

AFRECS E-Blast: November 11, 2015

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

Messages from AFRECS Executive Director, Richard Parkins

The Other Story

Dear Friends,

As our prayers are sought for the conflict that continues to plague parts of South Sudan such as Mundri, Yambio, and now Ezo, let us not forget the valiant efforts that are being made to translate peace as a vision to something that is real and tangible.

At our AFRECS peace conference, we heard first hand accounts of peace work in Bor and parts of the Upper Nile where the vestiges of healing and reconciliation were taking hold. Violations of the fragile peace that was agreed upon last August has not deterred those avid proponents of peace and reconciliation to cease their work. The persistence of conflict, however, has cast gloom over their efforts to invoke a nationwide peacemaking strategy.

Conflict and acts of vengeance have a seemingly contagious quality. The hope is that peacemaking efforts and the fruits of these efforts will become equally contagious. Hopefully, people will see pockets of peace and reconciliation work yielding results - results that demonstrate that warring factions can cease acts of vengeance and hatred and that enemies can embrace and become friends or, at least, agree to live together peacefully with civility. The challenge is to create enough examples that their visibility becomes irresistible and their promising results convincing. AFRECS, with other partners, are committed to extending a helping hand to building a reservoir of examples that become a compelling counter narrative to what the purveyors of conflict continue to promote.

It is easy to accept the despair that war produces, seeing it as so pervasive as to nullify the work of peacemakers. But those peacemakers of whom Jesus spoke and to whom blessings were to be conferred are expressing themselves in South Sudan. Peace initiatives in the Kakuma camp, a sports initiative that brings together potential enemies among young Sudanese together, and the work of the Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation Commission all stand as testimony to the work that has begun and serves as a preface to the larger efforts that needs to occur if a viable counter culture is to emerge.

Our conference helped to promote an alternative narrative to the war that has savagely plagued South Sudan since 2013. A sequel to the conference and the stories told and the pleas made warrant a response from all of us who care about the future of South Sudan. A possible response is to fund this work through a donation to AFRECS as it embraces peacemaking as its primary concern. We have already committed funds to this work. Helps us through your gifts to expand our generosity and, more importantly, to underwrite a compelling message of peace.

Faithfully,
Richard

Jackie Kraus, Editor of Sudan Connections, announces [the latest edition of SC, Fall 2015](#), is now available. Click on the previous link or go to www.afrecs.org/communications.htm.

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](#).

See a [direct appeal](#) from Bishop Moses of Wau on video: Message to Congressional Caucus on Sudan/South Sudan, provided on Faith McDonnell's blog for *The Institute on Religion and Democracy*.

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South Sudan & Diaspora

1) News from the UN

South Sudan: [UN relief wing](#) warns of 80 per cent increase in food insecurity over the past year. [UNITED NATIONS](#) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) **OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:** More Help Needed for People in Protracted Crises in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia

2) Peace Deal: A Meeting/ A Report/ An Explanation

Intergovernmental Agency on Development: IGAD: Office of the Special Envoy for South Sudan: Outcome of the Meeting of the Principal Signatory Parties to the Agreement on Planning Implementation of the Provisions in Chapter II of the Agreement.

[Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) (Signed Nov 3rd in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

[Sudan Tribune](#): South Sudan's Nuer Council says IGAD-crafted peace deal not genuine.

[Enough Project](#): African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan Report...makes the case that sustainable peace must not only address justice for victims of atrocities but also tackle the underlying economic sources of the conflict...

[Sudan Tribune](#): South Sudan says peace implementation will redress the economy

[Radio Tamazuj](#): Explaining South Sudan's Peace Deal (22): What is the hybrid court?

3) Fighting & Suffering Continues

[The New York Times](#): An Island Refuge, Surrounded by Bloody Civil War, in South Sudan.

[South Sudan Liberty News](#): The Arrow Boys of Western Equatoria take a formal stand with SPLA-IO and put out a press release.

[The New York Times Magazine](#): The Displaced: Chuol. At 9, without his parents, he was forced to flee to the swamps.

[The Guardian](#): South Sudan: 'a level of human suffering I have never seen anywhere else'

4) Cargo plane crash in Juba last Wednesday (Nov 4th) killed at least 37 people:

[South China Morning Post](#): Lucky pair: South Sudan plane crash survivor tells how he saved baby who miraculously only suffered a broken leg and forehead cut.

[Fox News](#): More than 30 unauthorized passengers on South Sudan plane that crashed, says survivor.

5) Success Story in the Diaspora

[Herald-Progress](#): Former Lost Boy...joins State Department

Sudan & Region

6) Consultants seek to assess the Ethiopian dam's impact on Sudan and Egypt.

[Sudan Tribune](#): Ethiopia says consultants failed to reach joint vision on Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

[Daily News Egypt](#): Talks end between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan in Cairo.

7) Participants from 40 African countries gather in Khartoum.

[Sudan Tribune](#): African security officials discuss ways to combat cyber crime.

[Sudan Vision](#): The Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) studies strategies to overcome cyber crimes.

8) Economy

[Reuters](#): Sudan's inflation eases to 13.37 percent in October.

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

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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.
