

AFRECS E-Blast: April 8, 2015

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

“Peace Be With You”

Message from AFRECS President, Bishop David C. Jones  
Wednesday of Easter Week

Dear Friends,

As I sat in darkness at an Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, I imagined the scene of the disciples gathered together in the Upper Room. I imagined their fear, their sense of terror, and their disappointment. And in the stillness of that church, I pondered the moment when Jesus appeared to his disciples.

As I remembered the simple words of Jesus, “*Peace Be With You*”, I was moved again to pray for peace – for peace in the world - for peace in Sudan and South Sudan - for God’s gift of peace – for peace to overcome years and generations of hatred and greed and sin that stand in the way of peace. And I was encouraged by my knowledge as a Christian that death is not the final word, that we are an Easter people and that our prayers for peace really matter.

No doubt, we have been discouraged. We see few, if any, signs of hope. From the world’s perspective, we might lose hope, but we are ambassadors of the Prince of Peace. We are an Easter People. In the face of disappointment, we look to the cross and see hope and victory. So we do not lose heart, we pray.

The peace of which Jesus spoke can only come from God. It is pure gift. It is possible. It is our calling. We are called to be peacemakers in all that we say and do. When we pray for peace, we join with the One who is the source of peace and hope and life. It is God’s peace that we desire, pray for, and advocate as Friends of the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan.

Faithfully,  
+ *David*

David Colin Jones

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## South Sudan

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The **Committee for National Healing Peace and Reconciliation (CNHPR)** in South Sudan met recently with the Warrap delegation of the Yei process to strategize the roll out of its envisaged nation-wide reconciliation consultations to take place next month. Warrap is the first state in which the organization's three-year vision regarding peace and reconciliation will take place. In May 2015, 50 peace mobilizers will be trained "to facilitate and document consultations" held at the Payam level in each county of Warrap state. Care will be taken to hear the voices of women and other important stakeholders, the Committee reports in a press release dated March 24th. The CNHPR is led by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and Bishop Paride Taban. Others on the Executive Committee represent ecumenical church leadership in South Sudan. Previously, the CNHPR successfully provided a four week reconciliation facilitation training for 75 lead peace mobilizers from all 10 states of South Sudan.

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## Sudan Tribune

April 5, 2015 (JUBA) – The leadership of South Sudan’s ruling party (SPLM) says it is devising strategies to help the government combat corruption to steer forward the country, allowing delivery of services as it pursues peace with the armed opposition groups.

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## Sudan Tribune

April 5, 2015 (JUBA) – The South Sudanese army (SPLA) has dispatched a high-level investigating team to the volatile Upper Nile state where a top military officer was killed in an ambush attack by pro-government forces.

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## Radio Tamazuj

April 6, 2015 (JUBA) - South Sudan's cabinet affairs minister said it was time for politicians from the Equatoria region to lead the country once the power leaves the hand of the President Salva Kiir.

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## Mission Network News

April 6, 2015 - "More than a building, a school brings hope in South Sudan" Reading, writing, arithmetic, and ... *land mine awareness?* The words jumped off the page as I explored the description of the new Food for the Hungry (FH) UNICEF-funded emergency education program in South Sudan. Mine awareness—teaching kids to avoid land mines, or what to do if you find one—is just part of the daily job for teachers in this war-torn land.

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### **Sudan**

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The Daily Star in Lebanon posted this Associated Press story last month:

(THE HAGUE, Netherlands) - Judges at the International Criminal Court Monday urged the U.N. Security Council to “take the necessary measures” to tackle Sudan’s persistent refusal to arrest the country’s president and send him to The Hague to stand trial on charges of orchestrating genocide in Darfur. It was the Security Council that urged the Court in 2005 to investigate widespread atrocities in Darfur – a move that led to President Omar al-Bashir being charged with genocide.

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### Sudan Tribune

April 5, 2015 (KHARTOUM) – Opposition Sudan Call forces are called to boycott the presidential and legislative elections the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) prepare to organize on 13 April and are exhorted to step up efforts to topple the regime.

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### The Daily Star (Lebanon)

April 6, 2015 (BEIRUT) - A small group of Sudanese refugees in Beirut held a largely symbolic demonstration Monday to call for the boycott of this month’s legislative elections in Sudan and for the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir. “The protest was to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sudanese people’s revolution,” Idriss Mohammad, the organizer of Monday’s protest, told The Daily Star. On April 6, 1985, a popular uprising ended the military rule of Gen. Jaafar Numiri and instated a civilian-led multi-party government. Bashir, then a brigadier general in the Sudanese Army, led a coup and seized power four years later. He has been Sudan’s president ever since, despite widespread opposition and international condemnation over war crimes he is accused of committing, including genocide.

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### MEMO Middle East Monitor

April 5, 2015 - Sudan's Political Parties Affairs Council on Sunday rejected a complaint filed by the National Intelligence and Security Service urging the dissolution of the Umma National Party, the country's largest opposition party. "Council members, headed by Chairman Osman Mohamed Moussa, have decided to reject a complaint filed by the National Intelligence and Security Service against the Umma National Party," said a statement by the council, which is the panel responsible for regulating political parties. The council did not reveal further information on the reason for the decision.

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### Sudan Tribune

April 5, 2015 (KHARTOUM) – Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir has pledged to restore the national railway network following decades of negligence and mismanagement. Bashir, who was speaking in an electoral rally in the city of Atbara in the River Nile state on Sunday, said there is "no alternative for the railway except the railway."

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

We invite you to visit our Website: <http://www.afrecs.org/>

Ellen J. Hanckel

Editor

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**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](mailto: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.

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