

# SUDAN CHURCH REVIEW



**Autumn 2023**

Magazine of the Church Association  
for Sudan and South Sudan  
supporting the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan



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## DONATIONS

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## FRONT COVER PHOTO

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*Photo: An Anglican Discipleship Programme (ADP) group in East Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan*

*Credit: ECSS Province Mission & Evangelism*

# Co-Chairs' introduction

## Rev Ian Wallace, Co-chair

I long for the day when I can introduce you to the next edition of the Review with some really encouraging news. Sadly, this is not that occasion. Since 15<sup>th</sup> April the situation in Sudan has gone from bad to worse to horrendous. It is summed up by the UN Co-ordinator for Sudan who, at the beginning of November said: *"We are running out of words to describe the horror of what is happening in Sudan... What is happening is verging on pure evil."*

The conflict has now displaced more than 6 million people and has left much of the population on the brink of starvation. There are now more children displaced in Sudan than anywhere else in the world and, as I watch the many thousands marching through London in protest at the situation in Gaza (horrific as that situation is), I am left wondering why no one is expressing similar concern and outrage at the situation in Sudan. Without doubt the level of civilian casualties in Sudan far surpasses anything happening in Ukraine or the Middle East and there are real concerns that the mobilisation by the RSF of militias in Darfur has re-awakened the threat of genocide.

Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo has managed to move with some of the Provincial staff to Port Sudan and established a temporary office there. Remarkably the churches across the country continue to function and the ECS remains one of the few civil society organisations continuing to operate. Archbishop Ezekiel has drawn up a detailed 'ECS Revival Relief Response Programme' which aims to ensure that the ECS can continue to function in these really challenging circumstances and can be a channel for relief to be distributed through the Parishes. The CASSS Trustees have agreed that we should support this plan as a matter of priority and I would like to thank those of you who have already responded generously to our appeal

*continued on page 9*

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# The Sudan crisis has few equals

*Month 7 - Thirty weeks since the fighting began*



In November fierce clashes between the warring parties continue in Omdurman. The sounds of heavy and light weapons are said to echo through the streets until sunset, with plumes of smoke rising from airstrikes. Homes have been turned into cemeteries. The combatants violate international humanitarian law with impunity.

In western Sudan, away from the cameras of the media, **multiple atrocities have been committed, as bad if not worse than in the Israel/Gaza conflict.**

## **IS THIS EXAGGERATION?**

November 10th the UN Coordinator for Sudan said:

“We keep saying that the situation is horrific and grim, but frankly, we are running out of words to describe the horror of what is happening in Sudan. We continue to receive unrelenting and appalling reports. **What is happening is verging on pure evil.**”

“What keeps me awake at night are the faces of the people I have met in Sudan – people like you and me – who desperately want to live in peace,

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feed their families, get health care, and send their children to school. More than 6 million people have fled their homes. They are not just numbers; they are individuals whose lives have been uprooted and changed forever.”

- Sudan now has the largest number of displaced people in the world – over 6 million.
- Sudan is now the largest child displacement crisis in the world.
- Sudan is now in the top four places of highest concern for food insecurity. These are defined by the UN as “a population identified or expected to experience starvation or death, or at risk of deterioration towards catastrophic conditions.”

**“The world is beset by crises, many that garner much more attention than the crisis in Sudan for a multitude of factors, but not because of the scale of the crisis or the depth of misery there which has few equals.”**

Indiscriminate bombing and shelling of residential areas continues apace. They say they are targeting combatants but a witness reports “all the armed groups were off the streets: the only thing hit by the bombs were local residents, traders and tea ladies.” Across Sudan, thousands upon thousands of people are struggling to find shelter. Many are sleeping under trees by the roadside without access to food, shelter, clean drinking water or other basic essentials. Schools are refugee camps. There are ‘peace’ talks in Jeddah to allow humanitarian access, but the big relief agencies are only working on the peripheries of Sudan, with no safe access to its towns.

Important buildings are getting trashed, including an important bridge across the Nile, and **the Church of the Saviour in Omdurman**. At one time, the church building served as a pro-cathedral for all Sudan. It has a big place in the affections of many Christians who were baptised and married there. On November 1st its wooden pews and roof beams became a fierce bonfire.

Footage of the blaze and destruction can be seen on our website in our latest news post **‘The Sudan Crisis has few equals’**. This renews anxieties about the fate of Khartoum Cathedral which the RSF has commandeered as a military base.

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## COMING DOWN TO PERSONAL LEVEL

Bishop Ismail of El Obeid writes:

*“Our people are alright, but living in fear not knowing what is going to happen day to day. We continue to hold a church service on Sundays, but when the fighting within the city is serious then we pray under our beds.”*

*“**The whole of our diocese is unsafe** as most of the states are in the hands of the RSF paramilitaries. In Nyala, South Darfur, there is just one deacon, with his family and a few Christians. The people are in great suffering. Most fled over the border to Chad.*

*Our church property is not safe as there is no one left in the church compound.*

*In Geneina, W Darfur, our school has been completely destroyed and looted.*

*El Fashir, N Darfur state, is under government control, and our pastor is still there. Fighting is escalating around the city, and most people are fleeing to rural areas where there is peace, and some to other neighbouring countries, e.g. South Sudan, Central Africa Republic or Chad.”*

*“In El Obeid things are worsening, but government soldiers are in control up to now. Food is available in the city but some of it is very expensive. There are approximately 40 schools here, full of displaced people from areas surrounding the state. **Security is very bad: every day you hear about or see someone killed in front of you. What is most needed in this difficult time is urgent funding for relief and for emergency operations for those who are injured or wounded, with bullets still in their bodies.**”*

*“The diocese is responding by helping those in need. I believe that is our church’s calling. We have formed an initiative with mosques and other local churches, joining our efforts in order to help whoever we can. For example, we collected many clothes and other items, and distributed them together.”*

## A SECOND VOICE

A contact of the Women’s Education Partnership writes “Most of the population has fled the atrocities. Some were killed by bullets, bullets of ignorance, treachery and betrayal, others from disease due to lack of medicines and hospitals being destroyed. Some of them fled with the hope of reaching physical safety but were psychologically destroyed. Some

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evacuated to escape threats and intimidation.”

“The city is devoid of cats and dogs and even the birds are gone because the air is polluted by the smoke of a city in flames. Rivers of blood – it's war, real war, not a joke. Despite all this, though, we will never lose hope for a Sudan of peace, freedom and justice.”

“It's a very harsh reality. It's affected me to the core. War to me is the lingering smell of burning buildings and fuel, the sound of air raids, the sound of shelling, a child holding bullets thinking they are date kernels, smoke rising from buildings.”

**“People are overwhelmed by the pain of forced migration and war. It has a great impact on their lives, affecting their families and work and daily life, causing great distress and worry.** They are in need of psychological support and healing. One woman described her feelings to me, saying it's like life has stopped: she has no taste for food, she's lost her concentration, has sleepless nights and nightmares. She's worried about her family; about everything.”

### **HOW ARE WE RESPONDING?**

In July, Archbishop Ezekiel issued an ECS Survival Relief Response Programme, seeking support for church personnel and those needing humanitarian aid. Relay Trust pledged £50,000 to fund the first part, which ensures a network of ECS staff is kept in place across Sudan. The target for relief is £80,000. With an appeal for funding, CASSS has taken the lead on that part, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund (Lambeth).

### ***Could your church give to the Sudan appeal this year end from its mission giving?***

A CASSS member's church in Blakeney, Norfolk has voted £1,000 from theirs.

### **And we are encouraging prayer.**

Resources are available from our 'Prayer points' page on the CASSS website, and from Leeds Diocesan website.



JUBA DIOCESAN MODEL SECONDARY SCHOOL  
*"Building a brighter future"*

# Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School – an update

by Colonel (Retired) Charlie Thackway MBE

As many of you will know, the overall picture in South Sudan is one of instability and ongoing conflict. Despite this, the Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School continues to thrive and there are currently 955 students enrolled; 443 girls and 512 boys.

Earlier this year, the Senior Year 4 students sat their Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) exams. The results were published in July and JDMSS was ranked again as the top secondary school in South Sudan, which really is a wonderful performance.

Of the 134 candidates who sat the exam, one girl scored an average of 90.6%, 131 students scored in the 80s and only 2 scored in the 70s. The overall performance index was 85.8%. Of the top performing students, two were sponsored students via our bursary scheme. If it hadn't been for the generosity of our sponsors, these students would not have been able to access any secondary education.

These excellent achievements are also a tribute to the leadership of the Headteacher, Robert Kei, and to the dedicated teachers and support staff. Prize giving was held in October, which was a joyous day for the students and staff as well as their proud families. Lots of speeches were made and trophies were provided by the Friends of JDMSS and couriered across personally by Robert Hayward OBE, who visited the school just in time for the big day.

We are pleased to have been able to offer bursaries to over 100 students again this year, due to the generosity of our sponsors who pay two thirds of their school fees. However, we have needed to raise the Sponsorship fee from £150 to £180 per year from January 2024, in order to offset the effects of inflation and also contribute to the operating costs of the school.

This year, Robert Kei was surprised to be presented with a trophy from three former students of the batch of 2016 who are working in Juba. It is engraved the 'JDMSS Kei Robert Cup' and is a testament to his superb leadership of the school.



The situation in Juba, South Sudan and in Sudan continues to be characterised by instability, inter-tribal violence, cattle rustling, flooding and hunger. The war in Sudan is also very worrying. However, JDMSS remains a beacon of light and we are able to support hundreds of students at JDMSS in gaining a proper secondary education and then fulfilling a positive role in society.

Lastly, the Friends of JDMSS are running an Eye Opener event next year. This will be held at St Francis' Church, Salisbury on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Further details will be available on our website:

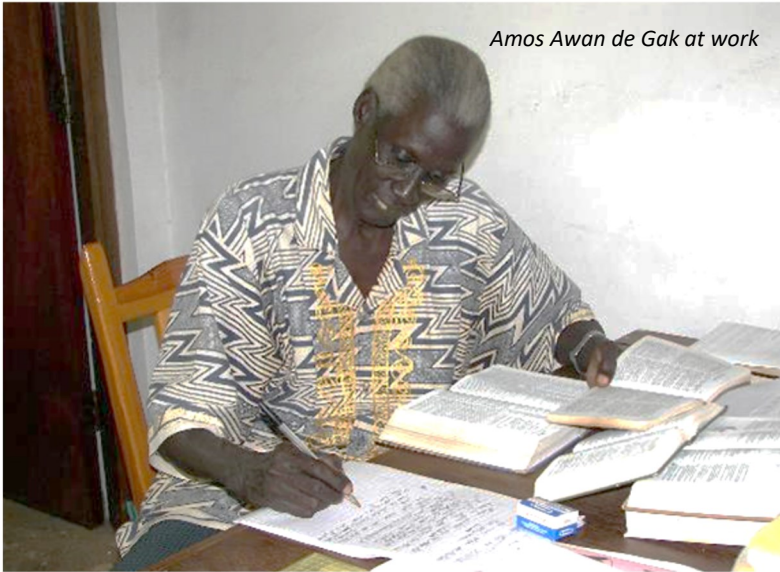
[www.JDMSS.co.uk](http://www.JDMSS.co.uk)



## Co-Chairs' introduction *continued from page 3*

for support and encourage those of you who have not been able to respond so far to consider supporting that appeal. CASSS remains one of the few organisations able to get funds through the banking system to the ECS account.

It is not all gloom and doom, however. In South Sudan a number of initiatives are making good progress in strengthening the work of God's people. You can read of the Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School, the ECSS Guesthouse and also about the 378 discipleship groups that have been rolled out across 50 Dioceses in South Sudan. Although the first part of the Review makes salutary reading we hope that you will press on through and be encouraged by what you read in the later pages.



*Amos Awan de Gak at work*

## **AN AGRICULTURALIST – A TRANSLATOR – A BIBLE**

Why would a well-educated agriculturalist turn into a Bible translator? This is what the late Amos Awan de Gak did in 1992 when he first became involved in a literacy and translation programme for Dinka in Khartoum. Their homeland was in a state of war but Dinka leaders in the capital determined to use their time in exile to good effect by raising the literacy standards of their people and embarking on a project to translate more of the Bible into their language. In fact, there ended up being three translation projects in three markedly different Dinka dialects. The one Amos was involved in was called Dinka Cam, or 'southern Dinka' in English, because it was intended to unite the two main dialect groups, those of Bor and of Agar, where CMS missionaries had planted churches that are now part of ECSS. A Dinka Bor New Testament with Psalms had been published in 1940, inspired and supervised by Archdeacon Archibald Shaw. That N.T. is still beloved by Dinka Christians to this day. It carried them and their churches through many

years of conflict and suffering. But always there was a desire for the Old Testament as well, especially as Dinka culture bears so many resemblances to what is seen in the O.T. The trouble was, who was educated enough to be able to do it and also willing to give up a well-paid job for the sake of the gospel?

This is where Amos Awan came in. Amos was born in 1938 in Pakeer, Jonglei State. He did his secondary education in Rumbek and then went on to get a B.Sc. in Agriculture at the University of Khartoum, a great achievement for a southerner at that period. After graduation he was employed in several government positions, both nationally and in the South, between 1970 and 1992. It's clear he must have impressed his superiors with his ability as he was sponsored to do further training in the Philippines, the U.K. and Swaziland, including a course in Senior Management. His speciality was rice growing and he was responsible for successful schemes in Aweil and Bor. At the same time Amos became committed to serving the Lord. During the civil war, when Daniel Deng was bishop of Renk diocese, Amos played an important part in programmes to develop liturgy, education, health and agriculture in that diocese.

When the Dinka ECS bishops decided to give their backing to an O.T. translation project in 1994, Amos Awan was an obvious person to join the team. Gordon Muortat Mathiei was the first team leader but sadly passed away. Amos then became the team leader and with his co-worker, Ayel Deng Ayel, persevered for the next 29 years in the most difficult circumstances. They put up with sharing a cramped space in Khartoum, then with three moves, first to Kenya and then to Uganda, and finally back to South Sudan in 2006. There Amos had to get his own accommodation built because Juba was only just beginning to recover from the 20 years of civil war.

Between 2012 and 2017 I served as a translation consultant with the team checking their translation of several O.T. books. I was always

impressed at Amos' humility as well as his deep knowledge of the Bible and his sharp wits. I especially enjoyed going through the book of *Job*. Amos did comment that Job does too much talking, with which I can sympathise, but he also made some illuminating observations on the passages about Behemoth and Leviathan, often identified with the hippo and the crocodile. Dinkas know a lot more about those animals than European scholars.

In August this year we heard that Amos had gone to be with the Lord on the 6<sup>th</sup>, only a few weeks before the final checks were completed and the typesetting of the translation was complete. At last there is hope of the Dinka people having a whole Bible. The only obstacle to that happening now is the raising of funds to pay the costs of printing and shipping the thousands of copies that are needed. Half has been promised by funding agencies, but the Dinka churches need to raise the rest. At Amos' funeral in Juba, appeals were made to the congregation and I'm sure that Amos would have been moved by this. He dedicated the latter part of his life to providing his people with the Bible so that the Christians could grow in their faith and become a force for good in South Sudan. May the Bible provide a foundation on which they can build their lives and their society for the glory of God and to the benefit of all!

***Janet Persson***



## SUDAN ROUNDTABLE

*“We really value the amazing coordination that the Sudan Roundtable has given.”*

Since 2016 a roundtable of mission agencies and other partners involved in Sudan has been meeting, chaired by CASSS. The coordination it gives has proved invaluable in this time of crisis there. *“You bring everyone together and have built such trust between ECS and the partners over the years.”*

This is a work that CASSS has been doing based on it being an association for those who have a deep interest in the Sudans. Other organizations have wider involvements and cannot maintain a focus on Sudan, but when Sudan was made an autonomous Province, and now in the cataclysmic war that grips it, our focus is an enormous strength. And we are receiving fulsome compliments from those other organisations as they rely on CASSS’s efforts.

*“Sudan is unique from my perspective, as it the only church I work with that has a group of partners that work so closely together to support the church. CASSS’s life-long relationship with the members of the church provide the perfect trust-based platform for us to truly understand their needs.”*

Roundtable meetings are being held as needed, driven by the circumstances in Sudan, now by Zoom as we meet frequently, but previously in rooms provided by Mary Sumner House or Lambeth Palace. The original idea was inspired by a Christian Aid worker, but from the outset the Sudan Church Association was asked to take the lead because of our specialism and independence from other agencies.

CASSS has not only coordinated meetings, but in the current crisis has provided monthly email news of what is happening to the church in Sudan (something not covered in the media) plus updates on the current political and humanitarian situation.

*“I find our Zoom meetings and your email updates so valuable.” “Thank you for your always very informative and helpful updates on the situation in Sudan.” “The strength of relationships has shone through as the group reaches out and speaks with people in Sudan.” “The discussions in the last meeting were very helpful. Your latest update on the ongoing situation is concerning and shows more, why we need to walk closely and provide support to our brothers and sisters in Sudan.” “The latest e-mail from CASSS has renewed my concern and strengthened my admiration for the faithfulness and resourcefulness of our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.”* Thank you to all CASSS supporters. You provide the platform on which this much appreciated work is built.

*If you don’t receive the CASSS e-mail newsletters, and would like to, please sign up at [www.casss.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.casss.org.uk/newsletter)*



## The Anglican Discipleship Programme of the ECSS, supported by the Relay Trust

One of the largest and most wide-ranging programmes the Relay Trust has embarked upon in 2023 has been the Anglican Discipleship Programme (ADP) in South Sudan. In the Spring edition of the Sudan Church Review, we reported on the first round of training for the Anglican Discipleship Programme, which took place in Juba in January 2023. This involved co-ordinators and facilitators from the Internal Province of Central Equatoria (CE).

The brainchild of Archbishop Paul Yugusuk, the Archbishop of the CE Internal Province, the ADP seeks to provide discipleship training, practical ministry training, and education about the Anglican distinctives of the ECSS across the country. The programme evolved from a request from the ECSS to the Relay Trust in mid-2022. The ADP is also a key plank of Archbishop Justin Badi's 'Decade of Discipleship'. Over the next 5 years, clergy and catechists will be trained on the SEAN International 'Abundant Life' and other material, so that they can disciple their flocks. There will also be more advanced training for those ministering to larger congregations.

### ABUNDANT LIFE

The Life of Jesus in You



Student Workbook  
African Edition



Since the initial training, the pace of the rollout to other parts of the country has been brisk, with the expert support of SEAN International, a UK charity that has been serving the church for 50 years in more than 100 countries and 70 languages. SEAN courses have been specially prepared for use by ordinary people, without the pre-requisite of higher education or advanced theology.

As at mid-October of this year, the programme has been successfully rolled out into 378 groups across 50 dioceses from 6 Internal Provinces within South Sudan, with just under 6,000 pastors and catechists in training across the country, supported by over 100 facilitators and a team of administrative staff. We praise God for the effectiveness of the launch programme to date.



The programme will also seek to encompass youth leadership training, delivered by SOMA; an initial youth leadership conference took place in Wau & Tonj dioceses in October, led by a team of 3 from SOMA UK - see article on page 21 of this issue.

In addition, facilitator training skills and training content will be provided to the catechists and clergy to deliver to their congregations, both young and old, through Rooted in Jesus and Rooted in Jesus Junior.

The initial programme rollout is due to be completed in November 2023. The launch in the Internal Province of Amadi took place during the last week of October and the final internal province, Upper Nile, will join the programme in November. After which focus will be shifted to ensuring the sustainable long-term delivery of this life changing training. Initial assessment in some of the first areas to be given the programme will take place in January 2024.



Please pray for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and for the ADP. We pray that the ADP will spread so widely that it will have a genuinely transformational impact not only on the church, but on wider society within the country.



# Progress at the ECSS Guesthouse, All Saints' Cathedral Compound, Juba

Since our last report in Spring 2021, there have been great developments at the ECSS Guesthouse in Juba. This is a project that CASSS has been pleased to support significantly financially since its inception in mid-2020 and is a key part of helping the ECSS to become sustainable into the future.

There are now 47 rooms available to be hired on site, with 24 of these being



higher specification rooms in the newly built block which forms the nucleus of the site. Reliable internet access is now available to all guests. In addition, the conferencing facilities and on-site restaurant continue to flourish, thanks to the high quality of staff employed by the guesthouse. Good meeting facilities in Juba continue to be much in demand and conference venues there can charge as much as US\$150 per day – before adding food and drinks.

The guesthouse is used by many groups during their stay in Juba and, indeed, played host to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and their respective teams during the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace in February of this year. All who have stayed there, particularly long term residents, have spoken highly of the hospitality offered by the staff team, as well as the safety and peace of the site which is nevertheless located in a central part of Juba. There is no doubt that the strategic location



*A bedroom in the new central block*



*Entry gate and compound fence funded by CASSS supporters*

of the facility attracts many customers and has created high demand for accommodation and meeting space. With All Saints' Cathedral next door, this is such a great place for Christians and others to stay whilst visiting or passing through Juba.

In discussions with the Provincial Secretary, Rev'd Peter Garang, it is good to hear that the guesthouse is now making a steady contribution to the overall budget of the ECSS. Looking to the future, as well as making final improvements to the site itself, there will be a focus on maximising the revenue from the occupancy of the rooms. Whilst the guesthouse is well known to those who have been in South Sudan for any length of time, the challenge is to raise its profile to a wider audience, particularly those who are

working with local churches throughout the country. Please do consider staying there if you are in Juba.



*If you would like to book a stay the ECSS Guesthouse, please e-mail Julie Vicky at: [guesthouse@southsudan.anglican.org](mailto:guesthouse@southsudan.anglican.org)*

*If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact our Honorary Treasurer, John Poole — contact details on page 2*





# Juba Diocese Primary schools - Post Covid update - from Richard Paul



Following the Covid lockdown primary schools reopened on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021. At first re-enrollment was very slow, but gradually the numbers increased, with the schools fully reopening on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The reopening of schools was not without problems.

At the start of the lockdown, for a short while, teachers received a small amount of their wages but support staff did not. This caused some to try to find other employment opportunities. Other staff members, in an effort to avoid the rampant inflation in Juba, relocated. This led to a slight understaffing at the start but was soon resolved.

Inflation had an enormous impact on school fees; there have been 2 very large increases in these post Covid. When the schools reopened the tuition fees were set at £70 per annum with additional fees for books and sitting exams set at £49. At that time, the bursary was valued at £65 per child, pre Covid that covered all the fees. I increased the amount of the bursary to £70 and managed to get an agreement from the Juba Diocese education officer, that because of the late start to the school year that amount would cover all charges for a bursary child. Another increase in fees for the 2022 school year came about with a start to the academic year in April. 2022 bursaries were supplemented using some very generous donations from sponsors and available gift aid collected from qualifying donations. However, parents / guardians had to contribute a small amount. The 2023 academic school year again started in April; unfortunately, reserve funds available to the bursary scheme were almost exhausted so no additional funding was given. Next year the Juba Diocese education officer has stated that the school year will return to the pre Covid start date of late February. This means that at last primary schools will be realigned with secondary schools for term dates, enrolment dates and exam dates.

The increase in fees has impacted on pupil numbers, class sizes are down in



most of the Diocese schools. Although some families have moved from Juba, it would indicate that fewer families can afford to educate their children. This is a worrying trend and makes the provision of bursaries even more important.

When the schools reopened in 2021 the founder of the bursary scheme, Richard Dean, worked tirelessly approaching U.K. Charities and Trusts for funding to help the schools, staff and pupils. He succeeded in securing two grants. The Laing Trust generously funded a short teacher training course. This was an immense help to primary school teachers, old and new, as well as standardizing teaching methods. It created the opportunity for exchange of views and experience. The Ransome Trust provided funds to assist with the provision of PPE and sanitation stations in primary schools, essential during the reopening of the schools and social distancing regulations after.

In January 2022, the Salisbury Diocese Board of education greatly helped raise awareness of the bursary scheme. They included a brief description of the scheme along with contact details in a newsletter sent to all the Church primary schools in the Diocese. The response from schools was very encouraging, 25 asked for more details, not every school went on to sponsor children, but they are now aware of the scheme. A series of posters have been produced and sent to schools involved in the bursary scheme. The posters have images of schools, life, and culture in South Sudan along with some facts and comparisons between South Sudan and the U.K.

Post Covid has been a difficult period for the pupils and staff. Slowly things are returning to pre Covid standards. If you would like more information about the school please contact me at [rpaul2011@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rpaul2011@hotmail.co.uk).

# Two Youth Conferences in the ECSS Dioceses of Wau & Tonj

by Rev'd Paul Harcourt, SOMA UK

A team led by Paul and Becky Harcourt headed to the ECSSS Internal Province of Northern Bahr el Ghazal for two Youth Missions in Wau and Tonj, between 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October. The team included Kay Hunter Johnston, a veteran of 3 previous trips, as well as Rev'd William Malish Francis and his protégé, Evangelist Ronald Chol, both South Sudanese who had flown in from Uganda where they live and minister in the Kiryandongo refugee camp.

The invitation was from the Archbishop of the Internal Province, the Most Rev'd Moses Deng Bol. The aim was to lead two teaching missions to young leaders in the dioceses of Wau and Tonj respectively, together with Sunday services in Wau Cathedral and then the following week in All Saints' Cathedral, Juba.

The overriding *raison d'être* for this mission was that there is a desperate need for teaching for the South Sudanese church. The team from SOMA were looking to focus on discipleship and gender balance, these being 2 of the Internal Province's 4 strategic foci.

The teaching comprised several aspects; devotions (which were shared amongst the team), four Bible readings on Samson, teaching in kingdom ministry (including healing and prophecy), teaching on inner healing (especially forgiveness and reconciliation, using personal stories directly from the team) and leadership skills, especially leading others, leading as a young person, teaching and preaching.

We placed a particular emphasis on forgiveness, turning away from revenge and serving others in love. In South Sudan, everyone has a heartbreaking story of losing loved ones, of being displaced, of inter-community



violence. The Church is deeply involved in peace-making and reconciliation, at both national and local levels. The story of Samson proved to be a great choice as it enabled those teaching to emphasise that leadership should not be self-serving and that we should not allow revenge or retaliation to undermine God's call.

A record number of delegates attended. The local mission coordinators said that 100 people attended each conference. I would say that more than 100

were present overall in Wau, rather fewer than 100 in Warrap Town. It is possible that a rumour of fighting elsewhere in Tonj resulted in a message being sent to outlying villages that the programme had been cancelled - we don't know if they ever heard that it went ahead.

At the end of the first session on Wednesday, we were asked to pray for several sick people. In the event, about twenty came forward. As a result, we brought forward the teaching on healing to the following session, so that we might try and train them to pray for each other. They joined in enthusiastically. We pray that the Lord's power will be released - many Christians are under pressure from unconverted relatives to take their sick children to the witch doctors.



At the end of the 2 weeks, Rev'd William said, "It was incredible perfect...I'm indeed much encouraged by the mission and one of the teachings I taught was the servant heart of God. We are all a servant to one another, as Jesus who is God demonstrated to us in John Chapter 13...many were very happy after the session and they came to me, saying thank you so much for teaching."





## **Sudan Link Calendar 2024**

**Leeds Diocesan Sudan Link Calendars are available to order by post (£3 each).**

**With your calendar you will receive a slip with instructions on how to pay Leeds DBF reference Sudan.**

Intended as a reminder to pray for Sudan.  
Requests to [sudanlinkcontact@gmail.com](mailto:sudanlinkcontact@gmail.com)

## **THANK YOU**

Many thanks to those who responded to the appeal letter we circulated in October, requesting special giving to provide humanitarian relief delivered by the Church in Sudan. We have received over £10,800 in response from our members and other supporters, plus £34,300 in grants from other charities for forwarding on to ECS.

Judging by messages received with the donations, behind some were many memories. "My father was Archdeacon in Khartoum." "I was christened by Bp Gwynne in Khartoum, and my father was churchwarden at the cathedral." "I spent much of my childhood growing up in Sudan, and have the fondest memories of the wonderful people there."

This giving is in addition to donations received earlier this summer for the survival of ECS: £4,200 from members and supporters, plus £31,600 in grants. There is enormous need for this funding. A Gift Aid form has been enclosed with this Review.

# The Episcopal University, Juba, South Sudan

During the course of 2023, much of interest and encouragement has been happening at the Episcopal University (TEU), a new university in South Sudan founded by the ECSS and so with a Christian foundation. Institutions such as this, with the Gospel at their heart, are vital for the development of South Sudan as a successful and stable country into the future.

When we profiled TEU last year, there were continuing challenges in terms of gaining accreditation from the South Sudanese Ministry of Education. In an answer to much prayer, full registration has now been achieved and the University is now accredited to offer Bachelor Degrees in Law and Diplomas in Theology. In all, there are 90 full- and part-time teaching staff and 691 students across all colleges.

In addition to the existing School of Theology, a law faculty has been developed and has admitted 42 first year students, 50% of which are women.

The University has also seen a change of personnel at the helm. Dr Eeva John, former Director of Pastoral Studies at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, has taken over as Vice Chancellor. Eeva was also formerly the head of ECSSSUP, a UK charity set up to support the development of TEU. At her appointment ceremony, she said, "It's a privilege and joy to continue working with TEU colleagues and transitioning from being a partner of TEU to being part of TEU." A number of key strategic partnerships, aimed at ensuring the growth and development of the University over the long term, have been entered into, including with St Augustine's Foundation, Scholar Leaders International and, potentially, with Canterbury Christ Church University to improve governance and opportunities for staff & student exchanges.

A continuing focus is the future sustainability of TEU. Funding has been secured for staff salaries, which has brought much stability to the teaching programme, enabling high quality teaching to be delivered with certainty and continuity as progress is made on ensuring that revenue from tuition fees grows over time. Income from properties built on TEU land will also be an important part of the revenue mix.

Many will be aware of the gift of a large area of land in Rokon that will provide a future location for another campus. As a first step to managing this land, a large grant has been secured from the Community of St Denys to

construct a fence around much of the area. Engineering Ministries International are advising on the future construction plan.

Overall, a huge amount has been achieved this year despite what continue to be very challenging circumstances.

*Photos: (from top to bottom)*

*Archbishop Justin looking around the site, a lecture room in the Law Faculty, Dr Eeva John (new Vice Chancellor), Grounds of the TEU*





## CASSS Communications Review

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent review of CASSS's communications. We aimed to get feedback specifically on the last 5 years of our communications activity, which has seen a new look Sudan Church Review, along with a new website and periodic e-mail newsletters.

We had 29 replies to our survey from CASSS members & supporters and others, including the trustees of CASSS, were involved in giving their views.

Overall, we were pleased to see that the vast majority of respondents were happy with the communications at the present time, with over 85% saying that what was being provided was very good or good. We were very pleased to learn of the connections between Sudan and South Sudan and many of our members and supporters, often dating back many decades. Often, the Sudan Church Review and our other communications are the only way of getting news of ministry happening on the ground, which is hard to obtain in any other way.

As part of the survey, we did invite suggestions to make things better and, in consultation with trustees, we are looking to incorporate a number of improvements going forward. These include:

- ◆ More focus in the Sudan Church Review and e-mail newsletter on grass roots ministry, as well as on the Mothers' Union and youth work.
- ◆ The inclusion of personal stories and information about the impact of education activities in communications.
- ◆ More regular e-mail newsletters, with the target being 10 per year.
- ◆ A simplified website that is kept more up-to-date.

We were also heartened to hear that many recipients of the Review like to share their copies with friends and others in their home churches to encourage them about what is happening. Some have requested that they receive 2 copies of the Review, so that they can keep one and share the other copy. If you would like to receive another copy of the Review in each mailing, please e-mail John & Sue Inglis-Jones at: [info@casss.org.uk](mailto:info@casss.org.uk) Likewise, if you do not wish to receive the Review any longer, please indicate this.

If you have any more comments that you would like to make about any aspect of CASSS's communications, please contact John & Sue Inglis-Jones via the e-mail address above. Thank you again!



# THE CHURCH ASSOCIATION FOR SUDAN & SOUTH SUDAN

Registered Charity No 1180881.

## DONATIONS

Donations for support of the churches in Sudan and South Sudan are always welcome. If you donate £20 or more per year and let us have your address we will send you the **SUDAN CHURCH REVIEW twice yearly.**

**Donations may be made by bank transfer to:**

*Barclays Bank, sort code 20-76-92, account no. 63265064*

If you need a Standing Order form, please complete and send the form below.

For donations by cheque please complete the form below and send it with your cheque, made out to CASSS.

**To the Hon. Treasurer, CASSS:**

***Mr John Poole, 23 Leylands Lane, Bradford, BD9 5PX***

***(treasurer@casss.org.uk)***

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTCODE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a Standing Order form for regular gifts through my bank

**GIFT AID** (tick the relevant box):

I would like CASSS to reclaim the tax on this and any eligible donations that I may make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I understand that I need to pay enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year to cover the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations. I will notify CASSS if I wish to cancel this declaration.

I am not a UK taxpayer

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your data:** For those who receive our communications or who make donations with Gift Aid, CASSS needs to hold limited personal information, such as name and address, in order to keep you informed and confirm legal requirements. We promise to keep your details safe and never to use them, or provide them to any third party, other than for CASSS purposes.



For contact details for the Provinces and Dioceses for the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) & the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) see 'About the churches' on the website.

[www.casss.org.uk](http://www.casss.org.uk)