

AFRECS

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans

Annual Impact Report 2020



WELCOME

AFRECS is very pleased to present its 2020 Annual Impact Report. Despite the impact of COVID-19 on Africa and the United States, AFRECS was able to maintain — and in some instances expand — its programs in education and trauma healing in South Sudan and Sudan, while providing special emergency assistance. With the exception of travel early in the year by Executive Director Dane Smith, the usual visits of AFRECS Board members to the two countries and of Sudanese Episcopal leaders to the US could not take place. Contact was maintained, nevertheless, via email, WhatsApp and sometimes Zoom.

The American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans, founded in 2005, is a network of individuals, churches, dioceses, 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' capacity to maintain and grow its program during the pandemic



provides a strong basis for a more targeted contribution to God's faithful people in South Sudan and Sudan in 2021. We urge your strong moral and financial support.



VISIT TO THE SUDANS

In January 2020 AFRECS Executive Director Dane Smith spent two weeks in South Sudan and Sudan. In Juba he called on the Episcopal Primate, Archbishop Justin Badi Arama, as well as the leadership of the South Sudan Council of Churches. He met with leading officials of the Episcopal Justice Peace and Reconciliation Commission - its leader Archbishop Samuel Peni Enosa and National Coordinator Stephen Mayeun Mou. He also consulted Joseph Bilal, Acting Vice Chancellor of the new Episcopal University of South Sudan (EUSS) and Samuel Galuak Marial, leader of Bishop Gwynne College, the flagship institution of the EUSS. He handed over to Bishop John Gatteck children's clothing collected in Northern Virginia by AFRECS Vice President Steven Miles and consulted with Gatteck at length on plans for expansion of the orphan school at the Protection of Civilians Camp (POC-3) near Juba.

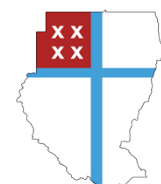
Dane then flew to Renk via UN Humanitarian Airways with Anne Figge, Coordinator of Five Talents' savings group projects in South Sudan. On the initiative of Bishop Joseph Garang Atem of Renk, Five Talents had created separate savings groups for women and male youth to mobilize finance for small business. Trauma healing instruction and conversation was introduced into the bi-monthly meetings of these groups. During five days in Renk, Anne and Dane spoke at length with Five Talents' crack trauma healing trainers Amer Deng Ayom and Ajak



PHOTO: Senior Province of Sudan Leaders (Archbishop Kondo on left)

John Manyang to refine the training approach. They also met with several different groups both in Renk and nearby areas.

Dane then flew to Khartoum, where he was able to spend a week-end meeting with Episcopal Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo and Provincial Secretary Canon Musa Abujam. He visited the Shukai Theological Institute in Omdurman, which boasts a new, recently constructed classroom, as well as church offices in Khartoum. Dane was grateful to be able to complete his visit before COVID-19 shut down international travel.



SOUTH SUDAN

Limited Progress on the Peace Agreement Coupled with Serious Inter-Communal Violence and Lawlessness

During 2020 the Government of South Sudan made slow progress toward implementing the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R/ARCSS). The cease-fire between the South Sudan Defense Forces and the opposition SPLM/IO continued, and State governments were appointed. However, progress toward unification of military forces halted. The camps where some forces were in cantonment lacked food, shelter, and medicines, and the troops began to drift away. The transitional national legislative assembly was not constituted, and the hybrid court, though authorized by the government, remained on the drawing board. Meanwhile violence flared between January and August in Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area among the Dinka, Murle, and Nuer populations, featuring killings, abductions, rape and cattle rustling. In Central Equatoria Gen. Thomas Cirillo, leader of the National Salvation Front, and a holdout from the R/ARCSS, agreed to a cease-fire during negotiations in Rome at the beginning of the year, but it fell apart a few months later, leading to government offensives which displaced many. The cease-fire was restored during negotiations in October, which continued into the new year. Armed violence against Ugandan and Kenyan truckers carrying goods into South Sudan also caused deaths, upsetting governments in Kampala and Nairobi. The Episcopal Church continued to work for peace at the local level in the absence of effective peacebuilding by the Government of South Sudan.



SUDAN

Khartoum Reached Agreement with Major Rebel Groups and Moved Toward Separating Religion and the State

Meanwhile in Sudan, the delicate balance continued between the Transitional Government led by Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and the Sovereignty Council led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan. Khartoum signed the Abraham Accords to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and was removed from the US Congress State Sponsor of Terrorism list, paving the way for resolution of Sudan's massive debt to the IMF and World Bank and for desperately needed new assistance. October marked the Juba Agreement bringing Darfuri and Blue Nile rebel movements into the government. A separate declaration

by Hamdok and Gen. al-Hilu, leader of rebels from the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan, affirmed a cease-fire and a roadmap toward a multi-ethnic democratic society with separation between religion and the state. Further progress on that roadmap in the current year leaves Darfur rebel Abdel Wahid al-Nur's Sudan Liberation Army/Movement as the lone holdout against Sudan's transition. The repudiation of the concept of Sudan as an Islamic state has been enthusiastically greeted by Sudanese Christians, including the Episcopal Church of Sudan.



AFRECS PROGRAM (SOUTH SUDAN): EDUCATING WAR ORPHANS

AFRECS' flagship program in South Sudan is support for the orphan school created by Bishop John Gatteck at the Protection of Civilians (POC-3) Camp near Juba (redesignated as an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp at the end of the year). The year 2020 marked our fourth year of support for the program which reached \$25,000. Those funds have supported funding for teachers and student lunches, while AFRECS also mobilized donations and shipping from the US of clothing for the children. Although schooling was shut down in South Sudan, including at the camp, between April and July, classes resumed in the last part of the year. Over the years the school has grown from 50 to 350 students, with slightly more girls than boys. AFRECS is seeking to help Bishop Gatteck find the resources to expand the school



Building a New Classroom

to 500 students in the coming year, the level at which it should be able to gain institutional support from UNICEF.



SOUTH SUDAN: HEALING SEVERE TRAUMA

In 2020 AFRECS consolidated its partnership with Five Talents in offering instruction and regular conversation about trauma healing to savings groups mobilized in Renk in Upper Nile State. At the initiative of Bishop Joseph Garang Atem of Renk Diocese, separate savings groups of women and male youth have been created by the Mothers Union and Five Talents to mobilize small amounts of savings for productive economic activity at the local level. The savings groups, which meet twice a month, begin with literacy and numeracy instruction, followed by micro-finance training. Trauma healing guidance from trained instructors and mutual dialogue is carried on as part of their meetings. Such



conversations have been proven to have immense value in helping participants deal with the intense pain of previous violence and loss and in unblocking economic activity. Although the program was shut down for four months because of COVID, 235 participants were trained in seven groups, which have begun meeting again. There is high demand for trauma mitigation training in South Sudan, and AFRECS hopes to expand its work with Five Talents in this sphere.

Photo: Trauma Healing Instruction under a Thorn Tree in Renk

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE (SOUTH SUDAN) COVID-19 RELIEF

In response to an urgent plea from the Primate's COVID-19 Task Force, AFRECS was able to mobilize \$3000 from friends and supporters to assist. The Task Force has concentrated on providing guidance to congregants about precautions for avoiding contamination through hand washing and social distancing, in some places purchasing bullhorns to publicize its instructions.



SOUTH SUDAN: THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

AFRECS conveyed to the newly formed Episcopal University of South Sudan \$5000 to support scholarship assistance for needy students from different parts of the country. The University broke ground for its new campus in Rokon, north of Juba, at the end of 2019. The University will provide an institutional umbrella for its component institutions – Bishop Gwynne College, Renk Theological Institute, St. John College of Theology and Development in Wau, Chaima Christian Institute in Maridi, and KajoKeji Christian College. AFRECS is working with Canon Joseph Bilal, Deputy Vice Chancellor, and with the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan University Partnership (ECSSSUP) to determine the best use of a bequest from AFRECS' late Executive Director Richard Parkins to support development of the University.



Rev. Joseph Bilal

Groundbreaking in Rokon



SPECIAL ASSISTANCE (SOUTH SUDAN): EMERGENCY RELIEF TO ATHOOCH DIOCESE

On July 27, 2020 at least 23 people were killed and 20 others were wounded when unidentified gunmen stormed an Episcopal church compound in Makol Chuei in the Diocese of Athooch in Jonglei state. The assailants killed the Dean, the Very Rev. Daniel Garang Ayuen, and 14 women and children who had sought refuge there, taking six children as hostages. They vandalized the church, destroying the worship instruments and then set the area ablaze. AFRECS mobilized \$2000 to assist Bishop Moses Anur Ayom of Athooch with re-building.



St. John's Cathedral Athooch before the Attack

SUDAN: SUPPORT FOR GIRL'S EDUCATION IN KADUGLI DIOCESE

AFRECS was instrumental in transferring funds to the Nuba Mountains (Sudan) for use in educating orphans and girls. The funds were contributed in support of the efforts of the Rev. Dr. Oja (Ayyoubawaga) Gafour who served the Sudanese community in the Diocese of Colorado for many years. Fr. Oja died in 2019 before the funds, held in trust by the Colorado Episcopal Foundation, could be transferred. He had a lifelong reverence for and commitment to education and had long

been concerned about the children of his native Nuba Mountains. AFRECS Board member, Anita Sanborn and Executive Director Dane Smith relied on long standing relationships with Rt. Rev. Andudu El Nail, Bishop of Kadugli, to transmit the funds. The project includes pay for teachers at a middle school with a majority of girls and provides for reusable sanitary pads for girls who would otherwise be skipping several days a month of schooling during their menstrual periods.

SUDANESE DIASPORA

Activities of the Diaspora in the United State have been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. Diaspora members have seemed tenuously connected. An Episcopal Church Task Force appointed by the General Convention on Dialogue with the South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora to bring together church leaders and Diaspora representatives was unable to meet in 2020. A number of AFRECS Board members and supporters have remained in touch individually with South Sudanese located in the US and will pursue greater engagement when public health conditions permit. A key member of the Diaspora – and a friend of AFRECS – Sarah Cleto Rial, was appointed Governor of Western Bahr al-Ghazal State in June 2020.



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

In 2020 AFRECS expanded its relationship with the Episcopal Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP). Its over 200 members include parishes, cathedrals, seminaries, conference centers, and other ministries. At the invitation of CEEP Network Executive Director Joe Swimmer, AFRECS was the focus of a November 11 CEEP Webinar. It featured the Rev. Joseph Bilal, Acting Vice Chancellor of the Episcopal University of Southern Sudan, AFRECS President Phil Darrow, and Jackie Kraus of St. Michael's Episcopal, Barrington IL and a member of the Diaspora Task Force (mentioned below). It was moderated by Executive Director Dane Smith. The video shown at the Webinar was given wider circulation by the CEEP Network and by AFRECS.

In 2020 AFRECS also made bi-monthly E-Blasts (electronic reports) the center of its communication efforts. Although our Sudan Connections publication from past years continues to be available on our website, the E-Blast provides more timely updates on what AFRECS is doing and on relevant news from Sudan and South Sudan. It is a very useful source of information on matters of concern to South Sudanese and Sudanese Christians and their international friends and on the evolving AFRECS program. If you are not receiving the E-Blast and would like to get on our electronic mailing list, please contact AFRECS Office Manager Susan Jones at susanpmjones@gmail.com.

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

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Richard Parkins (bequest)

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Colorado Episcopal Foundation
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Susan Bentley
Ann Copp
James Darrow
Jean Emery
Dwane Huebner
Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire
(Continued on Next Page)



BOARD NEWS

AFRECS was delighted to welcome Caroline Klam, James A. Hubbard, Thomas H. Staal and Lawrence R. Duffee to the Board. Caroline recently retired from leadership work with for profit and non-profits firms, most recently as a Senior Director of the Red Cross. She is an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Washington DC. James is an Episcopal priest who served parishes in various states, most recently in Virginia. He was at one time principal of a school for psychologically disturbed youth. Tom, who worked in Khartoum with World Vision and USAID in the 1970s and 1980s, served as USAID Mission Director in Ethiopia and Iraq, before assuming the senior position as Counselor to USAID Washington. He retired in 2019. Larry, who took over from Bradshaw Langmaid as AFRECS Treasurer at the end of the year, served as an Episcopal missionary in South Sudan for three years, followed by work there with Interchurch Medical Aid and Mott McDonald. In the latter capacity, he labored to encourage enrollment and retention of girls in school.

AFRECS bid farewell at year-end to longtime Board member Gwinneth Clarkson, who has been resident in Colombia with children and family members since the outbreak of the pandemic but participated actively in Board meetings by Zoom. With most of her family now in South America, Gwinneth has decided to focus her attention on the needs of the Episcopal Church in Colombia. We thank Gwinneth for her long service and wish her success in her new adventures in mission.

AFRECS BOARD MEMBERS

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 Steven Miles, Vice President
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 Lawrence R. Duffee, Treasurer
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 The Rev. Frederick L. Houghton
 The Rev. James Hubbard
 The Rev. Richard Jones
 Caroline Klam
 Bradshaw Langmaid, Jr.
 Thomas H. Staal
 Dane F. Smith, Executive Director

Proponents (\$100-\$499) [Continued]

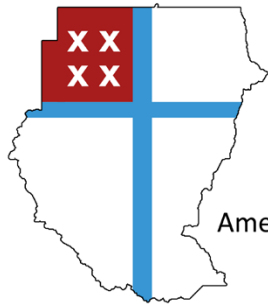
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 Jean & Lucy-Lee Reed
 Susan Sullivan
 Katharine Wolpe
 Diana Wright

FINANCIAL

AFRECS ASSETS	Actual 12/31/19	Actual 12/31/20
Total Checking & Savings	29,033	46,149
Expenses		
Part I - Operations		
A. National Programs	33,069	34,795
B. International Programs		
Orphan School	27,050	25,000
Trauma Healing	7,000	12,500
Episcopal University	0	5,000
COVID-19 Fund	0	3,195
Diocese of Athooch Relief	0	2,000
Diocese of Kadugli Support	0	6,203
Other Activities	200	330
Total	61,660	54,228
Total Part I Operations	67,319	89,023
Part II - Administration	12,641	13,340
TOTAL EXPENSES	79,960	102,363
Part III - Revenue		
Individual Contributions	11,881	18,155
Institutional Contributions	5,000	6,496
Board Member Contributions	31,485	32,548
Conference Revenue	4,000	0
Donations for Archbishop's US Visit	5,000	0
Total General Donations	57,366	57,199
Designated Donations		
Orphan School	13,500	13,500
Renk	7,000	12,800
Episcopal University	0	0
COVID-19 Fund	0	3,195
Richard Parkins Bequest	0	25,000
Diocese of Athooch	0	2,000
Diocese of Kadugli Support	0	6,023
TOTAL REVENUE	77,866	119,897



AFRECS

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans



GIVE TO AFRECS!

Please help AFRECS expand its impact in 2021, as it grows its program in schooling for war orphans, trauma mitigation and theological education.

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

or send a check to:

AFRECS
PO Box 3327
Alexandria VA 22302

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



AFRECS Partners

- Chevy Chase United Methodist Church
- Christ Church Episcopal in Alexandria, Virginia/Diocese of Renk
- Christ Episcopal Church, Big Stone Gap, VA
- Christ Episcopal Church, Glen Allen, VA
- The Church Association for Sudan & South Sudan, Bath, UK
- Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC
- Collo Community Fellowship, Grimes, IA
- Colorado Episcopal Foundation
- Diocese of Salisbury, UK
- Episcopal Church Women (Chicago)
- Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem/Diocese of Kajo-Keji
- Episcopal Diocese of Chicago/Diocese of Renk
- Episcopal Diocese of Colorado
- Episcopal Diocese of Long Island/Diocese of Torit
- Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi/Diocese of Twic East
- Episcopal Diocese of Missouri/Diocese of Lui
- Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska/Diocese of Twic East
- Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire
- Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island/Diocese of Ezo
- Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia/Province of Sudan/
Diocese of Bradford, UK
- Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
- The Episcopal Relief & Development
- Five Talents
- Global Partnerships & Mission Personnel, The Episcopal Church
- Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA
- Grace Episcopal Church, Charles City, IA
- Grace Episcopal Church, Lexington VA
- Society of the Transfiguration
- South Sudan Diaspora Network for Reconciliation & Peace (SSDNRP)
- St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC
- St. Athanasius Church, Brunswick, GA
- St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls VA/Diocese of Ezo
- St. James Episcopal Church, New London, CT
- St. James Episcopal Church, Salem, VA
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington, Illinois/Diocese of Renk
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Denison, IA