

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2006

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2



AFRECS - AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN



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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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All photos in this issue were taken by mission team members from the Diocese of Chicago on their February, 2005 trip to their companion diocese of Renk.



For submissions to Sudan Connections: Send information to Debra Andrew Maconaughey at downtime66@hotmail.com

The AFRECS conference is coming up soon!

Are you registered yet? Do you have your hotel and air reservations? There are two other conferences in San Jose that week so don't wait until the very last moment. Please note that in order to ensure effective planning for our 150-200 conference attendees, we've had to impose a late fee of \$25 for every registration after Feb 1st. (See page 7 for registration information.)

What an array of talent will be there conference weekend!

- Brian D'Silva of USAID – economist and Sudan expert
- Andrew Natsios, Director of USAID – We are hoping he will accept our invitation
- The Rev. Enock Tombe – Provincial Secretary of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- Harriet Baka Nathan – Trainer for the Mother's Union
- Charles Barker – negotiation strategist from CMI Concord Group and consultant to the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- Michael Kavane, recent author of a book on Economic Development in Sudan
- Sudanese men and women who are leaders in Sudanese communities all over the USA

Workshops featuring:

- Mobilizing Americans to Assist in Darfur
- Theological Education in Sudan: Recent Developments
- Online Theological Education: Possibilities

- History of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- Discussion of the Peace Process in Sudan: Practically Speaking
- Authors Mark Bixler of the Atlantic Constitution (*The Lost Boys of Sudan*) and Judy Bernstein (*They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky*)
- The Rev. Grant LeMarquand, author of a book on the Rev. Marc Nikkel, to be released January, 2006
- How to Engineer Your Story (How to Get Your Story in Print)



- Sudanese Women in America: Challenges and Successes
- Worshipping Side by Side: Evolving Sudanese Congregations

Circulate the conference materials and tell people everywhere about the conference. And don't forget to send in the \$50 membership fee as well.

God's peace,

Nancy Frank

Executive Director

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Salva Kiir in Washington, D.C.



November 5, 2005

Having exchanged his combat fatigues for a gray double-breasted suit and conservative tie, John Garang's successor as First Vice-President of Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, made his first official visit to Washington this week. Besides meetings with Vice President Cheney and the directors of The World Bank and The International Monetary Fund, the former Sudan People's Liberation Army commander also spoke to an overflow crowd at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars.

Implementation of the January 9, 2005, Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is moving too slowly, Kiir said, but in the right direction. He acknowledged with wry candor that many southern Sudanese are dissatisfied with "paying for peace with oil" – referring to the CPA provision for sharing 50-50 with the Government of National Unity the revenue from oil produced in the south. They also complain that, among the 28% of ministerial portfolios assigned to them by the CPA, they did not get the Ministry of Energy.

"We have something better," interjected Lual A. Deng, an Episcopal layman now serving in Khartoum as State Minister of Finance and National Economy. "The National Petroleum Commission, which will let contracts and allo-

cate oil royalties, is made up of the President of Sudan, the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, four members of the National Congress Party, four from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, and three independent members from the oil-producing regions. We expect to have eight out of thirteen votes in this Commission."

Under the Interim National Constitution adopted July 9, 2005, Kiir has succeeded John Garang as First Vice-President. Ustaz Ali Taha, the chief negotiator of the peace agreement for the former Government of Sudan, continues as Second Vice-President.

Jemera Rone of Human Rights Watch asked why President Omar al Bashir, having failed to halt the devastation of civilians in Darfur, doesn't recuse himself from presiding over the Organization of African Unity when Sudan's turn comes next year. Kiir replied that the Head of State will not step aside. To a delegation from STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur), he held out the hope that applicable parts of the CPA with the south might become a model for a settlement with the Darfur rebels. The SPLM will join the government delegation to the seventh round of peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, on November 20.

Salva Kiir in Washington, D.C., con't.



Economic sanctions against Sudan were renewed this week by the President of the United States, despite a plea from Kiir for some loosening. “I helped destroy the rail line to Wau when it was being used in the war against us. Now I am asking that spare parts for the railroad and barges should be reclassified as humanitarian goods. We need these means of transport to assist our four million internally displaced people in returning home.”

As President of the interim Government of Southern Sudan, Kiir pointed out that his capital, Juba, more resembles a village than a city. Food production and clean water are

lacking across the region. “Rather than reconstruction,” said Kiir, “think of southern Sudan as one large construction site.” In the absence of reliable public channels to administer the aid pledged last April in Oslo – none has been paid yet – Kiir is asking The World Bank, the IMF, and the governments of Norway, Italy, and other countries to lend interim administrative staff.

As Kiir left the auditorium for additional meetings with officials and with Sudanese resettled in the USA, he was greeted by well-wishers, including American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan board members Anita Sanborn and me. I came away encouraged by his energy, witty understatement, and thorough grasp of details of government and diplomacy. AFRECS will have to consider our response to the plain words of this tall, bearded soldier-turned-statesman: “Reliable and transparent channels for the administration of reconstruction aid are absent in Sudan.” Can our churches offer one reliable and transparent channel?”

Richard J. Jones

President

American Friends of the
Episcopal Church of Sudan

Resettlement Web Page to Launch in New Year

How can I set up a car donation program to benefit the Sudanese congregation at my church? What legal resources are available to help with immigration issues? Where can I find affordable instruction in Dinka?

One of the many benefits of an organization like AFRECS is that it can facilitate the sharing of valuable information among parishes hosting Sudanese congregations or home to significant numbers of Sudanese. In the coming weeks, the Resettlement Committee of AFRECS will be setting up a page on

the AFRECS web site dedicated to the sharing of best practices in resettlement issues. This page will be a forum for the posting of questions about how best to support our Sudanese friends in our parishes in the United States, and a message board for helpful ideas and resources. Look for the page on the AFRECS web site in January.



For more information, contact the Rev. Poulson Reed at poulson@sjc.den.org.

Second Annual AFRECS Conference February 17-19, 2006 San José, California



The Second Annual AFRECS Conference will be held at

Trinity Cathedral in San José, California, on President's Day weekend, February 17-19, 2006.

Follow the links below to learn more about the meeting, membership and lodging information.

[Conference Invitation from AFRECS Executive Director](#)

[Conference Registration Form](#)

[Lodging information](#)

[Become a member of AFRECS](#)

If you need more information about the conference, please contact us: info@afrecs.org.



Nancy Frank, Executive Director of AFRECS,

and Fritz Gilbert, Treasurer of AFRECS, will be representing AFRECS in Juba, Southern Sudan, at the Provincial Synod of the Episcopal Church of Sudan meeting held from January 23-29th. If you need immediate answers to questions about AFRECS, please contact Dr. Richard Jones, President of AFRECS, at rjones@vts.edu or officemanager@afrecs.org. Nancy and Fritz will be out of the United States from January 16-Feb 3.