

AFRECS E-Blast: October 28, 2015

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

Messages from AFRECS Executive Director, Richard Parkins

AFRECS Conference: PEACE & PARTNERSHIPS:
Hearing their cry again... We are still listening.

Dear Friends,

From October 23rd to October 25th, friends of AFRECS joined hands in lifting up sisters and brothers in South Sudan and Sudan as they shared stories of suffering and displacement. What was also offered were expressions of resilient faith and awesome determination to find a peaceful way forward as a fragile peace agreement takes hold. Those at this 10th anniversary AFRECS conference were blessed with the presence of four bishops of the ECSSS as we reaffirmed our friendship for the people of the ECSSS.

The presentations from the bishops and those of American friends were inspiring and informative, and these are all worthy of a much longer messages which we will offer in the coming weeks.

I believe that it is more important to note the more significant results of the conference - the renewal of commitments of prayer and support to our friends in both Sudans and a deepening appreciation of what it means to stand in friendship with the ECSSS and its members as they struggle to restart their journey to a stable and peaceful nation in South Sudan and an end to the genocide which continues to afflict friends in the Nuba Mountains.

The coming together of those who for years have been in some form of partnership with the ECSSS or one of its dioceses as well as introducing guests to the realities of the crises that plague both Sudans allowed our ECSSS guests to bond once again to those outside their country who are with them as they seek peace and an end to unmitigated suffering. The sharing of experiences and hopes as well as gaining deeper understanding of the challenges facing two war weary peoples was the rich dividend that the conference produced.

Several years ago, some of us were introduced to the crisis in Sudan through a church sponsored conference called HEAR THEIR CRY. At the recent AFRECS conference, we heard their cry again. Sadly, that cry continues. Thanks be to God, we are still listening.

Faithfully,
Richard

Funds may be available for those in Sudan/South Sudan who were harmed by violations of economic sanctions.

On May 1, 2015, BNP Paribas S.A., one of the world's largest financial institutions, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York for violating U.S. economic sanction laws by processing billions of dollars of transactions through the U.S. financial system on behalf of sanctioned-entities in Sudan, Iran and Cuba. The overwhelming majority of these illegal transactions involved entities owned or controlled by the government of Sudan and occurred from October 2004 until "at least" 2012. In addition to other criminal penalties imposed on BNP Paribas, the court required BNP Paribas to pay a penalty of almost \$9 billion for these sanction violations.

The U.S. Department of Justice is exploring ways to use the forfeited funds to compensate victims who were directly and proximately harmed by BNP Paribas's violations of sanctions. Although there is no specific amount yet dedicated to compensating such victims, some report that between \$2.8 billion and \$3.48 billion may be set aside to compensate victims of violence perpetrated by the government of Sudan and its controlled entities.

For more information, [click on this link.](#)

ENCORE ENTRY:

Jackie Kraus, Editor of Sudan Connections, announces [the latest edition of SC, Fall 2015](#), is now available at www.afrecs.org/communications.htm. 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) Permanent Cease-fire Signed

[Bloomberg Business](#): South Sudan Rebels Agree to Sign Minutes on Permanent Cease-fire

[Sudan Tribune](#): South Sudan welcomes signing minutes of permanent cease-fire workshop

[Voice of America](#): South Sudan Armed Opposition Signs Transitional Security Deal

2) Life in South Sudan

[BBC](#): South Sudan's Shattered Dream

[New York Times](#): Group:80 Civilians Killed... (in Unity State in October)

[New York Times](#): Tiny...Island Is Refuge for Terrified Families

3) Famine predicted

[New York Times](#): Food Security Body IPC Warns of Famine in South Sudan

4) Police Detain 'Migrants'

[Radio Tamazuj](#): Police detain more than 70 Somali 'migrants' in South Sudan

5) Economy

[Global Risk Insights](#): Coffee anyone? Multinationals take risks in war-torn South Sudan

Sudan & Region

6) India - Africa Forum Summit and International Criminal Court

[New York Times](#): India Hosts Biggest African Summit: Plays Catchup with China

[Mid-Day](#): Despite war crime charges, India hosts Sudan President

[allAfrica](#): Sudan: International Criminal Court Says India Should Hand Over Sudan's Bashir

7) Economy

[Wall Street Journal](#): Ecuador, *Sudan* Removed from Money Laundering Blacklist

[New York Times](#): Warlord Kony Killing Congo Elephants, Selling Ivory in Sudan

8) Sudan Enters Yemen

[GulfNews](#): Participation in Yemen coalition a 'principled stand', Sudan says.

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

We invite you to visit our 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.
