

AFRECS

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans

Annual Impact Report 2019



WELCOME

AFRECS is very pleased to present its 2019 Annual Impact Report. The past year was one of intensifying relationship with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, expanded programming in education and trauma healing, and transition to new leadership.

The American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans, founded in 2005, is a network of individuals, churches, and other organizations. We collaborate with the Episcopal churches of South Sudan and Sudan in the promotion of a peaceful and just society through expansion of the beloved community. Please visit our website at <https://afreecs.org>.

We think you will agree that AFRECS' expanded impact in the past year has laid the groundwork for a more targeted contribution to faithful people in South Sudan and Sudan in the current year, including the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. We urge your strong moral and financial support.

ABOUT US

AFRECS is an organization of individuals, churches, and partners who care deeply about the struggles of the Sudanese people. Together we work for healing, peace, justice, and a brighter future.



ORPHAN SCHOOL NEAR JUBA

AFRECS has been the leading donor and partner for a school created and organized by John Gatteck, the Episcopal Bishop of Bentiu, for children at the Protection of Civilians Camp No. 3 (POC3) near Juba. In 2013 the inhabitants of Bentiu, including many children who had lost one or both parents, fled some 600 miles to the camp. The school for orphans between the ages of 5 and 15 expanded to serve 150 children this past year. Test results in 2019 showed that the children were generally performing better than their peers in other parts of South Sudan. UNICEF began supplying curriculum materials to the school late in the year. In 2019 AFRECS provided over \$27,000 to support teachers, curricula and food for children, as well sending kids' clothes mobilized in Northern Virginia.



TRAUMA HEALING IN RENK

In March 2019 AFRECS informed the Five Talents organization that we would work with them on trauma healing in Renk, capital of Upper Nile in South Sudan. Five Talents is a faith-based NGO working in South Sudan and 20 other developing countries. Five Talents, working with the dynamic Episcopal Bishop of Renk, Joseph Garang Atem, has assembled savings groups of women and young men, who get literacy, numeracy and basic finance training as a base for mobilizing savings for

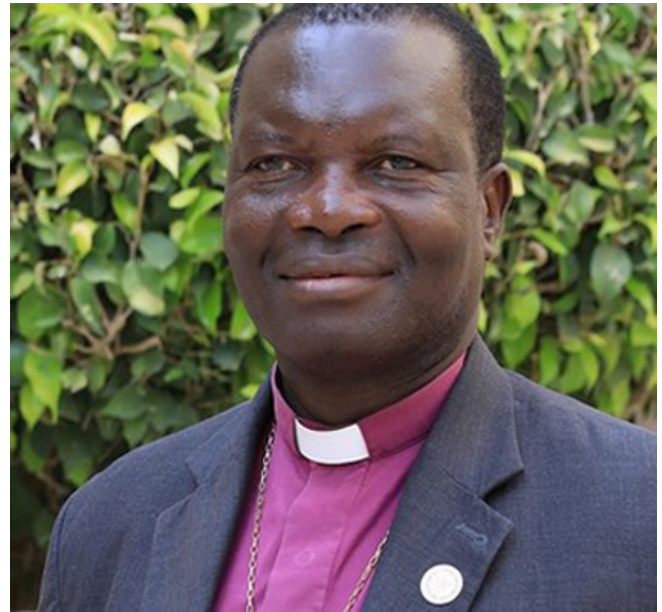
small business activities. Working with the Episcopal Justice Peace and Reconciliation Commission, AFRECS and Five Talents have introduced trauma healing into the training. Because most South Sudanese have experienced trauma as a result of long years of civil war, violence since independence and horrendous incidence of rape of women and girls, trauma healing is a chronic demand. AFRECS is expanding its financial contribution to this pilot project in 2020.



PHOTO: Savings group meeting under a thorn tree.

US VISIT OF THE EPISCOPAL PRIMATE

Archbishop Justin Badi Arama, who became South Sudan Episcopal Primate in 2018, visited the United States in August / September 2019, at the invitation of AFRECS. He met in Washington DC with Ambassador Tibor Nagy, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Ramsey Day, Acting Administrator of USAID for Africa, and Congressional officials. He visited the Diocese of Albany and addressed the conference of the South Sudan Diaspora Network in Lexington VA (*see below*). He held meetings with Episcopal Church leaders and a number of U.N. officials in New York. AFRECS has developed a very positive and mutually supportive relationship with Archbishop Justin, who is playing a positive peacebuilding role in his country.



NEW EPISCOPAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH SUDAN

On December 18, 2019, the Archbishop laid the foundation stone for the new Episcopal University of South Sudan (EUSS) in Rokon, near Juba in Central Equatoria State. The University brings together in one institution — with separate campuses — Bishop Gwynne College in Juba, Renk Theological College, Archbishop Ngalamu Theological College (ATNC) in Mundri, Chaima Christian Institute at Maridi, and the Kajo Keji Christian College. The Kajo Keji institution has been operating in Moyo in northern Uganda since the residents of Kajo Keji were forced

to flee in 2017. Archbishop Justin is Chancellor of the new university, and AFRECS' good friend, the Rev. Joseph Bilal, is Deputy Vice Chancellor. The University is looking for an experienced Vice Chancellor. The new university will contribute significantly to reducing the large number of university aspirants with no place to enroll. It will not only train prospective pastors, but offer degrees in a variety of fields. The Archbishop has requested scholarship support from AFRECS, which we are providing in 2020.

IN 2019 SOUTH SUDAN REMAINED VIOLENT AND LAWLESS DESPITE OVERALL PEACE

Since the signature of a peace agreement in September 2018, South Sudan has been somewhat more peaceful overall, but violence and lawlessness were still pervasive. Clashes continued to occur between government forces and rebel groups not signatory to the agreement. Ethnic clashes occurred in Jonglei and Western Equatoria. Slow implementation of the agreement created tensions and a sense that peace was fragile, but large-scale

confrontations between Dinka and Nuer, the two largest ethnic groups, ceased. Criminal violence, including sexual assaults on women and girls, remained commonplace. Travel by road in many parts of the country is still hazardous. This violence and insecurity created huge impediments to church leaders and laity, who have persisted in their reconciliation and peacebuilding work.



AFRECS FACILITATES DIASPORA CONFERENCE IN VIRGINIA

Grace Episcopal Church in Lexington VA hosted “Uniting the Diaspora to Act for Peace,” a successful conference over Labor Day week-end. It was convened by a courageous group of seven South Sudanese diaspora leaders with AFRECS assistance. The idea for the conference came from the 2016 appeal of the Chair of the South Sudan Council of Churches that the Diaspora should exercise restraint on the inter-ethnic hate speech being promoted on social media. The leaders received support from Jacqueline Wilson, an expert experienced in trauma healing and reconciliation with years of service at the US Institute of Peace. A total of 68 registrants from places ranging from Boston to Denver shared personal experiences of stereotyping, physical insecurity and homelessness. The meeting ended with a pledge to promote harmony among South Sudan ethnic communities and to oppose



hate speech online and at home. Archbishop Justin issued a ringing summons to peacemakers, and interim executive director Dane Smith emphasized Jesus’ condemnation of hate speech in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:22).

A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN SUDAN

Months of peaceful protests by civil society groups in multiple cities led to the overthrow of Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Beshir on April 11 by the Sudanese military. Demonstrations continued, even after a massacre of more than 100 protesters on June 2, until a transitional government was formed under civilian Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, with oversight by a Sovereign Council led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan. That government was recognized by the United States and other governments. It has struggled to get needed economic assistance from the West because of (a)



the slow process of removing Sudan from the US Congress list of State Supporters of Terrorism and (b) ineligibility for IMF and World Bank support because of massive unpaid debts to those institutions.

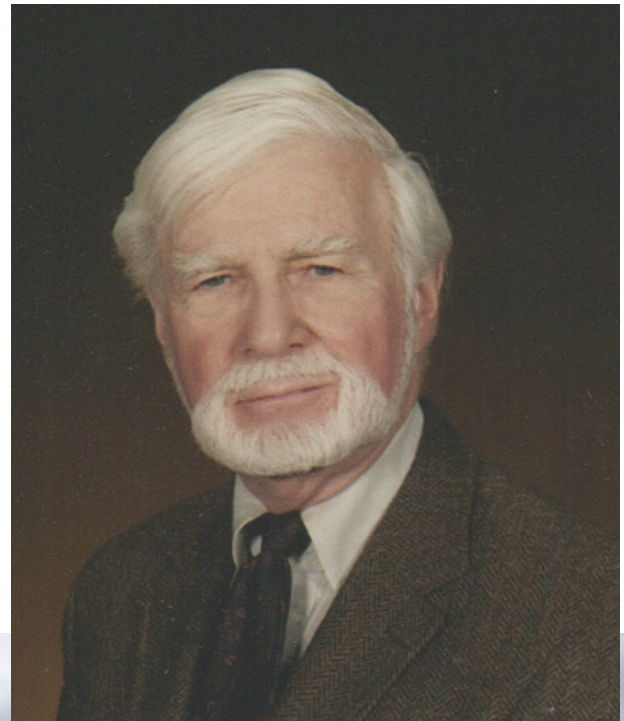
The transitional government launched negotiations in Juba with rebel groups from South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur.

The transitional government has affirmed freedom of religion. Sudanese Christians, including the five dioceses of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, have celebrated the new

openness. Shukai Training Institute in Omdurman has acquired a new classroom and has launched a literacy program for women.

DEATH OF RICHARD PARKINS

A FRECS suffered a serious blow in September with the death of its long-time Executive Director, Richard Parkins, after a short illness. Richard worked up to the end and received a visit by Archbishop Justin in hospital just days before his passing. Richard is mourned by his many friends in Sudan and South Sudan and by legions of friends in the Episcopal Church. A number of friends made financial contributions in his memory. Board member Dane Smith stepped in as Executive Director.



AFRECS BOARD MEMBERS

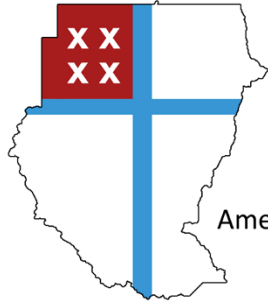
Philip H. Darrow, President
Steven Miles, Vice President
Bradshaw Langmaid, Jr., Treasurer
Anita Sanborn, Secretary
Frederick E. Gilbert, Assistant Treasurer
Gwinneth Clarkson
The Rev. Frederick Houghton
The Rev. James Hubbard
The Rev. Richard J. Jones
Caroline Klam
Dane F. Smith Jr., Executive Director



FINANCIAL

AFRECS ASSETS	Actual 12/31/18	Actual 12/31/19
Total Checking & Savings	30,947	29,033
Expenses		
Part I - Operations		
A. National Programs	49,300	33,069
B. International Programs		
Orphan School	23,090	27,050
Renk Trauma Healing	0	7,000
Episcopal University	20,000	
Pastoral Training	18,000	
Other Activities	570	200
Total	61,660	34,250
<u>Total Part I Operations</u>	<u>95,581</u>	<u>67,319</u>
Part II - Administration	9,172	12,641
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>104,753</u>	<u>79,780</u>
Part III - Revenue		
Members	3,822	1,624
Grants	500	0
Board Member Contributions	35,460	31,485
Conference Revenue	4,382	4,000
Other Undesignated Donations	36,460	15,257
Donations for Archbishop	0	5,000
<u>Total General Donations</u>	<u>80,206</u>	<u>57,366</u>
Designated Donations		
Orphan School	15,000	13,500
Renk	550	7,000
Episcopal University		
Pastoral Training	5,000	
Third Party Transfer	341	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>101,097</u>	<u>77,866</u>

Form 990 can be viewed on our Guidestar Profile



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GIVE TO AFRECS!

Please help AFRECS to expand its impact in 2020, as it adapts its educational and trauma mitigation programs to the challenge of COVID-19.

Give online at <https://afrecs.org>

or send a check to:

AFRECS
PO Box 3327
Alexandria VA 22302

AFRECS is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

