

# SUDAN CONNECTIONS

FALL 2007

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4



AFRECS - AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN



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## 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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*Photo by Andrew Rowell. ©*



March 1, 2008 is the deadline for submissions for the next *Sudan Connections*. Send information to Nancy Frank at [nancyfrank@aol.com](mailto:nancyfrank@aol.com)

Dear AFRECS members,

YOUR INVITATION TO  
THE 4TH ANNUAL AFRECS CONFERENCE  
May 30, 31, June 1, 2008  
CHICAGO, IL

The Diocese of Chicago and its Commission on Global Ministry are elated to host the 4th Annual AFRECS Conference, May 30-June 1, 2008, and to extend a warm welcome to the AFRECS Board, AFRECS members and non-members, Sudanese guests and participants, and all who want to share, learn and experience another opportunity for **GROWING RELATIONSHIPS... BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS.**

The 4th Annual Conference will be held on the campus of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago on Friday and Saturday, with the celebration of Holy Eucharist on Sunday at St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church, both located in historic Hyde Park. ([www.lstc.edu](http://www.lstc.edu)) ([www.sp-r.org](http://www.sp-r.org))

Rooms have been contracted at the Ramada Inn Lake Shore, located near the shore of beautiful Lake Michigan, with a view of the magnificent Chicago skyline, and close to downtown, the Museum of Science & Industry, Navy Pier, the Art Institute, Millennium Park, State Street, the DuSable African American History Museum, not to mention Architectural Tours by boat, walking, and bus. Room rates are \$109/single or double; \$119/triple; \$129/quad, plus tax. ([www.ramada-chicago.com](http://www.ramada-chicago.com)) Housing arrangements are being made with LSTC, also.

Two airports serve Chicago – O’Hare International and Midway. The most convenient to Hyde Park is Midway Airport. More information will follow on the website and on registration forms, which will be mailed (and be on the website), in the coming months.

The purpose of American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan is to connect gifts and hopes. As



a member of AFRECS, you are actively participating in our purpose. You are also invited to grow the membership by inviting friends, churches, dioceses to support the ongoing mission of AFRECS. Membership offers connections that open doors to learning opportunities and networking with The Episcopal Church and the ECS.

There will be much to celebrate at this 4th Annual AFRECS Conference this Spring. The AFRECS Board is planning an inspirational and inter-active agenda, and the Diocese of Chicago/Commission on Global Ministry invites you not to miss it. We’ll see you in Chicago, *“Our Kind of Town”!*

Jackie Kraus  
Chair of the Renk Committee  
Diocese of Chicago and  
AFRECS Board Member

# AFRECS TO PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS

BY CAROLYN WEAVER MACKAY, PH.D.

CHAIR, AFRECS' COMPANION RELATIONSHIPS TASK FORCE



Sudan is in our hearts and on our minds. The long civil war, the long-awaited peace agreement and threats to it, outbreaks of violence and the ongoing challenges to Christians in the South, in a nation long ruled by Arab Muslims in the North – we

are bombarded with news and images that challenge us daily. We ask ourselves, “What can we do? What can we possibly do?”

The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) is an important piece of the answer. With an estimated 6 million members (more than the number in the US Episcopal Church), the ECS is a beacon of hope in what can appear to be a sea of despair. Spreading Christ’s powerful message of peace, reconciliation and transcendent hope, the Church is an instrument through which we – as individuals, congregations and dioceses – can be united in Christ with our brothers and sisters in Sudan and can participate in the healing and rebuilding of their great and devastated country.

At a meeting in Denver this past summer, AFRECS Board of Directors agreed, unanimously, to commit its time and energy to fostering new companion relationships between churches and dioceses in the US Episcopal Church and in the ECS. Such relation-

ships, entered into for the purpose of strengthening each partner’s mission and ministry, now exist between four US Dioceses – Chicago, Indianapolis, Bethlehem (PA) and Missouri – and four Dioceses in the ECS – Renk, Bor, Kajo-Keji and Lui, respectively. In ways big and small, these relationships are transforming lives, both in Sudan and at home. AFRECS’ short-term goal is to double the number of companion relationships with ECS dioceses from four to eight. Our long-term goal is to bring all 24 (soon to be 31) dioceses in the ECS into partnerships with US dioceses.

The seeds of growth in Sudan, together with modern technology, make physical and material partnerships more feasible than in the past. (Spiritual partnerships have long been possible.) International airlines now fly into Juba, the capital of South Sudan. Ground transportation is becoming easier and safer. Cell phones and the Internet are beginning to link people in places where communication was previously impossible. The ranks of people who travel to Sudan have swollen from a few brave-hearted souls in the 1990’s to a steady stream of missionaries today. In addition, a new group of potential leaders is emerging, young Sudanese men and women in the US who can lend themselves to the work of partnership and facilitate intercultural understanding. The “Lost Boys” and “Lost Girls” began arriving in 2001, and were settled in communities throughout the US. They have been busy getting their educa-

## PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS, CON'T.

tions, honing their job skills, and many have become US citizens. They are young adults anxious to use their educations and skills for the benefit of their homeland. They are integral to both sides of US-Sudan partnerships.

### *What AFRECS Can Do ~*

As a network of individuals, churches and non-profit organizations that care deeply about the struggles of the Sudanese people, AFRECS can help you explore the possibilities for entering into a companion relationship with the ECS. Our diverse membership offers a ready supply of speakers with first-hand knowledge of Sudan, including resettled Sudanese as well as people who are, or will be, traveling to Sudan, contributing to healing and rebuilding in various ways. In addition, many of our members have wide ranging expertise on issues relating to Sudan. Members of AFRECS have helped launch new schools and clinics, led mission trips, provided counseling for victims of trauma, established systems of financial accountability, taught at bible colleges, organized fundraising campaigns, led prayer groups with and for the Sudanese, drilled wells for safe drinking water, and hosted Sudanese seminary students in their homes, among many other things. Members have met with village elders and local pastors, with priests and bishops, including the Archbishop. There are members who have secured visas and booked airline tickets to Sudan, braved the heat and slept in tukuls and even learned to navigate the intricacies of the Sudan Sanctions Regulations. One has served as a Volunteer for Mission. AFRECS' Companion Relations Task Force

## *If God is Calling You*

*If you think God may be calling you or your diocese into a deeper relationship with the Episcopal Church of Sudan, here are a few steps you can take: Consult with your bishop or global mission committee and others who might share your interest; schedule speakers who are knowledgeable about Sudan, including Sudanese in your community; confer with others already engaged in companion relationships with the ECS; contact Br. James E. Teets, Manager of Partnership Services, Anglican & Global Relations, Episcopal Church Center, [jteets@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:jteets@episcopalchurch.org), for a copy of Guidelines for Companion Relations and Walking Together; consider a trip to Sudan and learn about people of an ECS diocese interested in becoming a companion; form an exploratory committee to consider strengthening existing informal links to become formal relationships. Contact AFRECS, [www.afreecs.org](http://www.afreecs.org) for assistance at any time. We are ready, willing and able to help you begin this journey.*

*AFRECS has recently learned that the United Thank Offering (UTO) of the US Episcopal Church has made a new policy for grants. Domestic Dioceses with official Companion Diocese Relationships may use one of their two allowable grant requests to apply for a grant for their Companion Diocese, with approval of the Companion Bishop. An official CDR is one that is on record, by resolution, with the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. The domestic diocese is responsible for the completion of the project and its report to UTO. For details, go to [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto)*

## PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS, CON'T.

can make this knowledge and experience available to you. AFRECS seeks to maintain close communications with the ECS and stay abreast of the changing needs and circumstances of the Province, its dioceses and its people. Through the relationship AFRECS has developed, there has been participation in important events in the life of the Church. AFRECS will send delegations to the election and installation of the new Archbishop in the spring, and to a gathering of all Sudanese bishops in London prior to the Lambeth Conference next summer. The Board gathers on-the-ground information about dioceses, which can be helpful in identifying promising partnerships. AFRECS also gathers project proposals and posts summaries of those proposals on the website, seeking to share the information gained.

AFRECS is committed to fostering companion relationships with the ECS in the months and years ahead. We stand ready to assist in any way possible. The prospect of partnering with Sudan will seem daunting to some, but four Episcopal dioceses in the US presently connect to Sudan in a meaningful way through companion relationships. Can you and your Diocese become a part of this growing network?

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Friends, (frendz) n. individuals coming together who know, like and trust each other; individuals allied in a situation or struggle

# PRAYER FOR COMPANION DIOCESES

Almighty God, Creator of all that is wonderful and good, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered, died and rose again for love of us. Be in the midst of and bless the partnership between your people of \_\_\_\_\_ Diocese and the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_, that we might fulfill our commitment to strengthen the Anglican Communion by crossing cultural and geographical boundaries within the Body of Christ, and to strengthen one another for mission, each giving and receiving. Guide and protect \_\_\_\_\_ (names of Bishops) so they may faithfully lead their people and follow you. Still God, grant us peace, Journeying God, walk with us, Returning God, be our strength on the journey. AMEN.

## COMINGS & GOINGS

### June 22, 2007

Canon Sylvester Thomas Kambaya, Provost of All Saints Cathedral, Khartoum, was one of a group of graduates from Virginia Theological Seminary, led by the Very Rev. Martha J. Horne, former Dean, to discuss the ways VTS can be useful to Anglican theological education in East Africa and Sudan. The meeting was held in Dodoma, Tanzania.

### July 29-31, 2007

The Rev. Jerry Drino, AFRECS Board member and priest-in-charge of Sudanese ministry at Trinity Cathedral, San Jose, CA, attended an initial meeting of Sudanese and Episcopal Church Center personnel concerning education and training of Sudanese clergy in the US. (see [www.episcopalchurch.org/79901\\_91426\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_91426_ENG_HTM.htm)).

### October 25-30, 2007

The Ven. Bartholomayo Bol Deng, Archdeacon of Maar, Diocese of Bor, ECS, will be in Denver, CO, at the invitation of the Diocese of Colorado.

### November 1-12, 2007

Jennifer and Darryl Ernst, Richmond, VA, travel to the Diocese of Rumbek, with Jim and Mary Higbee, Diocese of N. CA, who will serve at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School as Administrator and Headmistress.

### November 4-17, 2007

The Rev. Patrick P. Augustine, Commissary in the US to the ECS, and priest of the Diocese of Eau Claire, WI, and his wife, Myra, will travel to the Dioceses of Juba, Lainya, Yei and Maridi.

### December 29, 2007 - January 15, 2008

Mary Schmitt and Hans Arneson travel to Renk Theological to teach Biblical languages. The Visiting Teachers Program is coordinated by Dr. Ellen Davis, Duke Divinity School.

### January 25-27, 2008

The Ven. Bartholomayo Bol Deng, Archdeacon of Maar, Diocese of Bor, ECS, and Benjamin Bol Mel will attend the Annual Council of the Diocese of Southwestern VA.

### February 4-12, 2008

A team from St. Michael's, Barrington, IL, will travel to Renk Diocese for the dedication of St. Michael's Chapel on the campus on Renk Theological College, and will visit churches throughout the Diocese. Chicago and Renk are CD's.

*Keep all travelers, coming and going, in your daily prayers.*

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN PREPARES TO ELECT A NEW ARCHBISHOP FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Contributed by Rev. Canon Enock Tombe  
Provincial Secretary, ECS

With the retirement of The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Marona, December 31, 2007, a Provincial Emergency General Synod is scheduled to be held in Juba, February 13-15, 2008, to elect his successor. Archbishop Marona retires after faithfully serving the ECS as Primate for 8 years. The Archbishop also served as Diocesan Bishop of Juba, according to the ECS Constitution.

Following the ECS Constitution, a Diocesan Bishop is eligible to stand for election as Archbishop. Candidates announce their intention to be nominated before the Synod sits to vote on February 14, and the nominating is done when the Synod sits as an Electoral College. A candidate is considered duly nominated when a delegate nominates the candidate, and that nomination is seconded by at least one other delegate. The number of candidates is not fixed. In 2000, there were 4 candidates for Archbishop.



The Electoral College is made up of 3 delegates from each of the 24 Dioceses -- the Bishop, 1 clergy and 1 layperson -- plus Provincial Officers (Chancellor, Treasurer and Provincial Secretary). It is chaired by the Provincial Chancellor. Delegates to the Synod are Diocesan Bishops and 2 clergy and 2 laypersons from each Diocese.

Upon completion of the nominating process, the Electoral College and delegates vote by secret ballot. A candidate must receive 2/3 of the votes to be elected. If no candidate receives this number, voting is repeated until 2/3 is reached. In case of continued voting, a candidate with the least votes is eliminated in successive voting.

Upon a successful election, the most senior Bishop (by date of consecration/ordination) is appointed Dean of the Province by the Synod, and he announces the name of the elected Archbishop, within 24 hours of the election, to the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The enthronement of the new Archbishop will be on April 20, 2008, in Juba, the see of the Archbishop. He will assume the responsibilities of Primate and Diocesan Bishop of Juba Diocese.

## ECS PREPARES TO ELECT A NEW ARCHBISHOP CON'T.

*From the Chairman of the Provincial Emergency General Synod Organizing Committee, The Rt. Rev. Peter Amidi, Bishop of Lainya....."Sudan Church Review", Autumn 2007*

"We are very grateful for the friendship and solidarity of our partners. It is our prayer that God will bring this work to the completion desired. "God who calls you is faithful and will do it." (I Thes. 5:24) In the meantime, we would be very grateful for your continued prayers for Archbishop Marona and for the whole ECS during this time of transition."

### Prayer for the Election of the Archbishop of the ECS

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look gra-

ciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, that the people will receive a faithful pastor, who will care for all the people and equip them for their ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

*(From The Book of Common Prayer and suggested by AFRECS as an addition to the Prayers of the People beginning now through February 14.)*

Sorry we haven't received any further news on how Archbishop Marona is doing. He and Mama Eunice are currently in London at St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy. We are very grateful for your concern and prayers. Please also pray for Bishop Levi Hassan, Bishop of Ibba, whose wife Mama Mary died a week ago.

*Canon Joanna Udal in the Provincial Office*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

2007

DECEMBER 31 THE RETIREMENT OF THE MOST REV. DR. JOSEPH H. B. MORONA. THE SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION APPEALS TO PARTNERS TO MAKE DONATIONS TO THE ARCHBISHOP'S RETIREMENT FUND. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: THE SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION – ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH. SEND TO MR. D.B. DRAGONETTI, CHURCH HOUSE, CRANE STREET, SALISBURY, SP1 2QB UNITED KINGDOM.

2008

FEBRUARY 11-17 THE ELECTION OF THE NEW ARCHBISHOP OF SUDAN IN JUBA.

APRIL 20 THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE NEW ARCHBISHOP OF SUDAN IN JUBA.

MAY 30, 31, JUNE 1 AFRECS 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO.

THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO AND ST. PAUL'S AND THE REDEEMER IN HYDE PARK.

JUNE 4-8 WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

CONTACT: MARY BRENNAN AT [mbrennan@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:mbrennan@episcopalchurch.org).

# A MEMORIAM TO ARTHUR HOWES AND HIS SUDAN

born July 15, 1950; died November 29, 2004  
*Kafi's Story* (1990), *Nuba Conversations* (2000) and  
*Benjamin and His Brother* (2002)

by Randall Fegley, Ph.D.  
Pennsylvania State University

Arthur Christopher Joseph Howes had an exceptional, but short, life. Born and educated in Gibraltar, he migrated to London to study art at Furzedown College, where he applied his avant-garde mind to experiments with super-8 cameras. In the mid-1970s he completed a B.A. in film studies at the Polytechnic of Central London, where he made *Threatened Assassins*, a fictional work influenced by the French New Wave and film noir.

However, Howes' promise as a young film maker didn't preclude the need to have a "day job." He spent his twenties as a bored substitute teacher in south London, before answering an advertisement for teachers in Sudan. While teaching in Kadugli in Southern Kordofan from 1980 to 1982, he explored the Nuba Mountains, where he found what he clearly felt to be an almost idyllic society. He was overwhelmed by the dynamic Nuba culture, particularly its renowned ritualistic wrestling matches. I also answered the same ad in 1980 and was posted to Sudan's Northern Province. I heard of Howes, but never met him face to face. However, I remember his



photographs of the Nuba in *The Face* magazine. The critical acclaim they brought led him to give up teaching and return to film. By 1984 his unique experimental techniques were well known at Britain's National Film and Television School. Under the tutelage of Colin Young, Howes' films came to emphasize fluidity and immediacy.

With his girlfriend, Amy Hardie, he filmed *Kafi's Story* (1990), an elegant, humorous and vibrant depiction of modern Nuba culture. Kafi, a young man from the mountains, travels to Khartoum to buy a dress for his bride-to-be. Hints throughout the film reveal the ever encroaching North-South civil war. *Kafi's Story* won the BBC Documentary Award, the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival award and numerous other prizes. However, tight censorship by Khartoum, meant that Howes was unable to obtain a Sudanese visa for another ten years. Furthermore, funding was never easy to find. Howes criticized institutions such as the BBC, which he felt valued documentaries only if they had exaggerated dramatics, voyeuristic intrusion, and the heroic presence of on-camera directors.

Despite a great love for celluloid aesthetics, he adapted brilliantly to digital technology. Howes took full advantage of the new portability of cameras in making *Oromo – Human Rights* (1996) in Ethiopia and

## ARTHUR HOWES, CON'T.

Kenya. Always interested in other media, he produced rock music videos and was visual director for the multimedia shows *Kaddish* (1995) and *Physical Cinema* (1999) by the avant-garde group Towering Inferno. He taught film at Brixton College, and lectured at Napier University, the London College of Printing and the universities of Essex and Edinburgh. Enthusiastic and generous, he was an inspiring teacher and brilliant communicator much loved by his students who he encouraged to make documentaries as far afield as West Africa and Ethiopia.

Re-entering Sudan on the pretext of filming government celebrations, he made *Nuba Conversations* (2000), by clandestinely returning to the mountains, where he found evidence of genocide and torture. Opening with a surreal display of government military power, *Nuba Conversations* documents the story of 60,000 Nuba children who had been abducted to “peace camps” and then forcibly recruited into the Sudanese army. It ends in refugee camps around Kakuma in northern Kenya, where many later fled. *Nuba Conversations* shows Arthur’s gift for putting people of all walks of life at their ease; his empathy for human suffering; his hatred for injustice; and his unwavering photographic eye, which captured life in all its beauty and tragedy. *The Village Voice* called it “searing journalism and a document of what has to many western eyes remained in invisible cataclysm”. A screening before an audience of ambassadors and key leaders in Nairobi helped cement UN ceasefire talks between the Sudanese government and SPLM.

Howes’ visits to Kakuma while filming *Nuba*

*Conversations* sparked his interest in another Sudanese project. With *Benjamin and His Brother* (2002), he returned to Kakuma, further tracing the displacement of Sudanese “Lost Boys” to refugee camps where many had lived for a decade or more. It follows two young brothers’ attempts to emigrate to the USA. One manages to secure a visa and resettles in Texas after a painful separation with his brother who remained an “undocumented” alien in Kenya. I’ve seen this film many times and am always impressed by Howes’ emotion-charged filming technique of sweeping over the faces in the crowd surrounding Kakuma’s airstrip as the successful applicants leave. A fascinating look at Sudanese and American values, *Benjamin and His Brother* found wide success, including screening at New York’s Margaret Mead Festival, the Pacific Film Archives in Berkeley, and Brixton’s Ritzy. This recognition proved bittersweet. In February 2002, while filming *Benjamin*, Howes had been diagnosed with lung cancer. By the time he was shaking hands at awards ceremonies, he was very ill.

Filmmaking was only one facet of Arthur’s talents (he painted, spoke five languages and was a charismatic storyteller), but his films are his chief legacy, revealing passion and respect for the people he filmed and for cinema itself. The power of his films lay in his keen sensitivity and his knack for engaging people, whether in Brixton (his home for 30 years), Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, or Brazil. He allowed his subjects the time and space to tell their own stories.

As an expert on Sudan, he was often asked for his views on political crises there. His documentaries, most of them made on tight budgets, were screened on Britain’s Channel 4, acclaimed at international festivals and are taught in film courses the world over.

## ARTHUR HOWES, CON'T.

His last work, filmed in Bahia, Brazil, *Bacchanalias Bahianas*, is a meditation on his battle with cancer. Highly experimental, it visualizes his deteriorating health with the camera becoming progressively heavier and its images increasingly paint-like and static. In many ways, it brings his life full circle, returning to the world of the African diaspora, to the pleasures

## GRANT FINALLY HEADING FOR WOMEN IN SUDAN

by Cordelia Burt, Province VIII ECW Representative

Imagine having a check for \$4,693 sitting in an account earmarked to help women in need in the Sudan and no way to get the money to them.

On Dec. 8, 2004, a request for a Woman to Woman grant for a poultry farm was received from the Mother's Union of the Diocese of Lui, Episcopal Church of Sudan. This grant would enhance the financial status of women and improve the nutritional status for their families.

The Mother's Union thought introducing poultry farming in this area would do two things: It would provide income to families involved with the farm-

of light, food and the body; and to the sea, which he always associated with his beloved childhood home, Gibraltar. As he once said, "There is no gap between my life and film."

Films are available for sale and rental: *Kafi's Story* and *Nuba Conversations* from California Newsreel, 415-621-6196. *Benjamin and His Brother*, from Documentary Educational Resources, 617-926-9519 or [www.der.org](http://www.der.org)



ing; and provide an increased nutritional value to everyone in the community. And the benefit would not stop there. An increase in the prosperity of the area would mean the community as a whole could enjoy a higher standard of living.

One hundred households were selected to begin the training, with 1,500 families having access to chicken meat within six months. The original 100 families would be able to generate regular income from the sale of chicken meat and related products within eight months. The project also targeted distribution sites, including the Lui hospital, Lui Diocese Guest House, individual community members, Lui senior

## GRANT FOR WOMEN IN SUDAN CON'T.

secondary school (a boarding school), and restaurants in the area.

This grant was accepted and granted at the last Triennial Meeting (of the ECW), but it was then that frustration set in.

When the new (ECW) Board met in October, and the Social Justice Committee was formed, we began the prayerful search to determine some way to get the granted funds to the women in the Diocese of Lui.

By the time we met in March, our prayers had been

answered. We were told there is a Companion Diocese Relationship between the Diocese of Lui and the Diocese of Missouri. We were able to contact The Ven. Robert Franken, Archdeacon of the Diocese, and set up a means of transferring the grant money to the Mother's Union. Archdeacon Franken will not only hand-deliver the money to the Mother's Union in Sudan, but he will be in contact with the group and report back to us on the progress of the farm.

Praise be to God! By the time you read this, the money should be hard at work, helping women in Sudan (Lui) build a better life for themselves and their families.

(Reprinted, with permission, from the ECW newsletter, *Communiqué*, Summer 2007.)

4TH ANNUAL AFRECS CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2008

CHICAGO

“GROWING RELATIONSHIPS.....

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS”

[WWW.AFRECS.ORG](http://WWW.AFRECS.ORG) FOR DETAILS

# THE REV. CANON ENOCK TOMBE REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE ECS IN SEPTEMBER

## **CORAT Management Course for ECS Leaders – September 4-25, Juba**

ECS/SUDRA (Sudan Relief Agency) conducted phase 2 of the Management Course for 35 church leaders from ECS Dioceses and Provincial departments and institutions for 3 weeks in Juba. The first phase was offered in May 2007. The aim of the Course is to equip ECS Bishops, clergy and laity with management skills that will enable them to manage the church and its programs in a professional manner. The Course was made possible by a grant from Trinity Parish, New York, and ERD/ECUSA.

## **Mission and Evangelism Commission Meeting – September 22-29, Juba**

The Mission and Evangelism Commission was formed by the Provincial Synod in January 2006 to bring together Evangelism Coordinators from the 24 Dioceses and members of the Church Army. This was the first meeting since its formation, and discussion focused on coordination of their work, laying out strategies, sharing of reports and review of perform-

ance. The Rt. Rev. Justin Badi, Maridi Diocese, is Chair of this Commission. Mr. Justin Latio serves as Secretary.



## **Sudan Ecumenical Forum General Assembly – September 9-13, Yei**

This has been a regular meeting of Sudanese churches and partners since 1994, convened by the World Council of Churches (WCC). Its main focus is advocacy for peace for Sudan. Until this meeting, all meetings were held outside Sudan (in Africa and Europe).

The SEF Assembly in Yei was possible as a result of the CPA between the SPLA/M and the Sudan Government, signed in Naivasha, Kenya, January 9, 2005. The ECS has been active in these meetings and was represented by The Rt. Rev. Nathaniel Garang, Dean of the Province and Acting Archbishop, The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, Chair of the ECS Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, and myself, as a member of Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) new Executive Committee. The SCC hosted the meeting with funding from its many partners.

*The Rev. Canon Enock Tombe is Provincial Secretary of the ECS.*

# “UNITY IN CHRIST AND WITH ONE ANOTHER”

Edited remarks of The Rt. Rev. A. Heath Light, retired, of the Diocese of Southwestern VA, on the remembrance of the birth and death of Marc Nikkel, Sept. 2, at R.E. Lee Church, Lexington.

*There is a Kenyan proverb, “a person is a person because of other persons”.*

I have been asked to speak briefly about the person of Marc Nikkel as a sign of “unity”. We are gathered to honor Marc as missionary, priest, scholar and profound witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the unity of nations and people, of culture and communities, of races and regions. Marc Nikkel was a witness to global unity, racial unity and the unity between God and human beings.

Archbishop Rowan Williams expresses this reality in a similar way. He observes that “in Baptism, we are joined in solidarities not of our own choosing”. Initiation into the Christian faith makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. This stretches far beyond both our comprehension and our own intentional actions. God chose us as the recipients of love and mercy proclaimed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

In the 1960’s, an Anglican program, which came to be known as Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence in the Body of Christ (M.R.I.) grew out of a meeting of the Anglican Congress in Toronto. A significant dimension of that program was the inauguration of consultations called Partners in Mission. Several branches or Provinces of the Anglican Communion would meet for consultation on mission. There was a basic conviction that each had something to learn from and something to teach each other.

The first Consultation I attended was as parish priest. It took place in the Diocese of Southwestern VA, where I was later elected Bishop. The second conference I attended as Bishop, and was part of a team that visited Juba, now capital of southern Sudan. It was at Bishop Gwynne Theological College in Mundri where I met Marc. He was teaching there, and Archbishop Elenana Ingalamu and I discussed how Marc might be ordained under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Church of the U.S. to serve in the Episcopal Church of Sudan.



Marc became the flesh and blood which highlighted our “mutual responsibility and interdependence in the Body of Christ”. He was the person through whom we, as a Diocese, would become more missionary persons. We found ourselves “bound together in solidarities not of our own choosing”. The global unity between the U.S. Episcopal Church and the ECS became incarnated in the person of Marc Nikkel.

By the grace of God, I ordained Marc a deacon in SWVA, and he was ordained priest by Archbishop Elenana at Bishop Gwynne Theological College in Mundri. And, Marc began the work of translating the prayer book and hymnal into the Dinka language.

The international quality of this priesthood resulted in commitments between 5 dioceses in the U.S. and parts of the ECS; in 47 parishes and parochially-centered organizations, forming relationships with the ECS.

Now, the unity of the Anglican Communion is threatened by schism and separation over disagreements regarding the place and role of homosexual persons in the Church. Marc was both a person and a symbol calling us toward new frontiers of inclusivity. The unifying power of Christ is more potent than our appropriation of it. The person of Marc Nikkel holds that reality for us all.

# INTRODUCING THE REV. FREDERICK LORD HOUGHTON



Board Member of AFRECS  
Theological Education Committee

Rick Houghton, AFRECS Board Member and retired Episcopal priest, has always had a heart for Africa. When asked about the time he first became interested in Africa, he replied, “Since I was a child, it seemed that the sole purpose of my life was to get to Africa”. Fr. Houghton explained that his father had served in Africa during the war and described it so thoroughly that he had a longing to be there. He read about the work of Bishop Mize in Kenya, wrote to him while a student working on his Masters in History and soon found his way teaching and serving as a Deacon

and Warden at St. Mary’s Theological College, Namibia in 1971. He described his time there as tremendously exciting because while the pastors he encountered and taught were filled with pastoral experience through day-to-day training in the field, they had a deep interest in filling in their experience with academic grounding.

Fr. Houghton returned to life in the US, focused on parish ministry in New York and Michigan. In 1991, in preparation for teaching an African history class, he started putting together material, became very involved in the South Africa anti-apartheid movement, and when that movement successfully ended, he became interested in the problems facing Sudan.

Through his work with the Diocese of Southern Virginia, he began a relationship with the Diocese of Bor, ECS, and upon retirement, relocated to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, where he taught in the Bible School.

When he returned from Kakuma, passionate about the issues facing Sudan, he could not seem to get connected to others with the same concern, until he became involved with AFRECS. He is very interested in helping to provide deeper theological training for the ordained clergy in the ECS, offering this quote from one of the clergy, “We are quantified, but we are not yet qualified”. As a member of AFRECS, Fr. Houghton serves on the Theological Education Committee and hopes to share his vision of a strong university for theological education in the ECS with other members around the world.

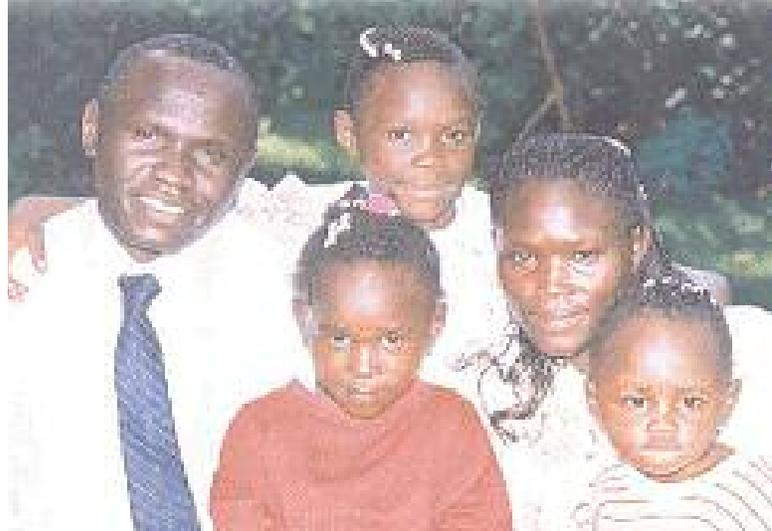
Interviewed by the Rev. Debra Andrew Maconaughey for SUDAN CONNECTIONS.

# DELEGATION FROM THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM, PA, WITNESSES ENTHRONEMENT OF BISHOP ANTHONY POGGO, DIOCESE OF KAJO KEJI

*Excerpts from DIOCESAN LIFE article by Connie  
Fegley, Chair of the Diocesan World Mission  
Committee & member of Christ Church, Reading*

The motto of DIOCESAN LIFE of the Diocese of Bethlehem, PA, is “Live God’s Love: Tell what you have seen and heard”. And, that is what Connie Fegley and Archdeacon Rick Cluett have done. Connie tells what they saw and heard in Kajo Keji at the recent enthronement of Bishop Anthony Poggo.

Connie writes, though I had visited Sudanese refugee camps in Uganda, this was my first time in Sudan. We crossed the border on a shockingly deplorable road. To say it was like a riverbed doesn’t cut it. Wherever we went in our Toyota Land Cruiser, we lurched in first gear. The roads in southern Sudan are a tremendous challenge and handicap to the Sudanese. Word is



that the GOSS is working first on the roads leading out from its capital, Juba, and has recently begun work on the road to Kajo Keji. (Ed. Note: Kajo Keji is just northwest of Juba).

We witnessed a long “church politics” discussion in Bari, concerning Internally Displaced Persons. The IDP’s have raised a delicate problem of jurisdiction: are they the responsibility of the bishop in the diocese from where they came or the bishop where the IDP camps are located?

We took a field trip to Romogi, the original spiritual home of Kajo Keji where a new cathedral, Bishop’s house and Bible College are being or will be built. Half way there, we rounded a corner and came upon soldiers from Uganda, deployed to Sudan supposedly to hunt down the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group notorious for abducting children and terrorizing the indigenous population.

The day of the enthronement began with the usual frenzy of activity that goes with pulling off a major event. The procession, led by women singing beautiful music, circled the church building three times. Row after row of Mother’s Union members followed, then clergy, archdea-

## POGGO, CON'T.

cons, bishops, and a beaming Bishop Anthony, resplendent in his colorful robes and miter.

After the third pass around the church, all the clergy entered the building and closed the door. Bishop Anthony banged on the door three times with his staff, and was joyfully granted admission. The enthronement went on for seven hours! Several thousand people celebrated, and a scary note is that the site had until recently been heavily mined; there was a cordoned off area just along the edge of all the people.

Rick was one of the priests selected to distribute communion (a rare event in Kajo Keji), and he found it profoundly moving experience. He also read the Gospel and Bishop Paul's moving letter to Bishop Anthony and his flock.

Bishop Anthony is a thoroughly modern man, fluent in English, much into technology, used to dealing with Westerners. He has been the Executive Director of ACROSS, an NGO that works primarily in Sudan. His wife, Jane, is temporarily living in Nairobi with their three small children. She works for a radio station that interprets the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) now in force in Sudan.

The Bishop has great respect for our Companion Relationship and places much hope in it. He is looking forward to his meeting with Bishop Paul

in London in July. The women, who are proud of what has been accomplished, are aware of the overwhelming needs of the people. They asked me not for money but for people to come from here to help them.

Emmanuel, Diocesan Secretary, told me that he had seen an email I had written trying to find out if Kajo Keji had escaped a bout of bombings. He said he realized at that moment how much the people of Bethlehem loved and cared about them, and that if people from so far away from Sudan were so concerned for his people, that he had to return from Nairobi himself. The Diocese of Bethlehem had touched his heart and changed the direction of his ministry and life. Many people conveyed profound gratitude to the people of Bethlehem. We are not only giving them hope, our love for them has a transforming quality.

May God continue to bless our relationship with them, and may we continue to discern where God will lead us. (*Go to [www.diobeth.org](http://www.diobeth.org) for the full article.*)

*Note: The Companion Relationship Task Force of AFRECS encourages Dioceses of The Episcopal Church to seek Companion Diocese Relationships with Dioceses of the ECS. For information, contact the Dioceses of Indianapolis, Chicago, Missouri, and, of course, Bethlehem. Chair of the AFRECS CR Task Force is Carolyn Mackay, [Mackcon2@aol.com](mailto:Mackcon2@aol.com).*