offer an “incentive” to allow us to pass. I soon began to understand that George and I were sneaking into the area not yet under a peace treaty that would be signed in 2005.

Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers, with guns at their sides, accompanied us along the journey. I thought the weapons were for the notorious cobras! That was the first trip a “white” clergy had made into the area in over twenty years. I have returned many times, one trip extend-



## FROM BEYOND THE RIVERS OF KUSH...GIFTS WILL BE BROUGHT..., cont'd.

ing into eight months. Bishop Andudu and I became strong friends during those trips as we worked together to help his people.

Back in the U.S., a group was praying and helping to plan business ventures to assist the people with sale of their raw products, like Gum Arabic. A non-profit, Rivers of Kush Trading Company (RoK Trading), was formed, and just when everything was looking optimistic, the war broke out. Now, RoK Trading is poised to help the persecuted in

another way: to spread the word of the atrocities.

To help Bishop Andudu, please contact him at [bpkadugli@gmail.com](mailto:bpkadugli@gmail.com). I can be contacted at 985-801-9113. The people of the Nuba Mountains need our help.

Rivers of Kush Trading Company website:  
<http://www.roktradingco.com>

## ARCHBISHOP DANIEL DENG BUL VISITS THE DIOCESES OF TWIC EAST & NZARA

REPORTED BY THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE ECS  
[www.sudan.anglican.org/provincevisits.php](http://www.sudan.anglican.org/provincevisits.php)

HOLY WEEK, APRIL 21-25, 2011

DIOCESE OF TWIC EAST

**O**n Maundy Thursday, April 21, The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop of the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), along with a provincial delegation that included Bishops Joseph Garang Atem (Renk), Micah Laila (Terekeka), Paul Yagusuk (Torit), and support staff, arrived in Maar, the see of the Diocese of Twic East, in Jonglei State, approximately 170 miles from Juba. Bishop Ezekiel Diing, senior clergy and other members of the diocese waited along the side of the road to greet their guests.

Two missions called them together. The first was to observe the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. However, the second was a mission concerning conflict resolution and reconciliation within the community.

Over two days, the committee for the community of Twic East held a conference to address the problems of Twic East, including violence between members of the 'Anglican Church of the Sudan' from Ayual and Dachuek clans that resulted in the deaths of 21 people. Clarification to the committee on the breakaway groups from the ECS was another item on the agenda.

The call for communal reconciliation and clarification aptly coincided with a time that Christians around the world



traditionally remember Christ's triumph over death and their reconciliation to Christ through His death on the cross. Thus, it was very significant that Archbishop Daniel and the delegation were able to stay in Twic East during this period.

On Good Friday, the group headed north to greet the Christians in parishes along the way to Wanglei. The first stop was at Paliau, the hometown of Bishop Joseph Garang Atem. The bishops received greetings by the roadside and marched to shelter under a tree next to Paliau parish. Bishop Joseph addressed the crowd in an emotional sermon expressing his joy to be back in his hometown after more than 20 years away. He instructed the congregation to pray

## ARCHBISHOP DANIEL DENG BUL VISITS THE DIOCESES OF TWIC EAST & NZARA cont'd.

with full hearts this Easter for a spirit of peace and forgiveness.

He shared a folktale about the rat threatened to be killed by the farmer. He sought help from the ox, who responded, "This is not my problem. I cannot help you." All the animals he approached for help, gave him the same response, until in the end all were killed in a series of events, even the farmer who was trying to kill the rat in the beginning of the story. Bishop Joseph explained the small problem of one person or a few people that is not resolved properly can come to everyone; therefore, it is very important for the people in the Diocese of Twic East to make an effort to respect and understand one another, to come to each other's aid for the good of all.

In Wanglei, the birthplace of Archbishop Daniel, the late Dr. John Garang and his wife, Mama Rebecca Nyandeng, and Bishop Hilary Garang, the Archbishop reminded the people that Holy Communion would be taken on Easter Sunday and those intending to take part should work on forgiving those who may have grieved them.

Holy Saturday was a day committed to the Twic East Conference on Peaceful Coexistence and Development, wherein the very people who had been affected by violence were addressing their own peaceful coexistence and development. This quality made for a very engaging debate, with a great significance placed on resolutions. Go to [www.sudan.anglican.org/provincevisits.php](http://www.sudan.anglican.org/provincevisits.php) for details of this important conference.

On Easter Sunday, over 1500 gathered to celebrate in Wanglei parish. Although the people had much to be sad about with the recent fighting and deaths in their area, the morning was spent in reverence and praise of Jesus Christ and His mighty resurrection. Bishop Micah called upon pastors, most of them untrained, "to ask the Spirit to educate you". He called upon the chiefs of the area to "know your own people. You cannot discipline them after they have fought, if you don't know them."

Following the final blessing given by the delegation of bishops, the congregation processed out of the church to two cars outside. The bishops were requested to pray over the vehicles. The owner was a young man who had suffered many calamities trying to build his car dealership. One car

had knocked down a pedestrian breaking his legs, another killed a goat, the key to a third car he had bought was lost and not found, and the fourth car overturned with 13 people inside, only injuring himself. Bishop Paul bound the young man and his business partners with his stole and prayed for them with the priests. With this, the crowd dispersed, and the youth began to dance bringing a joyous conclusion to the visit.

Visit the ECS website for an account of the return journey to Malakal by that delegation. It is harrowing. [www.sudan.anglican.org/provincevisits.php](http://www.sudan.anglican.org/provincevisits.php)

### DEDICATIONS & THANKSGIVINGS, MAY 7-10, 2011 DIOCESE OF NZARA

Nzara is just over a year old, and in that time major reno-



vations and construction have meant that Nzara can now boast a clinic, a youth and training center, a house for the bishop, diocesan offices, five guest tukuls and other buildings that will be put to use for the benefit of the diocese. The Rt. Rev. Samuel Peni has spearheaded this development with support from the Diocese of Iowa, St. Timothy's Parish, W. Des Moines, IA, individual donors, and The Rev. and Mrs. Robert North, Volunteers for Mission of The Episcopal Church (TEC) serving in Nzara. The diocese has two archdeaconries. It won't be long before every corner of Nzara will see significant development.

Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul led the delegation that in-

## ARCHBISHOP DANIEL DENG BUL VISITS THE DIOCESES OF TWIC EAST & NZARA cont'd.

cluded Bishops Paul Yugusuk (Torit), Peter Munde (Yambio), and support staff. In All Saints' Cathedral, Yambio, Diocesan Secretary, Joseph, gave a welcoming message on behalf of the Christians of Yambio. Bishop Peter affirmed the sentiments, encouraging Archbishop Daniel to "feel free as this (was his) place". And, the Archbishop responded with praise and gratitude to the church and the governor, Joseph Bakosoro. He said, "God has given the people of Western Equatoria a good governor". Then, he cautioned the government, telling them that the good people of Western Equatoria State are a 'watch-dog', therefore the government should continue to do good work and ground their endeavors on the fear of God.

Dedications began the following day with prayers outside Nzara Cathedral, starting with prayers and processions around the buildings to be dedicated -- the bishop's residence, the diocesan offices, the youth and training center, the five guest tukuls, and finally Grace House and Compound. Each building was circled three times in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, returning to the Cathedral for the rest of the service.

The Archbishop's message was on the importance of hard work and working together. He encouraged the congregation that God was with them; therefore it was important that they organize themselves and their wealth in order to rebuild their land. The governor noted that ECS' development was most conspicuous along the road from Nzara to Juba where ECS schools and churches can be spotted but every few miles.

Monday morning was devoted to the dedication of the health center and the blessing of the foundation for 'St. Timothy's' pre-school, beginning with song, procession and prayers. In the evening, Archbishop Daniel and the delegation made their way back to Yambio with Bishop Samuel, where another service was held with the youth.

Governor Bakosoro hosted the delegation at a banquet at his official residence. Bishop Peter opened with remarks, affirming the strong relationship between the Church and government, and reminding everyone that the biggest threat to the Church was the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). "It is for us to rebuild our nation and our churches together."

The Speaker of the Western Equatoria State Legislative Assembly, Rt. Hon. Edward Bokulu spoke to the insecurity in the northern part of W. Equatoria caused by clashes between agronomists and pastoralists, arguing that the senseless killing of human beings over animals was unbiblical and went against the order set by God with the creation of man. Archbishop Daniel encouraged all the politicians and citizens to read Ezekiel 34 to learn the qualities of a good and godly leader and to work cooperatively.

As the delegation prepared to depart for Juba the next day, they learned their flight was cancelled. The Governor immediately secured a car and driver, along with a police escort, to ensure their safe return to Juba. This final act of kindness was exemplary of the willingness of Governor Bakosoro and other government officials to serve their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Long may this spirit of love and benevolence survive.

*From Fr. Bob North, missionary in Nzara...*

*In a real sense, it is what goes on in the buildings that is what is truly important. Sunday and everyday worship, hours in planning meetings and numerous workshops are the order of the day. Since the building of the training center, there have been workshops for lay readers, evangelists (48) and clergy. Forty-two health outreach workers have been trained. The first session of an agricultural outreach program is completed, an AIDS/HIV discrimination program was started, and 32 women are trained to operate sewing machines. It is a wonderful privilege for Karen and myself to be here to help the dreams of the people of God be fashioned into reality.*





# ENTHRONEMENT OF NEW BISHOP OF SALISBURY

EXCERPTED FROM JONATHAN BALL, BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN & PRESS OFFICER  
AND SUDAN CHURCH REVIEW

The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Roderick Holtam, consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Salisbury at St. Paul's Cathedral, July 22, will be enthroned at Salisbury Cathedral, Saturday, October 15. Among the many guests and dignitaries attending will be Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) Daniel Deng Bul and his wife, Mama Deborah Abuk Atem.

As Bishop of Salisbury Diocese, Bishop Holtam will serve as Vice President of The Sudan Church Association, which mission is to promote and maintain prayerful interest in and support of the Province of the ECS. According to The Rev. Canon Ian Woodward, Vice Chairman of the Salisbury-Sudan Link, the Diocese has walked with the ECS as partners since it was set up by Bishop George Reindorp in 1972, being joined later by the Diocese of Bradford. Salisbury-Sudan Link works closely with Christian Aid, Tearfund and ecumenical non-governmental organizations (NGO's).

Salisbury-Sudan Link continues to support the ECS through funding of theological education and schools, and by providing medical care through clinics in many of the ECS dioceses. It also funds a variety of projects and responds to disaster relief, and has facilitated meetings for the Archbishop with the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams, the U.K. Prime Minister's offices on Downing Street, the U.N. and the State Department in Washington. It promoted the completion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and encourages ongoing support from



the international community.

Canon Woodward urges that support be sustained as Sudan emerges from the ravages of war and neglect. "It is in everybody's interest that both North and South Sudan live in peace and growing prosperity. Our energy and prayers and love continue for all the people of Sudan."

(*Sudan Church Review* is published by The Sudan Church Association. [www.sca.ismysite.co.uk](http://www.sca.ismysite.co.uk))

## COMINGS & GOINGS, ETC.

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

### JULY 2-SEPTEMBER 9

Project Education Sudan sponsors the Climb for Sudan to raise funds in support of its mission to build schools and hope in South Sudan. Mountain climbers and lifetime friends, Joe Rogers and Nick Spivey, are dedicating their climb to the "Lost Boys" and people of Sudan. Visit the website at [www.climbforsudan.org](http://www.climbforsudan.org). PES supports schools in three rural villages in Jonglei State.

### SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 18

Bishop Joseph Garang Atem and Chief Bior Kuir Aguer Deng (Chairman of the House of Laity), Diocese of Renk, will travel to partner dioceses, Chicago and Virginia, meeting with partners and Sudanese communities. Contact: Canon Jackie Kraus, [kraus.jackie@yahoo.com](mailto:kraus.jackie@yahoo.com)

## COMINGS & GOINGS, ETC., cont'd.

### OCTOBER 15-NOVEMBER 4

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop of the ECS, and his wife, Mama Deborah Abuk Atem, will attend the enthronement of the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Roderick Holtam, consecrated Bishop of Salisbury, July 22. Enthronement will be Oct. 15, in Salisbury Cathedral. Archbishop Daniel and Mama Deborah will also travel to the Diocese of VA, U.S. Contact: Richard Parkins, [parkinsr@gmail.com](mailto:parkinsr@gmail.com)

### AFRECS & GENERAL CONVENTION 2012

The Board of AFRECS announces plans to focus on being a presence at the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) in Indianapolis in July 2012. When delegates and visitors gather in Indianapolis in 2012, AFRECS will be there. Planning is underway to broaden our participation at the Convention so the wider Church will learn more about Sudan and its faithful people; discover ways of connecting with them as citizens of two new nations, as well as journeying with those whose desire for peace remains unfulfilled. Periodic updates will be provided as plans unfold. You can be involved by offering to volunteer your time and

talent...contact Connie Fegley, [conniefegley@yahoo.com](mailto:conniefegley@yahoo.com).

LARRY DUFFEE, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH (TEC) MISSIONARY IN JUBA wrote about the ECS and the Two Sudans. Find it on <http://www.afrecs.org> home page.

### LISTEN TO THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF SOUTH SUDAN

On July 9, 2011, South Sudan officially gained independence, becoming the 193rd country in the world and the 55th country in Africa. Its flag flies among all member flags of the U.N. To hear the national anthem and view the Coat of Arms and the flag, go to the official website of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, <http://splmtoday.com>.

### SUBSCRIBE TO AFRECS E-BLASTS TODAY

For up-to-date weekly E-Blasts, which provide the most current news in and about Sudan, send an email to [AFRECS\\_E-Blasts@afrecs.org](mailto:AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org) with 'SUBSCRIBE' in the subject line. For more information about AFRECS, visit our website [www.afrecs.org](http://www.afrecs.org) or our Facebook page.

## States of Southern Sudan - representative

