



# COMPANION RELATIONSHIPS

# Indianapolis / Bor



## Who are we?

**DIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS, USA AND DIOCESE OF BOR, SUDAN**

The Rev. Mark Nikkel who served as a missionary in the Sudan brought Bishop Garang to visit the Diocese of Indianapolis in 1997. In response to that visit Christ Church Cathedral helped the local people at Maar to build the Mark Nikkel elementary school in Maar of Bor Diocese. From that initial visit and project developed a companion diocese relationship among Indianapolis, USA; Bor, Sudan; and Brasila, Brasil. This three-way partnership is fairly unique among companion dioceses relationships since we are participating in one of the first South-to-South companion relationships. (South-to-South refers to the connection of dioceses from the Southern and developing world with one another).

## Projects

**The diocese of Indianapolis has focused on three projects in Bor diocese of the Sudan.**

### 1 THE MARK NIKKEL SCHOOL

The Mark Nikkel elementary school built in 1997 as part of our companion relationship is in desperate need of repair. We are helping to rebuild with better materials and to provide chairs rather than the floor for learning.

### 2 MELEK BIBLE SCHOOL

Melek Bible School was at one time the center of theological education and clergy training in the diocese. During the war library books were moved to refugee camps in Kenya and are now being returned to the school. Parishioners in our diocese were challenged by our bishop at diocesan convention for each and every parishioner in our diocese to contribute 1 cent, 5 cents or even 1\$ for every book they owned to help pay for new books for theological education. The bishop personally pledged 1\$ for every book she owned (her husband's face turned white at diocesan convention when she issued the challenge).

**Peace is like the rain that makes the grass grow. War is like the drought that withers and kills the grass.**

Sudanese proverb



Current condition of Mark Nikkel school in need of serious repair.



Students at Mark Nikkel School.



Boys studying at Mark Nikkel School without chairs or desks.

### 3 PROJECT EDUCATION SUDAN

Project Education Sudan focuses on secondary education. The diocese of Indianapolis has pledged to raise \$50,000 to build a girl's dormitory at a secondary school. Working with local leaders our business plan includes on-going teacher training and teacher's salaries to be raised from grinding machines purchased by the diocese as an income source for the school.

Grinding grain as income for Project Education Sudan.