

# مجمع الكنيسة الأسقفية السودانية

## Province of Episcopal Church of the Sudan

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28<sup>th</sup> October 2008

### **SUBJECT: General appeal for debt relief in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan from Archbishop Daniel Deng But**

Dear friends of the ECS,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Throughout the 1983-2005 Sudanese civil war, the Episcopal Church of the Sudan continued to operate and function, bringing education, healthcare and hope in Our Lord to the people of this war-torn nation. The Church has always been willing to do God's work for low salaries, but since 2004 the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan has been steadily incurring debt towards its staff. Today the total arrears owed by the province to various members of staff are around \$157,000.

This lack of salaries has now been hanging over the core provincial staff for nearly five years, and is slowly sapping the morale of those who have given their whole lives in the service of Christ. This year alone, most provincial staff have not received salaries since May. Increasingly, key members of the provincial staff are complaining that the Church no longer values their services, which could not be further from the truth, and already certain staff have refused to work for short periods.

Consequently the repaying of this debt is a top priority for me as a new Archbishop at the start of a ten year Archiepiscopacy. The repayment of arrears will give me a strong beginning in my ten year office by proving that I can swiftly improve the ECS. It will vastly improve morale and output in the provincial office, demonstrate that the Church still cares for its people, and show that the ECS is operating professionally in the modern world, having emerged triumphant from twenty one years of war. The payment of outstanding arrears will also allow the streamlining of the provincial office and the hiring of better qualified and more professional personnel for a twenty-first century Church.

The ECS is also engaged in internal fund raising for the purpose of clearing these arrears, but I appeal to all our friends and partners around the world for any assistance that may be forthcoming. This is a top priority for the province: unless this debt is relieved the province will have a constant liability hanging over it and will be faced with increasingly non-committed personnel.

Philip H. Darrow of the Parish of St. Michael's, Barrington, in the Diocese of Chicago and retired Assistant Bishop of Virginia +Frank Gray, who I have appointed as my Commissary in the USA, have kindly offered to co-ordinate the US response to this appeal. Phillip has set up "Club 157" – a group whose members have all agreed to donate \$1,000 towards the \$157,000 total.

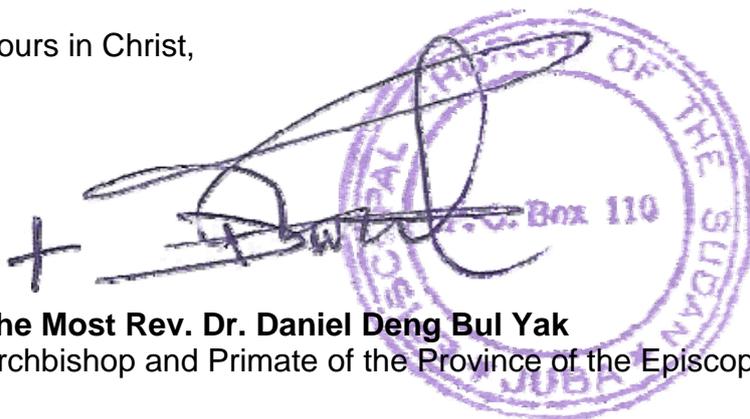
They can be contacted at: [Philip.Darrow@ryland.com](mailto:Philip.Darrow@ryland.com) and [karenandfrank@comcast.net](mailto:karenandfrank@comcast.net). For all friends in North America, please co-ordinate your responses to this appeal through them.

For friends in the British Isles please co-ordinate your responses through Canon Ian Woodward of the Salisbury Diocesan Sudan Link, who can be contacted at [revianw@btinternet.com](mailto:revianw@btinternet.com).

Any other responses can be co-ordinated through the above individuals or my International Co-ordinator, Nicholas Ramsden, who can be contacted at [nicholas.ramsden@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.ramsden@gmail.com).

Please assist me to justly reward some of the most committed Christians in the Sudan for their years of service in the Lord

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Daniel Deng Bul Yak", is written over a purple circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE SUDAN" around the perimeter and "Box 110" in the center. To the left of the signature is a small cross symbol.

**The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak**  
Archbishop and Primate of the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan