

# Quarterly Bulletin 103

## October 2020

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About the Collection for Christians in Jerusalem  
2 Corinthians 9: 11-12 NLT Bible

*Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.*

### **SUCCESS OF SUDANS COVID APPEAL 2020**

There was a wonderfully generous response from the Diocese to the Bishop's July Appeal for funds for 'SOAP AND FOOD'. The target of £50,000 seemed optimistic, given that we were competing with so many worthy causes that needed financial help. In the end our target was exceeded by more than 50%, gathering in £78,600. This is to be equally shared by the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) and the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). Payment of the Sudan share, £39,300, has been made to the ECS via the Diocese of Leeds which also has links to Sudan and is also contributing its own Special Appeal for Relief. These funds will be spent on feeding programmes given Archbishop Ezekiel's foresight that increasing numbers of his people were and still are in danger of starvation. He memorably said: "My people would rather die of Covid than hunger" and this became a slogan for our campaign. The very serious collapse of the economy of Sudan has been caused by a number of damaging developments including severe flooding and the consequent loss of crops, real fear of the effects of the Covid pandemic and increasing unemployment with continuing uncertainty about the stability of the government and the role of 'hardliners'.

Before making payments from the appeal to the ECSS we are awaiting essential details from the church's South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA) Covid Task Force on how and where their funds will be spent and how they will be accounted(-)for. We are ready to make payments the moment we receive such confirmations.

A heart-felt thank you to everyone involved in our Sudans Covid Appeal from within our Diocese and beyond; to those who donated and those who through their hard work and dedication made it happen and achieved this grand result.

There are also some very impressive local Covid initiatives underway. One example is that Bishop Abraham of Aweil, with the support from the Aweilian diasporas in the United States, Canada and Australia and the local UNMISS and UNDP teams has put together a comprehensive WASH and protection programme at a cost of some \$US87,000 for the Greater Northern Bahr el Ghazal area.

Another example is Christian Relief and Education for South Sudan (CRESS) funding a 'Loud Hailer' project, providing loud hailers to communicate hygiene and health information to refugees in camps in Uganda which have populations of 120,000 to 400,000 people.

**SUDANS DAY 2020.** Our annual event will continue this year but in a COVID-secure way. On or around Saturday 10 October we will send an email programme with links to videos and attachments for you to watch and read.

### **LAMBETH CONFERENCE**

The conference that was planned for this summer has been delayed until 2022. This consequence of the COVID pandemic was a great disappointment causing such a long delay until we can meet the Sudans' Bishops and celebrate our link with them. Many of you had offered to host our visitors and we hope you will still be able to do so the year after next. In the meantime, the Bishops have a vital role in their Dioceses leading, providing pastoral support and co-ordinating volunteer and support services.

## **JUSTICE, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE**

Reports have been received detailing the work done by the National Co-ordinator and the Finance Officer. Both are volunteer posts whose expenses have been supported by grants from the Sudans Link. The Committee's limited staff have a huge range of issues they are involved in or wish to tackle including:

- advocacy for refugees and internally-displaced people who need help to regain land plots;
- facilitating dialogue to reduce conflict between cattle-keepers and farmers;
- meetings with community leaders on action to reduce cattle-raiding and revenge attacks; trauma healing and reconciliation training;
- developing the capacity of traditional leaders to identify and address negative cultural issues leading to gender-based violence;
- collecting civilian opinion on what should be done to persuade civilians to give up carrying guns in a peaceful and voluntary way;
- training of army chaplains.

## **FOCUS ON EDUCATION**

Bishop Allison Theological College (BATC) is to benefit from a substantial legacy from the late Jane Pelly. The College is currently relocated from Yei to Arua in Uganda. Jane had extensive experience of teaching in Nigeria but also spent two spells working at BATC in her retirement. The legacy has been vested in the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and will be administered by a small advisory group.

The Episcopal University continues to develop, securing a lease on land at Rokon for its central campus. The Board of Governors and Trustees are praying that after an extended application process the Accreditation Certificate will be granted and the University will be launched this year, as 90% of the work of land acquisition, curriculum, and preparation has been completed. The ECSS colleges that constitute the University are waiting hopefully for Government permission to reopen, having been closed since March, along with all schools and universities. A phased reopening of education establishments has just been announced

## **MEDICAL LINK**

Two consignments of primary healthcare supplies have been sent this year: the first to Ezo, Maridi, Nzara, Olo, Rasolo, Yabongo, Yabua and Yambio; and the second to Maridi and Nzara. Security concerns are still there and Juba-sourced medicines continued to be flown by Mission Aviation Fellowship to Maridi and Yambio airfield hubs. The clinics that normally receive supplies have been warned that due to the effect of Covid on our fundraising it will not be possible to send any further consignments until more funds come in to the Medical Link.

Fees arrears were paid for nursing and midwifery students at Mary Help College of Nursing and Midwifery in Wau and fees for clinical officer and lab technician students at Kajo Keji Health Training Institute. Also assured of support with fees were 2 clinical officers and a midwife student at Maridi Health Science Institute and a student lab technician at Clarke International University in Kampala.

The Bishop's Garden Fete and the Chase Benefice Christmas Fair, both normally important sources of funds for the Medical Link, were sadly both Covid-19 casualties. External funding has been sought to enable the continuation of the support for nursing and midwifery students at Mary Help.

## **DONATIONS**

If you or your church would like to support the Medical Link or the general work of the Sudans Link please contact the Sudans Link Treasurer, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB. Or visit <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/donate>

## **DATA PROTECTION**

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