

AFRECS E-Blast: October 14, 2015

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

Messages from AFRECS Executive Director, Richard Parkins

More Suffering, More Fervent Praying

Dear Friends,

The news from South Sudan speaks to two themes that reflect the reality faced by our friends there. We have recently received requests for prayer for our sisters and brothers in Lui and Mundri dioceses who are being visited by untold violence and suffering and the usual displacement that invariably accompanies these ongoing outbreaks. These tragic developments do not speak well for the reliability of the peace agreement as a precursor to a more secure and peaceful South Sudan.

On the other hand, peace missions have occurred in the Bor diocese with presumable signs of success. Recently Bishop Samuel Peni who heads the Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation Commission (JPRC) has been leading another peace delegation to attempt peace and reconciliation work in areas recently hit by violence. We shall receive first-hand reports on these early efforts by the JPRC at bringing healing to areas of conflict and unrest at our upcoming AFRECS conference.

Our prayers must encompass healing for those suffering where the peace message has not yet registered. Also, our prayers must lift up the work of the JPRC in order to strengthen the courage and commitment needed to carry the healing embrace of the Church to those who need recovery and renewal.

As we invoke God's blessing on those who suffer as well as those who are committed to alleviating suffering, let us also pray that at our AFRECS gathering, we will renew our own commitment to be partners with our sisters and brothers in South Sudan and the ECSSS as they seek a way forward from the violence of the past two years that has left carnage and suffering in its wake.

Faithfully,
Richard

AFRECS CONFERENCE REMINDER

Dear Friends,

I hope that you will register for the **AFRECS conference** which occurs from **October 23rd to October 25th** at **St Paul's Parish in Alexandria, VA**.

PLEASE REGISTER ASAP for the conference if you have not already done so. Early registration **helps us with our planning**. We are fortunate to have generous support for our conference by **friends at St Paul's**, but in order for them to serve us better, having a count of the number of guests would help. Likewise, **friends at Christ Church** will host our dinner of the 25th evening. Again, **having a count of the number of guests to expect is needed**.

We shall soon have an **agenda** to share with you. We will be blessed with the presence of **four bishops from the ECSSS** as well as a **priest who has led a recent peace effort in Bor diocese** who can report on that effort. Joining us also will be **US policy makers** who are intimately connected with the work of our Government in South Sudan. Of course, **your presence as a participant in our shared ministry to South Sudan counts for much of what will make this conference worthwhile**.

Check our website ([AFRECS website](#)) for conference registration materials. Register either on line or by mail. Feel free to contact me (richardparkins1@gmail.com) with questions about our time together.

Faithfully,

Richard

Jackie Kraus, Editor of Sudan Connections, announces [the latest edition of SC, Fall 2015](#), is now available at www.afreecs.org/Communications. The 10th Anniversary Edition features information about the 10th Annual AFRECS Conference to be held at St. Paul's Church, Alexandria, VA, Oct. 23-25. Guests from South Sudan are Bishops Samuel Peni, (Nzara) Chair of the JP&R Committee, & keynoter; Moses Anur Ayom (Athoch); Moses Deng Bol (Wau); Joseph Garang Atem (Renk). The goal of this 10th annual conference is to foster stronger ties among us, as partners, under the theme, "PEACE & PARTNERSHIPS".

Highlights of this issue are accounts of "Sports for Peace Tournament" in Kakuma Refugee Camp, articles by Phil Darrow, Ellen Hanckel, and Ed Eastman. News of the successful passing of Resolution B018 at General Convention this past summer, proposed by President David Jones, endorsed by Bishops Jeffrey Lee (Chicago) and Sean Rowe (Northwestern PA). SSCC (South Sudan Council Churches) Statement on The Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. Two accounts of the ECSSS Bishops retreat for peace and reconciliation in Rwanda. Messages from Pres. David C. Jones ("Finding a Way") and Richard Parkins. Richard also authored "A Reason for

Hope”, on page 6. Page 8 is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Carolyn Weaver Mackay, a founder of AFRECS, begun 10 years ago at St. Paul’s, Alexandria.

Special thanks to Connections Designer, Connie Wilson, for her commitment to the success of AFRECS and its mission seeking to focus on the needs and priorities of the ECSSS, and enabling American friends to assist in meeting those priorities and needs of the Sudanese people. And, to the Board members of AFRECS each of whom cares deeply about the struggles of our Sudanese friends.

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South Sudan

1) Number of States

[The Economist](#): *South Sudanese president aims to increase number of states.*

"On October 2nd the president, Salva Kiir, announced that he would increase the number of states in South Sudan from 10 to 28...

"Restructuring the system of states under which South Sudan is governed is not an obvious priority at a time when the government is meant to be ending a war and preparing to form a government of national unity. In an attempt to justify the change, Mr. Kiir said that the change had long been planned but had been delayed by South Sudan's independence... (T)he bloc of rebels led by Riek Machar—warned that the restructuring threatened to jeopardize the peace agreement signed in August, since the structure of the state is one of the issues due to be addressed by the planned transitional government as part of moves toward a permanent constitution. Western donor countries are also unimpressed. Britain, Norway and the US, for example, issued a joint statement criticizing the restructuring, saying that it contradicted the government's stated intention to implement the peace agreement.

"Administrative reorganizations are common enough in many parts of the world... However, in South Sudan a restructuring at this particular time is likely only to complicate the task of sharing power in accordance with the percentage shares stipulated in the August peace agreement. Moving from 10 states to 28... is unlikely to reduce the high number of people on local government payrolls. Moreover, the budget difficulties faced by the central administration are squeezing the amount of funds it can pass on to local government.

"The announcement—and the hostile reaction to it—is in line with (The Economist's) existing forecast that implementation of the peace deal will prove slow, and subject to setbacks."

[Sudan Tribune](#): *South Sudan's Jonglei state governor mocks greater Bor celebrations for new state.*

"Caretaker governor of Jonglei state, General John Kong Nyuon, has mockingly told greater Bor citizens who have been celebrating the unilateral creation of new states by president Salva Kiir "not to jump too much and break their legs" due to the new state which has curved out the ethnic Dinka's three counties from the rest of the tribes in the state."

2) Withdrawal of Ugandan Troops

[New York Times](#): AP: *Ugandan Troops Are Withdrawing From South Sudan.* "Ugandan troops have started withdrawing from South Sudan to comply with a peace deal between South Sudan's warring factions, Uganda's military chief said Monday."

[Voice of America](#): *Uganda pulling troops from South Sudan.* "Uganda says it is pulling its soldiers out of South Sudan, where they have supported President Salva Kiir in the country's civil war."

3) Hostilities in Mundri

[Sudan Tribune](#): *600 displaced in clashes between SPLA and armed militias in Mundri.* "Those displaced, the UN mission (UNMISS) said, are seeking protection... in the immediate vicinity (of) its temporary operating base in the area."

4) Life in South Sudan

[Aljazeera](#): *Burying the dead in South Sudan: Marauding fighters, disease and hunger have become a way of life at the beleaguered United Nations base in Bentiu.*

[New York Times](#): Reuters: *Scale of South Sudan Sexual Violence Is Unprecedented - Red Cross.*

[Center for Civilians in Conflict](#): *Within and Beyond the Gates: The Protection of Civilians by the UN Mission in South Sudan.*

5) Delicate Peace

[International Business Times](#): *South Sudan: Rebel leader Oloni threatens delicate peace deal.*

[New York Times](#): AP: *Regional Bloc: South Sudan Factions Violated Truce 53 Times (in 19 months).*

[Sudan Tribune](#): *South Sudan army investigates pocketing of army's salaries by senior commanders.*

6) Signs of Hope

[Nonviolent Peaceforce](#): *Reuniting Families in South Sudan. "We were hopeless but you found our father"*

[GreenBiz](#): *How Nespresso gambled on reviving coffee in South Sudan.*

Sudan & Region

[MSN.com](#): *South Africa Will Leave International Court over Sudan's President*

[allAfrica: Radio Dabanga](#): *Sudanese Dialogue Boycott 'Larger Than Expected'*

[Sudan Tribune](#): *Sudan's opposition alliance downplay Bashir's recent pledges.*

[Sudan Tribune](#): *Gunmen kill woman in the capital of Central Darfur state.*

[Radio Tamazuj](#): *Sudan cabinet minister Salah Wansi passes away after undisclosed illness.*

Thank you to our readers for your interest, your prayers, and your support.

We invite you to visit our [Website: http://www.afrecs.org/](http://www.afrecs.org/)

Ellen J. Hanckel

Editor

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE. LEARN.

If you'd like to be doing more to help address the crisis in South Sudan, please consider the following:

*Pray for peace and deep healing of the conflicts and rivalries in South Sudan.

*Join AFRECS or renew your annual membership on line at <http://www.afrecs.org/getInvolved.htm>.

* If you have contacts in South Sudan and are able to get news of various parts of the country and the church from them, keep AFRECS in the loop by replying to this email or using our main contact email address: info@afrecs.org.

* Be prepared to advocate for peacemaking with the US (or other) government, especially if attention to conflict resolution wanes.

*[Donate](#) to support the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan's efforts to provide solace and encourage reconciliation.

*Urge others to support [AFRECS](#) as well.
