

AFRECS E-Blast: November 21, 2012

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

In the church:

A Message from AFRECS Executive Director Richard Parkins

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Giving thanks is most often an act which acknowledges the good fortune and abundance with which we are blessed. As important as such prayers are, as we reflect upon our ties to our Sudanese friends, we might appropriately frame our prayers a bit differently. We may feel challenged to link giving thanks when those for whom we pray are often among the world's most destitute; but as we ponder these special relationships, there are prayers of thanksgiving that come to mind. Permit me to share a few of mine, knowing that you can add your own.

Let us give thanks for the faithfulness and courage of our Sudanese sisters and brothers who inspire us to be steadfast adherents to a ministry of service and partnership which deepens our own faith even as it brings hope and solace to those whom it touches.

Let us give thanks for a faith that calls us to be mindful of the suffering of others and requires us to share generously and sacrificially as we accompany those whose journeys are often perilous and tumultuous.

Let us be thankful for those who join us in a community of friendship and solidarity with our Sudanese neighbors and for the mutual encouragement that we experience as we share in prayer, service, and advocacy on behalf of our Sudanese friends.

Let us give thanks for the powerful witness of Sudanese church leaders and leaders of all faiths who make possible through their daily witness our robust advocacy as we seek to extend their voice and witness.

Let us give thanks for a faith that emboldens us to be more fervent in our prayers, more diligent in our service, more generous in our giving, more persistent in our advocacy, and more loving in all that we do.

Let us give thanks for the transformation that happens as we are moved to be faithful disciples of a Lord who calls us to a discipleship of love and service to our Sudanese sisters and brothers.

AMEN

Archbishop's Report on his visit to Abyei 08-10 October 2012

The link to the Archbishop's report was broken in the last e-blast. Please [see here](#) for the full report.

In politics -- the two Sudans:

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission welcomed the convening of the second ordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, but regretted the delay in operationalization of the buffer zone.

See this recent [Sudan Tribune](#) article for more details.

[Brief from the Enough Project](#) states that the UN Security Council should endorse & enforce peace in the Sudans.

Will the Russians complicate the Abyei issue? That is the question posed by John Ashworth, Sudan and South Sudan advisor/commentator. Connect to his group at ashworth.john@gmail.com and go to his entry for Nov. 20th at 6:55 AM. Also see this article, 'Russian envoy in Sudan amid reports...' in the [Sudan Tribune](#) for more details

Episcopal Bishop of Aweil calls for an end to Mile 14 'bickering' between people whether they live in Sudan or South Sudan. See this [Sudan Tribune](#) article for more details.

In politics -- South Sudan:

[Yida in South Sudan](#) - the toughest refugee camp in the world. Read this compelling 'AllAfrica' description of life in this camp, rated by the UN to be the most challenging in the world. This opinion piece ends with this: ...

"(The refugees) are grateful for the assistance, but they would far rather they didn't need it. Like refugees everywhere, they are just waiting to go home, and wishing they never had to leave in the first place."

In politics -- Sudan:

[Human Rights Organizations urge stronger action on Sudan.](#) More than 80 organizations and prominent individuals signed this appeal as reported in 'Sudan Unlimited' which advocates for freedom, justice, equality, peace & prosperity for all people of Sudan and South Sudan.

"Sudan is on the brink." Thus begins this opinion piece about the power struggle in Khartoum as printed in the [Sudan Tribune](#).

Sudan Air Force Antonov planes dropped 16 bombs recently, intensifying raids in the Nuba Mountain area. as reported by the [Catholic Radio Network](#). Also see this related article by the same source:

[SAF destroys Mosque in Nuba Mountains.](#)

[Letter from the Nuba People to the International Community.](#) Read the UN Security Council resolution 2046 from earlier this month.

PRAY: Thanksgiving for our friends - our sisters and brothers who live in South Sudan and Sudan -whether they reside in a palace or a refugee camp, the city of Juba or the Nuba mountains. No matter where they live, their living conditions or their station in life, pray for our friends. Continue to give thanks for the progress made by the cooperation agreements and pray for the increase of 'growing peace between Sudan and South Sudan.'

Happy Thanksgiving to One and All, EJH+, Editor

This weekly Sudan update is from the [American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan](#). You are receiving it because you are currently on an AFRECS listserv. Feel free to forward this newsflash to others who may find it helpful. To join the list if you received this email as a forward, please send an email to AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email to AFRECS_E-Blasts@afrecs.org with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. For more information about AFRECS, visit our website <http://www.afrecs.org> or our Facebook page.