

# AFRECS

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans

## Annual Impact Report 2022



## WELCOME

The year 2022 was a time of personal reconnection for AFRECS after the COVID pandemic. Board member Rev. James Hubbard and Executive Director Dane Smith traveled to Sudan and South Sudan in August. (Smith had visited the Sudans in 2020 and South Sudan in 2018.) Their visit was preceded by stops in London and Salisbury, where, hosted by Canon Ian Woodward, they were able to meet with Episcopal bishops from both countries who had gathered at Lambeth. That was a wonderful opportunity to meet church leaders of many of the 61 far-flung dioceses of South Sudan. In Khartoum the visitors were able to have good conversations with Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo and Provincial Secretary Musa Abujam and make a satisfying stop at Shukai Theological Institute, which is poised for future growth. In South Sudan the visitors were warmly welcomed by Archbishop Justin Badi Arama and Provincial Secretary Peter Garang, who seamlessly organized their schedule and travels. One-day stops in Rokon and Terekeka dioceses and the Glow MAPS school at the displaced persons camp

## ABOUT US

*AFRECS is an organization of individuals, churches and partners who care deeply about the struggles of the Sudanese people. Together we work for healing, peace, justice and a brighter future.*

near Juba crowned the trip. That reconnecting travel was followed by visits from AFRECS Treasurer Larry Duffee and AFRECS President Phil Darrow early in the new year.

*Cover Photo by: The Taking Pictures, Changing Lives Foundation for Five Talents*



*Sudanese Bishops at Salisbury*



Rev. James Hubbard & Dane Smith with Bishop John Gattek

## OVERVIEW

### SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan was ravaged by a third straight year of massive floods, displacing hundreds of thousands and increasing food insecurity, already severely aggravated shortages and price increases generated by the war in Ukraine. Implementation of the 2018 peace agreement has remained sluggish. A permanent constitution has not been drafted, nor has the essential census been conducted. Integration of opposing military elements into the South Sudan armed forces, considered the backbone of the agreement, is very partial. President Kiir and Vice President Machar agreed, nevertheless, that elections would be held in 2024. Inter-ethnic — and sometimes intra-ethnic — violence has continued to endanger civilians in Jonglei State and the adjacent Pibor Administrative Area, Upper Nile — particularly around Malakal, Warrap State, Tambura in Western Equatoria, and in Central Equatoria between cattle keepers and host farming communities.

### SUDAN

In July General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Chairman of the Sovereignty Council, announced that the military would step back from UN-backed negotiations to end the political impasse and called on the pro-democracy groups to launch their own talks to form a transitional government. The announcement generated great skepticism on the part of the population and was flatly rejected by the Resistance Committees, which had been regularly demonstrating against the military since the military coup the previous year. International assistance, apart from humanitarian aid, remained frozen pending completion of the transition. Meanwhile tension rose between the Sudan Armed Forces under General Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces under Vice Chair of the Sovereignty Council, General Mohamed Dagalo (Hemedti). That tension exploded into mutual attacks and widespread violence in the new year, plunging the country into political chaos, including a rapid increase in civilian deaths in urban centers and in Darfur and massive displacement of populations into Egypt, South Sudan, Chad and Ethiopia.



## AN ENGAGED EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH SUDAN

The House of Bishops met in November. Front and center were internal church issues surrounding the on-going unrest in the country. The meeting offered the church as a model of dialogue and forbearance for the larger nation. The House of Bishops welcomed the planned visit of Pope Francis, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Church of Scotland Moderator Iain Greenshields, which took place in January 2023. Styled as a “Pilgrimage for Peace,” the international church leaders came as “servants” to magnify the desperate cries for peace of the South Sudanese people, according to Archbishop Welby. In other developments, Bishop Joseph Garang Atem was promoted to Archbishop of Upper Nile and began the difficult task of reviving ravaged Malakal as a church headquarters. A new bishop was designated for troubled Bentiu. A dispute over the successor to the defrocked Archbishop of Jonglei seemed to be moving toward resolution by year end.



*Archbishop Justin Badi Arama,  
Episcopal Primate South Sudan*

## SUDAN: A GROWING EPISCOPAL CHURCH NOW THREATENED BY POLITICAL CHAOS



*Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo,  
Episcopal Primate of Sudan*

A synod of the Episcopal Church of Sudan met in November and extended the term of Primate Ezekiel Kondo, who was preparing to retire. The synod created a new Diocese of the Nuba Mountains under Bishop Andudu El-Nail, with headquarters at Kauda, separate from the Kadugli diocese. Assistant Bishop Hassan Osman was named Bishop of Kadugli. Episcopal churches have been expanding rapidly in the Nuba Mountains and to some extent in the Diocese of Kordofan. Mothers Union trainers have been assembling classes to bring literacy in Arabic to women. Unfortunately, the widespread violence between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudan Armed Forces erupting in 2023 has disrupted the lives of the church faithful, particularly in Khartoum and Omdurman.



## AFRECS PROGRAMS GROW AND DIVERSIFY

### THE EPISCOPAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH SUDAN

The Episcopal University gained accreditation from the Government of South Sudan in November 2022, enabling it to confer degrees in law and certificates in theology from its existing campus in Juba. The stage was set for adding degree programs in business, agriculture, and nursing. Dane Smith and James Hubbard visited the designated new campus in Rokon Diocese, where they found three wells, largely paid for by a bequest from the late AFRECS Executive Director Richard Parkins.

At the end of the year funding was secured to place a fence around four square kilometers of the Rokon campus to keep out squatters and permit the launching of some commercial agriculture to defray expenses. These developments set the stage for a formal visit to the U.S. by Canon Joseph Bilal, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, backed by Dr. Eeva John, head of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan University Project (ECSSSUP), based in the UK, to explore financial support possibilities in the United States. The current shortage of university opportunities in South Sudan is depriving more than 12,000



*New wells at Rokon Campus funded by AFRECS*

qualified students of the university experience. The new university is designed to provide training in a variety of disciplines essential for the future prosperity of South Sudan. Even more significant, it will provide an important Christian ethical foundation for university study. AFRECS is becoming an important channel for mobilizing resources for this exciting new institution. You may wish to channel your contribution to EU scholarships through AFRECS.



## TRAUMA HEALING DRAMATICALLY PROVING ITS VALUE

The expanding AFRECS partnership with Five Talents and the Mothers Union of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan is demonstrating its value in peacebuilding and creation of livelihoods. In 2022 AFRECS joined the other two partners in providing trauma healing for the existing program of savings group creation in Juba. The Mothers Union and Five Talents assemble beginner groups which mature into savings groups after a year of literacy and numeracy training. The savings groups mobilize funds to enable participants to establish small businesses such as bake shops, sewing circles, motor taxis, and commercial production of sorghum. For the past three years new primary groups and mature savings groups have been expanding in Renk Diocese in Upper Nile and Terekeka Diocese in Central Equatoria. Participants in both beginner and mature savings groups receive trauma healing instruction adapted from the American Bible Society's Healing the Wounds of Trauma. Participants who learn to trust each other in the sharing of funds find they can trust each other to share their stories of trauma — the murder of loved ones and gender-based violence. The healing process is enhanced by Christian ritual and taking their pain to the Cross. Surveys indicate that the majority of group members cite an improvement in both family and community relationships.

Stories abound like those of Rebecca in Renk (not her real name):



Trauma Healing Class  
(Photo Credit: Five Talents)



Mothers Union Coordinator  
Harriet Baka & Staff

*From our savings group, I took loans for cultivation of sorghum and groundnuts. My first loan was 50,000 SSP and my second loan was 100,000 SSP. This is providing for my family, I don't have to fear about whether we will have enough.*

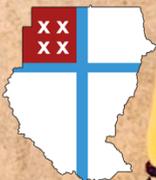
*I have even learned to read and write in this group. When I go to the market no one needs to sign for me—I can do it myself. I used to feel shame about this but now I am proud.*

*In the war, many people were shot in front of me. I used to think about it all the time—it could not leave my mind and I was very troubled by it. But the training on trauma healing has helped me to realize that this is the trauma of war. Talking, sharing and praying in our group has helped reduce these thoughts and feelings. It has helped us live in peace with each other in our community.*

The three partners hope to expand the geographic spread of savings groups and trauma healing to a fourth diocese in 2023. Readers may wish to consider special gifts to AFRECS for trauma healing.

“I have even  
learned to read and  
write in this group.”

-Rebecca





## GLOW MAPS SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS AND DISPLACED

The Glow Mission Academic Primary School at the UN Protection of Civilians Camp outside Juba experienced a year of consolidation in 2022, as a second and final year of support by St. Margaret's of Annapolis for new infrastructure and more teachers ran its course. That support enabled the school to expand to roughly 500 students in the past two years, almost equally divided between girls and boys. (There were 50 students in 2017.) Space for additional classrooms has been exhausted in the crowded camp, and teacher salaries have fallen short because of inflation heightened by the Ukraine war. Nevertheless, the children continue to surpass most of their peers in test scores. In 2023 AFRECS, which has provided the bulk of funding for the school since its beginning in 2017, has been consulting with founder Bishop John Gattek about strengthening teacher qualifications and providing onward support for promising middle school graduates.



*Glow MAPS students*



## MEETING SPECIAL NEEDS

**A**FRECS has been able to help with special needs of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, often for peacebuilding. AFRECS Board members provided financial assistance to the newly-designated Archbishop of Jonglei/ Bishop of Bor Moses Anur Ayom in his transition to his post. Supportive funding was also furnished for a pastoral visit to the Diocese of Bentiu, which has been in some disarray because of the absence of a resident bishop.

*AT RIGHT: Retired Provincial Secretary and Bishop of Rejaf, Enoch Tombe continues to share his experience as an international negotiator with local peacemakers*



## NEWS OF THE SUDANESE DIASPORA

**T**hirty clergy and congregational leaders from the South Sudan Diaspora met in Kansas City October 1-3. This was the second meeting — first since COVID — of the task force formed in 2018 to establish a formal conversation between the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Episcopalians of the South Sudan Diaspora. Some Sudanese congregations have been

finding homes in other denominations. The meeting discussed the shortage of permanent places of worship for South Sudanese congregations, the difficulties for Sudanese pastors from cultural expectations that they will not be paid salaries, and the absence of qualified Sunday school teachers. The meeting expressed the hope that the new Episcopal Office of African Descent Ministries will be able to address some of these issues.



## OTHER NEWS

AFRECS good friend, the Rev. Anthony Poggo, former Bishop of Kajo-Keji, became Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. *(pictured at left)*



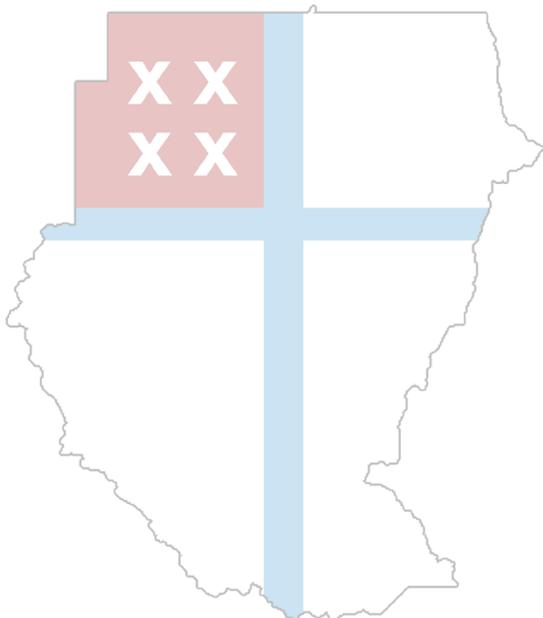
## OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Executive Director Dane Smith and Board members Rev. Richard Jones and Rev. James Hubbard represented AFRECS at the annual Episcopal Parish Network Conference in Atlanta and the New Wineskins Conference at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, where Dane made a well-received presentation. These have been good opportunities to spread the word about the

grassroots work of both churches and AFRECS' support role. AFRECS has continued to build readership for our monthly E-Blast, which offers news of the Sudanese churches, political and economic analysis, and human-interest stories coming from lay and church leaders. Your written contributions are always welcome ([info@afrecs.org](mailto:info@afrecs.org))!

## AFRECS BOARD ADDS A MEMBER AND MEETS IN PERSON

Our active AFRECS Board met in person in April 2022 at Virginia Theological Seminary for the first time since the COVID pandemic. We had two days of fruitful reflection on our mission and the future of our program. Dr. Rachel Scott, Professor of Islamic Studies at Virginia Tech, joined the Board. An Anglican, she teaches comparative religion and researches Christian-Islamic relations. Our valuable former Treasurer, Bradshaw Langmaid, stepped down at the end of the year after many years of much appreciated service.



## AFRECS BOARD MEMBERS

Philip H. Darrow, President  
Steven Miles, Vice President  
Anita Sanborn, Secretary  
Lawrence R. Duffee, Treasurer  
Frederick E. Gilbert, Assistant Treasurer  
Prof. Ellen F. Davis  
The Rev. Richard Houghton  
The Rev. James Hubbard  
The Rev. David Jones  
The Rev. Richard Jones  
Bradshaw Langmaid  
Prof. Rachel M. Scott  
Thomas H. Staal  
Dr. Jacqueline Wilson  
Dane F. Smith, Executive Director

## FINANCIAL

| AFRECS ASSETS                          | Actual 12/31/21  | Actual 12/31/22  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Total Assets                           | \$57,636         | \$52,866         |
| <b>Expenses</b>                        |                  |                  |
| <b>Part I - Operations</b>             |                  |                  |
| <b>A. National Programs</b>            | \$31,489         | \$34,689         |
| <b>B. International Programs</b>       |                  |                  |
| Orphan School                          | \$37,500         | \$36,975         |
| Trauma Healing                         | \$15,500         | \$20,000         |
| Episcopal University                   | \$10,000         | \$2,300          |
| Bentiu Peace and Reconciliation Travel | \$-              | \$5,000          |
| Diocese of Athooch Relief              | \$500            | \$-              |
| Diocese of Kadugli Support             | \$-              | \$2,750          |
| Mother's Union - Diocese of Bor        | \$2,500          | \$1,800          |
| Donation to Archbishop*                | \$4,000          | \$-              |
| Richard Parkins Bequest                | \$-              | \$25,000         |
| Other Activities                       | \$285            | \$495            |
| Total                                  | \$70,285         | \$94,320         |
| <b>Total Part I Operations</b>         | <b>\$101,774</b> | <b>\$129,009</b> |
| <b>Part II - Administration</b>        | \$10,502         | \$15,294         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                  | <b>\$112,276</b> | <b>\$144,303</b> |
| <b>Part III - Revenue</b>              |                  |                  |
| Individual Contributions               | \$24,306         | \$23,805         |
| Institutional Contributions            | \$20,442         | \$5,605          |
| Board Member Contributions             | \$32,100         | \$46,098         |
| <b>Total General Donations</b>         | <b>\$76,848</b>  | <b>\$75,508</b>  |
| Designated Donations                   |                  |                  |
| Orphan School                          | \$24,000         | \$27,500         |
| Trauma Healing                         | \$5,500          | \$27,994         |
| Episcopal University                   | \$10,000         | \$-              |
| COVID-19 Fund                          | \$-              | \$5,000          |
| Richard Parkins Bequest                | \$-              | \$25,000         |
| Diocese of Athooch                     | \$500            | \$-              |
| Diocese of Kadugli                     | \$-              | \$2,535          |
| Mother's Union - Diocese of Bor        | \$2,500          | \$-              |
| Other Activities                       | \$4,416          | \$600            |
| Total                                  | \$46,916         | \$88,379         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                   | <b>\$123,764</b> | <b>\$163,887</b> |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                      | <b>\$11,488</b>  | <b>\$19,584</b>  |

\*In memory of bishop Loyo

Form 990 can be viewed on our Guidestar Profile

## OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

### Champions (\$10,000 -)

Philip H. Darrow  
 Steven Miles  
 St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Annapolis MD

### President's Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Diocese of Virginia  
 Gadsden Foundation, Grace Episcopal Church,  
 Lexington VA  
 Rev. James Hubbard  
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington VA  
 Dane & Judy Smith

### Director's Circle (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, Chevy  
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 Fritz Gilbert  
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 The Rev. Frederick Houghton  
 The Rev. Richard Jones  
 Bradshaw Langmaid  
 Robert Mackay  
 Dan Moller  
 Glen Moller  
 Anita Sanborn  
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 St Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria VA  
 The Society of the Transfiguration  
 Tom Staal  
 Women of St Michael's & All Angels, Dallas

### Promoters (\$500-\$999)

Aaron Aschenbrenner  
 Edward Caress  
 Church of the Good Samaritan, Knoxville TN  
 Church of the Transfiguration

### (Promoters Continued)

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 David Jenkins  
 Micah Latimer-Dennis  
 Rick & Mary Lee Montfort  
 Jennifer Nazaire  
 Nanci Pedulla & Dane Smith  
 Rachel Scott  
 E. Dan Smith  
 St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls VA  
 Bishop Jo Bailey Wells  
 Dr. Jacki Wilson  
 Margie Zabriskie

### Proponents (\$100-\$499)

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 Gwinneth Clarkson  
 Katherine Chase  
 Christine Cheevers  
 Christ Episcopal Church, Greenwich CT  
 Gwinneth Clarkson  
 Elizabeth Collins  
 Ruth Corlett  
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 Amb. Alan Goulty  
 Amb. Robert Gribbin  
 Helen Perry Grimwood  
 June & L. Michael Hager  
 Jonathan Harris  
 Carey Harveycutter  
 Dr. Ritta Jo Horsley  
 Margaret Larom  
 Mary Jane Mayerchak  
 Marian & Walter Moore  
 Jane McCarroh  
 Peter Peters  
 Nancy & John Pielemeier  
 Amb. Anthony & Susan Quainton  
 Pat & Paul Renner  
 Nita Smith  
 Barbara Smith-Moran  
 Rev. Donna Steckline  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester NY  
 John & MaDonna Yoder



### **Other Contributors**

Stuart Arey  
Lillian Baer  
Amb. Charles Cecil  
Eric Cheevers  
Jan & David Curtis  
Mary Alice & Bob Gray  
Barbara & David Long  
Richard Mamanna  
Greg Miller  
Maria Owen  
Robert Pasley  
Susan Sullivan  
Charles Twining  
Jean Willard  
Katharine Wolpe

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

### **AFRECS Partners**

- Chevy Chase United Methodist Church
- Christ Church Episcopal, Alexandria VA/Diocese of Renk
- Church Association for Sudan & South Sudan (CASS), Bath, UK
- Colorado Episcopal Foundation
- Diocese of Salisbury, UK
- Episcopal Churches of South Sudan & Sudan University Partnership (ECSSSUP)
- Episcopal Diocese of Chicago/Diocese of Renk
- Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia/Province of Sudan/ Diocese of Bradford UK
- Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
- Episcopal Parish Network - EPN (previously CEEP)
- Episcopal Relief & Development
- Five Talents
- Global Partnerships & Mission Personnel, The Episcopal Church
- Grace Episcopal Church, Lexington VA
- New Wineskins
- Society of the Transfiguration, Cincinnati OH
- South Sudan Diaspora Network for Reconciliation & Peace (SSDNRP)
- St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls VA/Diocese of Ezo
- St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Annapolis MD
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington VA
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington IL/Diocese of Renk
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria VA
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester, NY
- Women of St. Michael's & All Angels, Dallas

**Meet Magda:**  
*The Librarian at  
Shukai Theological Institute*





# AFRECS

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans

## GIVE TO AFRECS!

Please help AFRECS expand its impact in 2023, as it grows its programs for trauma healing, schooling for war orphans, theological education, and peacebuilding.

Give online at <https://afreecs.org>

or send a check to:

**AFRECS**  
**PO Box 3327**  
**Alexandria VA 22302**

*AFRECS is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.*

