

# Renewal

Informing, Enlightening and Transforming Lives



The quarterly newsletter  
of the Diocese of Wau  
South Sudan

March 2016



**Working for the Future of Wau**

# A Word from the Diocesan Bishop of Wau

By Rt, Rev, Moses Deng Bol.

## Accepting Change

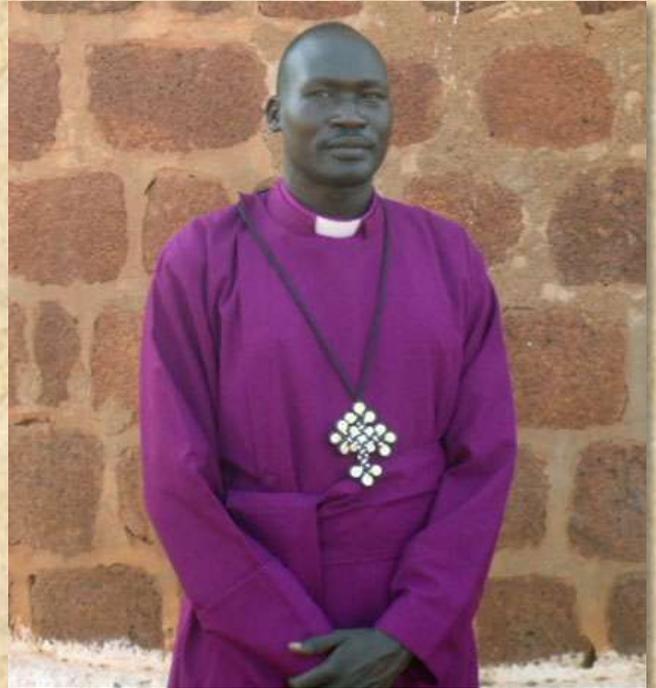
As a bishop in an Anglican church life can be really very demanding and sometimes I admit that I can become sleepy in the daytime. Actually sometimes when I am not doing something that is important my mind it can wander and I daydream. This is not always a bad thing because often when we let go of the world we connect with God. It is like closing your eyes to pray so that you are not distracted by this or that.

Recently I was daydreaming about the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, if you do not know this story you can read about it in the Gospel of Luke chapter 9 verse 28 to verse 37. Jesus climbs a tall mountain with three disciples and while he is there his appearance changes, his face shines like Moses and his clothes become very bright almost too bright to look at. The face of Moses glowed like this when he spoke with God which we can read about in Exodus Chapter 34 Verse 35

“they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD”

and at other times angels are seen with bright clothing as the angel in Mathew Chapter 28 verse 3 “His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow” so this is a very special thing that has happened. But in my dreaming I began to wonder how James and John felt about what they had seen. Because in front of them the man that they knew, who was really a most lovely person became like a vision of God. If you read this passage from the book of Ezekiel you will see how he saw the likeness of God

“on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. 27



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**Please pray for peace  
in Wau Diocese**

Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the colour of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. 28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.”

But this shining vision was still the same Jesus that had walked up the mountain with them and shared so deeply in their lives bringing them both joy and comfort. Really he was the same but different – how did they feel about this? How do you feel about this? Would you accept Jesus as you knew him before after such an event?

Very often it is change that changes us and change that scares us, it seems easier to stay the same. I think that it is being afraid of what we do not know that makes us so scared. So often we see this in life. Recently we have seen a big change in the way that our new country is organised. It is still the same country but now it is arranged differently. Doing this has shocked some people, but we are still South Sudan and whether we can feed our children and live in peace depends how we behave as people, not which state you live in.

In Ephesians Chapter 4 Verse 32 we can see “Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” And in Romans Chapter 15 verses 1 to 2 “We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.” These are just two examples, there are many more.

There is change too in Wau Diocese because for a long time now we have been seeking to grow two area dioceses. We hope that one day soon they will both be full dioceses like Aweil diocese that was once also part of Wau. The reason that we want to do this is that the diocese of Wau is too big. Really I love to travel and meet the Christians in places such as

Gogrial and Tonj but it is most difficult to progress some parts of my diocese because communication is too hard. It is usually these areas that need development the most. So change is needed and it can be the best way forwards to a better future. Bishops for Gogrial (Bishop Abraham Ngor) and for Tonj (Bishop Peter Yuol Gur) have now been elected and will soon be consecrated. So how do we react to this change and can we remain the same?

What I think is most important is that we look and see what has not changed. Still we are brothers and sisters in Christ. The strongest of us can still help the weakest and together we still worship a God that loves all of us. Remembering this we can embrace these changes and work to improve our lives. So once again things are the same but different, just like Jesus was on the mountain.

We can remember that in Luke’s Gospel Chapter 9 verse 30, Jesus had gone to the mountain to talk with Moses and Elijah. “Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus.” They talked about what Jesus would do, so we can see that even Jesus was faced with situations of change that were most challenging. This we can see this most in the garden of Gethsemane before Jesus was arrested. You can read this in Luke’s Gospel Chapter 22 Verse 36 to 39.

“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

It was too much to bear and Jesus was truly scared, but Jesus prayed to the Father (our Father) that loved him. First Jesus prayed to be released then he prayed that God would help

him to carry on to do what God wanted. This is a very good lesson for us, we must try to do the same. Instead of praying for God to change what we do not like we must pray for help to do what God really wants.

St Paul gave us much guidance on how God wants us to live, but how often do we refuse to change and remain the same as ever? Pray about this and ask God for help – it will come.

The time we are now in is called Lent and this time is a most important part of the church year because it is a time of change. So how do we react to that? This is a time of change because we should prepare for Easter, the thing that Jesus talked about on the Mountain, a most marvellous and wonderful event that has the power to set you free and unite you in peace with the God that loves you.

We can prepare by meeting and studying in Lent groups and praying together. I am so pleased that once again my pastors have made a Lent Study Course so that you can do just that. This year it is called Answers and I really recommend that you try it. The course is free and available from the Wau Diocese website <http://www.wau.anglican.org>. I recommend it because when we gather like this it helps us to think about things and gives us the chance to be open with God and repent. Repentance is a

form of change that helps us to accept Jesus in to our hearts. Repentance is like washing, it cleanses us, to accept God's forgiveness. It is our acceptance of God's forgiveness that changes us; what we do, what we think and how we behave to others.

To prepare for Easter is one thing but how will we react to the great change that Jesus brought to our whole world when he conquered death and overcame sin? This is the greatest challenge, that some really find harder than others. I urge you to accept Jesus and the love that he brings so that the forgiveness of God can change you, change you for good, forever. Then you will be transfigured, changed and yet still the same. Much like a person who is no longer tired or daydreaming.

Every Blessing +Moses

May the risen Christ bring peace to all parts of our land and every beating heart.

Every blessing *+Moses*

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## St John's College of Theology and Development - Progression to a New Stage

By Rev Peter Angui Akook

This college has been considered a regional College for all Dioceses in greater Bahr El Ghazal cluster. Greater Bahr El Ghazal cluster has Rumbek Diocese, Wau, Akot, Pacong, Cueibet, Yirol, Aweil, Awerial, Abyei, Malek Rup, Aluak Aluak, Gogrial, and Tonj.

Although the Provincial policy of creating more internal provinces succeeds to split greater Bahr El Ghazal into Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Eastern Bahr El Ghazal provinces, yet the college would still be the two internal provinces in Bahr El Ghazal. The College has drawn thirty one (31) students of which two are female

students from across Dioceses in Bahr El Ghazal and even from neighboring Bentiu Diocese in greater Upper Nile cluster.

This year 2016 the college has opened a Teachers' training program from January to April and a Business training program will be open from May to July.

St. John's College of Theology and Development has thirteen (13) Lecturers from outside and within the country. These Lecturers are PHDs, Masters, and Degrees holders with the best experiences in teaching profession. The College has received high profile ranking people from various government sectors that are to mention MPs, Commissioners, Ministers and officials who applied in Education and Business. The College has a great potential to strengthen and sharpen peoples' talents and skills that will one day resulted into a greater and deeper impact in different capacities of various levels in communities or societies.

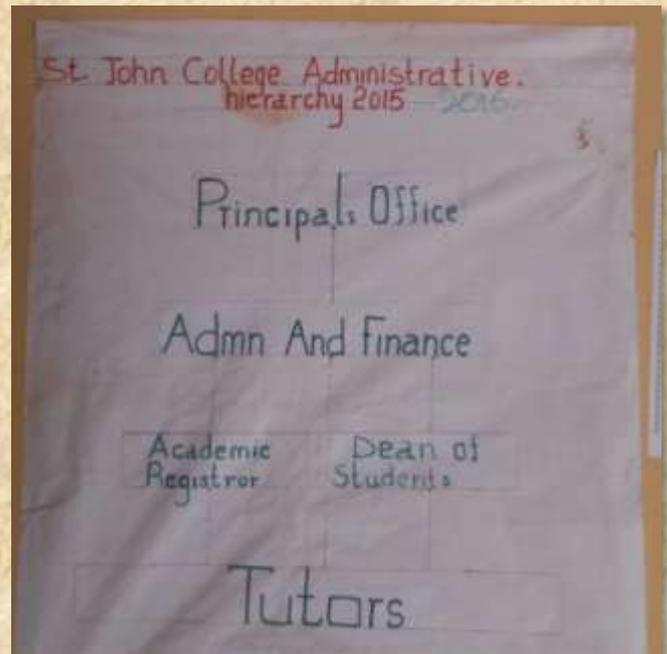
**St. John's College of Theology and Development is glad to announce its first ever graduation ceremony on March 12, 2016.**

Among the invitees would be His Grace the Archbishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, Rt. Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak.



St John's College classrooms

At the political era, Bahr El Ghazal region was divided into four different states of Lakes, Warrap, Western Bahr El Ghazal and Northern Bahr El Ghazal States until recently when the political struggle turned violence influenced the



creation of 28 more states across South Sudan on October 2, 2015.

“President Kiir, in an order read on SSTV at 8:20pm, saying there was need to adopt a federal system of governance in the country, in line with the demand of Machar's opposition movement. The order number 36/2015 AD for creation of new states of South Sudan said the president will now have the chance to nominate more state governors and additional members of the state assembly in his newly created states. The sitting state members of parliament (MPs) will be maintained at 21 members in each state

and there will be no more than 21 lawmakers. In the details of the states, Kiir created 8 states for greater Equatoria which included Imatong, Namurnyang, Maridi, Budi, Amadi, Jubek, Terekeka and Yei river. For greater Bahr el Ghazal he decreed into being 10 states namely, Wau, Aweil, Ngor, Aweil East, Twic, Gogrial, Tonj, Eastern Lakes, Western Lakes and

Gok. In greater Upper Nile he also decreed 10 states to include Leer, Northern Guit, Ruweng, Eastern Nile, Jonglei, Western Nile, Eastern Bie, Lajor, Buma and Western Bie”.

**Rev Peter Angui Akook has been appointed College Administrator**

## Biblical Material on Corruption

By Bishop Enoch Tombe

(Part of his doctoral dissertation)

### A. Biblical Consequences of Corruption

God detests dishonesty (corruption). A variation of the term “dishonest” appears eighteen times in the Bible. Most of these references refer to “dishonest gain” (Exodus 18:21) or “dishonest scales” (Proverbs 11:1). God does not like dishonesty and speaks out harshly against it in the Bible. God’s laws in the Old Testament specifically forbade using “dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity” (Leviticus 19:35). The Bible says, “The Lord your God detests anyone who ...deals dishonestly” (Deuteronomy 25:16). The Bible says in Proverbs 11:1 “The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.”

A bribe is the giving or promising something of value to a person in order to influence that person to act in favour of the giver. Should, or should we not, bribe others? Should or should we not, accept bribes from others? What does “God’s Word,” have to say about bribes? Quotes from the Bible are largely based on Today’s English Version and Contemporary English Version.

According to Dayton M. (2006, pg.40), “the bribe of up to \$26 million by WMX was called a host fee or an investment when it was really a concealed bribe.” (George Grant, 1986, pg.81) Isaiah said, “Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts” (Is. 1:23).

Exodus 23:8 teaches on the subject bribe: “Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe makes people blind to what is right and ruins the cause of those who are innocent.” Now hear Deuteronomy 16:18-19, “Judges and other officials are not to show partiality in their judgments; and they are not to accept



Bishop Joh Mayom looking happy

bribes, for bribes blind the eyes even of wise and honest people, and cause them to give wrong decisions.”

Consider II Chronicles 19:7 “The Lord our God does not tolerate fraud or partiality or the taking of bribes.” In addition, Proverbs 17:23, “Corrupt judges accept secret bribes, and then justice is not done.”

Now let us examine some verses, which look favourably on bribes in Proverbs 17:8, “A bribe works miracles like a magic charm that brings good luck.” Proverbs 18:16, “A bribe will get you in to see anyone.” In Proverbs 21:14, “A secret bribe will save you from someone’s fierce anger.” In other words, “A bribe given secretly to a person who is fighting mad at you will calm him/her down and will save you yourself from that person’s fierce anger.”(George Grant, 1986, pg.90).

### B. Social consequences of corruption

1. Erosion of moral valves: Corruption perverts a nation’s sense of right and wrong. In corrupt societies, the right becomes the wrong and wrong becomes right.

2. Increased social Evil: Corruption provides fertile ground for tribalism, nepotism, fraud, dishonesty and selfishness, and may even lead to murder.

3. Lack of transparency: Corruption encourages those in the authority to shun transparency and accountability. Call for public officials to be transparent and accountable elicits defensive and vindictive responses.

4. Disregard for the rule of law: Corruption encourages individuals, entities and institutions to cut corners and ignore legal requirements. It can be very difficult to obtain justice.

5. Oppression of the weak: In corrupt societies, the weak and the powerless suffer because only the rich and the powerful have access to the courts.

6. Loss of public trust: Corruption makes people cynical, as they do not believe that the truth will come out or that the right thing will be done. They have no confidence in the government and the system.

7. Adoption of a utilitarian ethic: Corruption encourages people to believe that the end justifies the means. They feel free to use immoral methods to abuse other people's trust in the pursuit of their own interests. Some may even become so ruthless that they are prepared to indulge in ritual murder in order to ensure their own success.

8. Destruction of the moral fibre of the society: Corruption deadens people's conscience and results in a loss of respect for life and property.

9. Poor productivity and incompetence: In corrupt societies, officials do not take pride in the quality of the service that they deliver, and consequently poor service becomes the order of the day. The safety of people is compromised; no proper security in the country internally and externally, lack of education facilities, hospitals/clinics. Commercial contracts are awarded on the basis of those who pay

the largest bribes. Banks collapse and government officials launder money for criminal gangs.

10. Ineffective development and administrative: Corrupt governments do not develop their countries. Instead, they allow the rich to evade taxes and pilfer funds intended for subsidies and pensions while medical institutions and transportation infrastructure deteriorate. Funds meant for development are diverted to personal accounts in abroad or in the country.

11. Limited foreign and domestic investment: Both domestic and foreign investors are reluctant to invest in corrupt countries because of the political and economic instability as the result of the corruption in those particular countries. Negative media reports regarding corruption signal that money invested in such country will be wasted.

12. Undermining of democracy: Corruption is an enemy of democracy in any country. In corrupt societies, polls are rigged, leaders impose wrong decisions on people, the Parliament is controlled by the executive arm of the government, media fraternities are cautioned not to publish any information that touches corruption scandal.



Bishop Joh Mayom

### C. Way forward

In Matthew 5:13, the Bible says, "You are like salt for all mankind. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It becomes worthless,

so it is thrown out and people trample on it.” As salt, we should learn the principles for facing corrupt system or people in life situation.

**Following are the principles for facing corrupt system in life:**

1. Resolve never to defile yourself or to spoil your Christian testimony (Daniel 1:8-9; Matthew 16:24-25; James 1:27).
2. Always consider what the other people involved are going to think of Jesus you show them by what you are doing (1 Cor. 10:32-33; 11:1; John 2:9-11).
3. Live in the light. Avoid doing thing you would rather hide (Luke 11:33-35; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17).

4. Influence the world around you rather than let it influence you (Mt. 5:13-16; Heb.6:10-12).

5. Be bold in the faith God gives you (Acts. 4:13; 4:18-19).

6. Follow what is best for your Christian spirit, not necessarily, what is best for your body (1 Peter 2:11-12; Mt.10:17-20).

7. Always be honest (Prov. 16:13; 16:19; 16:25).

8. Choose against the promises that a bribery may appeal to offer you (Ex. 23:8; Prov.17:8’ 17:23; Dev. 16:19; Prov. 18:16; 19:6; 21:14)

## Gogrial Area Diocese Progress Summery

By Rev PeterAngui Akook

Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan (ECSS & S) Diocese of Wau, Gogrial Area Diocese Summary Report from Gogrial Area Diocese in 2015.

Gogrial Area Diocese is a missionary area created out of Wau Diocese and is still being guided by Wau the mother diocese to accomplish its full requirements to attain its independent from Wau Diocese.

With the support, guidance, instructions, directives and connection from Wau Diocese together with its partners, friends and individuals, Gogrial Area Diocese was able to achieve the followings:

**1)** Foodstuffs and non-food items distribution to four different IDP camps in Twic County and Gogrial West County. And this kind of project was funded by both Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) and Anglican Relief &



Development Fund (ARDF) through Wau Diocese’s developmental wing known as Christian Actions for Relief and Development (ECSS-CARD).

**2)** Nyieth Primary School Completion in Akon South Payam, Gogrial West County, Warrap State (South Sudan). This project was also being supported or funded by Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) through Wau Diocese’s developmental wing know as Christian Actions for Relief and Development (ECSS-CARD).

3) Animal Traction and the purchase of ox plows in Adoor, Nyieth and Akon. This was funded by Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) through Wau Diocese's developmental wing called Christian Actions for Relief and Development (ECSS-CARD).

4) Five Boreholes drilling in Kuajok, Majoknoon, Malek-Akerec, Akon and Nyieth clinic. This project got its funds from Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF-USA & ARDF-Canada) through Wau Diocese' developmental wing known as Christian Actions for Relief and Development (ECSS-CARD).

5) St. Mary Cathedral Wall Construction in Kuajok the HQS of Gogrial Area Diocese. This project was done through congregation members who were formed as 17 Construction Committee members who would then tasked to

mobilized funds from their colleagues, friends and relatives locally and elsewhere if necessary.

6) Youth Conference Workshop held in Kuajok and it was funded by SOMA-UK through Wau Diocese. This was conducted in March 2015.

#### **Please Note**

Rev Peter has now handed the administration of Gogrial Area Diocese to Bishop Abraham Ngor in preparation for Gogrial to become a full diocese.

Bishop Moses would like to express his gratitude to Rev Peter for all the hard work in setting up the Administration of Gogrial Area Diocese.

Please pray for Bishop Abraham and all the people of Gogrial as the progress of their new diocese continues.

## **Fundraising Initiative Success With Local & Outside Donors by the Mobilization Team**

**By Rev John Bol Angui**

We are now very pleased to publically announce a restarting of the building of the walls of St Mary Cathedral from the level of apex beam ring construction. Also an additional sanctuary round the head side building of the Cathedral, with one office in each side and the almost complete construction of St. Mary's cathedral Kuajok. We have been struggling to complete the St. Mary's Cathedral wall building that had reached apex beam level and we had stopped the work for while in the last few



weeks due to the lack of enough funds to complete the building construction.

We are indeed still keeping on trying to get more funds for continuation of the work to the very end. As usual we decided to use a positive and a wise way forward, so we are mobilizing the people for fundraising once again in a different method. Each one of the members from the construction committee has given authorization to mobilize funds from his/her friends, colleagues relatives and his/her known organizations here and elsewhere around the world as best as he/she can to contribute funds which will help to facilitate the complete building process of beam ring level and wall construction as well.

We are mobilizing the funds from target groups especially from the local churches, organizations, individual colleagues and partners abroad. Construction committee meetings are always taking place every Saturday so that all construction committee members may report what they have achieved from fundraising.

We have therefore formed seventeen (17)



Committee members report and discuss funding

Construction Committee members that can run fundraising processes or be able to oversee the daily activities till the completion of the processes for the inauguration of St. Mary Cathedral, Kuajok are achieved. The seventeen construction committee members have officially been given the task of fundraising mobilization and successfully managed to get 11,120 SSP by the first report within a week which indicated our success on that point of view. That encouraged us to look forward to the completion of the wall construction process within the duration of one to two months as we planned.



See the progress of the walls so far

Below are the names of the seventeen (17) members of the Construction Committee listed with the temporary titles of each member in the committee which will be valid until completion of the building processes:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Rev Peter Angui Akook   | Construction Committee Chairperson              |
| 2. Rev Andrea Ngong Deng   | Construction Committee Deputy Chairperson       |
| 3. Dr. Stephen Chol Garang | Construction Committee Secretary General        |
| 4. Rev John Bol Angui      | Construction Committee Deputy Secretary General |
| 5. Rev. John Akot Kuat     | Construction Committee Finance Officer          |
| 6. L/R. Clement Deng Kuc   | Construction Committee Deputy Finance Officer   |
| 7. Joseph Duop Deng        | Construction Committee Relations Officer        |
| 8. Elizabeth Athieng Kuot  | Construction Committee Deputy Relations Officer |

**Sub group of the advisory body includes;**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 9. L/R. David Deng Aleer     | Construction Committee Chairperson's Advisor              |
| 10. Muordek Mayol Geng       | Construction Committee Chairperson's Deputy Advisor       |
| 11. Peter Wata               | Construction Committee Secretary General's Advisor        |
| 12. William Malok Dhieu      | Construction Committee Secretary General's Deputy Advisor |
| 13. Molana Maror Adol        | Construction Committee Finance's Advisor                  |
| 14. Augustine Arol Bol       | Construction Committee Finance's Deputy Advisor           |
| 15. John Machar Kuol         | Construction Committee Relations Officer's Advisor        |
| 16. Rev. Joseph Anyar Mawien | Construction Committee Relations Officer's Deputy Advisor |
| 17. Hon. Victoria Tito       | Construction work and Committee members Supervisor        |



The work is nearly all done

which facilitates the process of complete construction before starting on the Vehicle for the Bishop, House/office for the Bishop and 50,000.00 SSP for the diocesan account of the Gogrial area.

Thank you all for your tireless commitment and contributions for construction, we have almost completed the work as shown in the pictures with this article. .

We are currently working on requirements and conditions to try new ways for making fund-raising. For example we could ask each or an individual to choose from the contribution ranging below which indicated figures from 1,000, 500, 400, 300, 250, 200, 150, 100, 50, 25 SSP. One can choose according to his/her personal financial status either from this or more than what is mentioned here as well. This can enable our Area Diocese to meet its requirements for the providing 160,000.00 SSP



The workers have just a little to do



Help to complete the work by donating

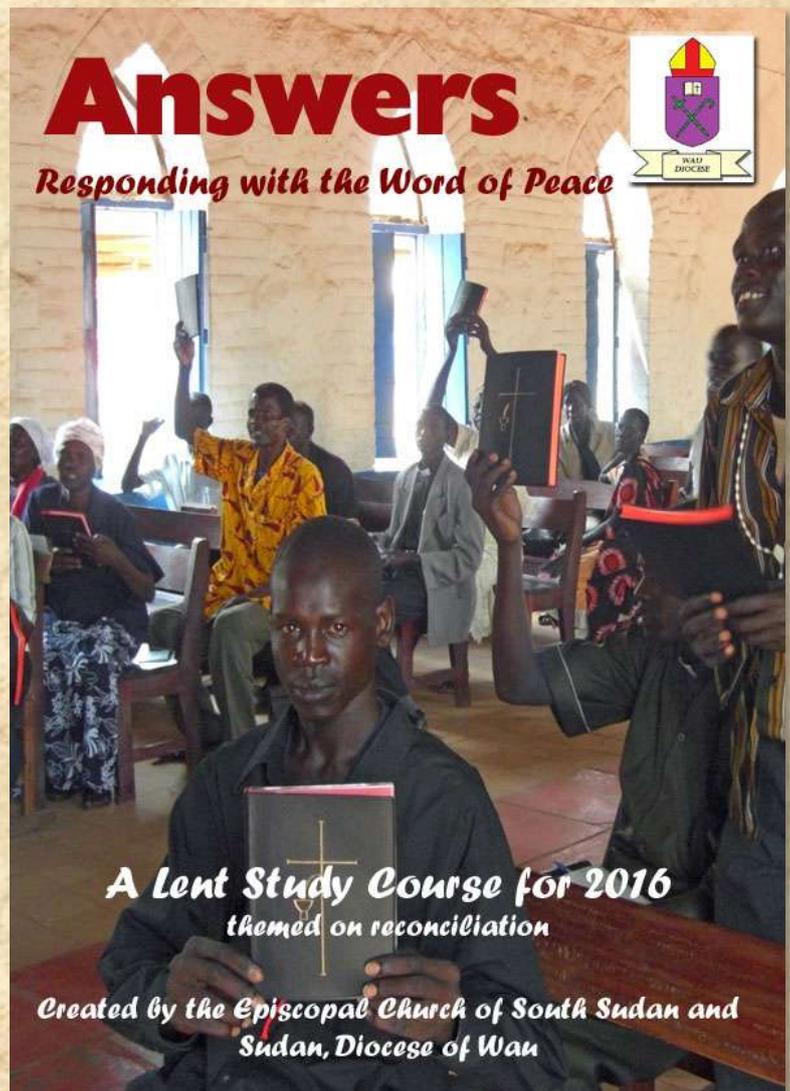
# Answers – Responding With the Word of Peace

## A South Sudanese Lent Study Course for 2016

Written by Pastors of Wau Diocese in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, this is a very simple Lent course designed to be used anywhere. Completely self contained the course can be obtained for **free** online at the Wau diocese website and is set over six sessions. No extras or props are needed, worksheets and leaders notes are all included, simply print what you need or even read directly from a laptop.

The course works by discussion and prayer, gives an African outlook on Christianity and focuses on practical ways that we can bring our faith to life wherever we are. This is the fourth Lent course created by Wau Diocese, that tries to stimulate participation, discovery and looks at peacemaking in faith through Gospel accounts of the events leading to Easter.

As you progress, share your thoughts and discoveries online through the Wau Diocese Lent Forum, illuminate other users of the course and at the same time expand opportunities to learn and grow this Lent. Spend some time with one of the most energetic and expanding churches on the planet and experience a Christian journey in African company.



Available online now. <http://www.wau.anglican.org/index.php?PageID=lentad>

## Malong an Example of Direct Fellowship

By Bishop Moses and Mr Ben Parkin

### Ben

I have had the privilege of meeting Bishop Moses both in Poole and in Wau, South Sudan and I have nothing but admiration for his visionary work in so many fields. As he explained, there is a critical shortage of highly educated people and addressing this issue is key to the future development of the country. I have been honoured to be in a position to help him with this objective, both personally and through friends and family, benefiting five students so far.

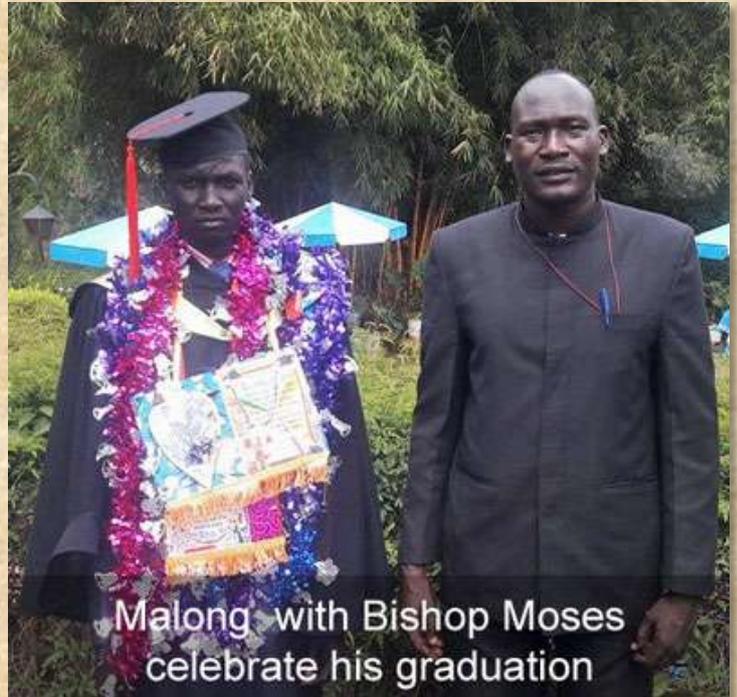
Bishop Moses recommended Malong Akol as a hard-working student with great potential which he has more than fulfilled. It has been a pleasure supporting him and I am delighted to see his graduation photos. I am sure God will use him to great effect in South Sudan.

### Bishop Moses

I first met Ben in his house in Poole which I nicknamed "The white House" because it is painted with white paint. He and his wife Louis had responded to a request from the Vicar of their Parish who asked the congregation whether anyone was willing to host a Bishop from South Sudan in their house.

So the couple hosted me in their house when a young man called James Nyuol whom I had sent to Mount Kenya University in Kenya sent me an email saying that the Principal of the College had given him one Week to leave the College if he had not paid his tuition fees.

I showed Ben this email and he told me that he will share this news with his friend Pete the



following day. After one day he told me that he will sponsor the young man. So I told him to write an email to the Principal promising to pay the fees within a Week which he did. He sponsored James to the end of his tuition and then took on Malong Akol after James Nyuol. Ben is currently sponsoring another student from Wau after Malong completed his studies and graduated. Ben also raised funds from his friend Pete and his parents to support two other students from Wau Diocese in Kenya and Uganda respectively. The value of this cannot be overstated, we need educated people.

**Malong Akol is now appointed as the Accountant for Wau Diocese managing the funds of the diocese to pay for administration, development and mission.**

Bishop Moses is grateful to everyone that helps to support the education of people in South Sudan. In particular Bishop Moses thanks the people who enable further education and help people such as Malong to realise their full potential. These are people who will shape the future of South Sudan.

## The Situation in Wau

A Statement by Rt Rev Moses Deng Bol

It is a great sadness that weighs heavy in my heart, that fighting and violence has spread here to Wau Diocese. For so long we have remained an area of peace when hatred has raged in other areas of South Sudan. I cannot say how sad and at the same time how angry this makes me. As bishop, as a Christian and as a person I condemn this violence and I ask that all those involved stop. No one is innocent and I condemn both rebel troops and Government troops equally for the harm that they are doing to our country.

One of the challenges which I have now witnessed here in Wau is that it is very difficult to get the real picture of what exactly is happening and much of what is being reported in the media seems one sided or biased.

For example so many SPLA soldiers and civilians who are members of the Dinka community have been killed by the rebels in and around Wau town, Busere, Basilia and on the road to Raja. This happened before the SPLA responded, but none of that has been reported at all. I know this is true because I happened to be near Wau Teaching Hospital where some of the soldiers and most of the civilians who had been killed by the rebels were being brought.

In fact I understand that the rebels started attacking and killing SPLA Soldiers and civilians who are members of the Dinka community in and around Wau town almost two Weeks before the SPLA responded. The SPLA were restrained for two weeks because they were requested by the Deputy Governor. He has now been arrested. Apparently he asked the SPLA to wait saying that

he would talk to the rebels to stop the killing. However the killing increased, leading to suspicion that he may be part of the problem, which is what led to his arrest. If this is all true it just adds to the sadness and makes me even more angry. It is as if we cannot settle disputes at all without killing one another. It is not normal! Many other countries in the world do not do this!

Unfortunately it seems that the SPLA have responded with equal brutality which has resulted in the displacement of many innocent civilians who may not be members of the rebel group. So once again we know little of the truth except that people are being killed and made homeless for political reasons. The killing must stop, the attacks must stop and talking must start. Disputes are not settled with fighting, wars do not end with fighting but with negotiations. All last year there was fighting in our country and what did it really achieve, destruction. Our country is poorer and weaker than it was, if we continue to ignore the precious teachings of Jesus and the laws that God gave us through Moses then all that we will see is more and more destruction until we have nothing.

We must learn from our mistakes and settle our disputes peacefully, look to live in peace with each other and think about developing South Sudan not destroying it with hatred. Please read the reports with my statement and pray for peace here in Wau and in all parts of South Sudan.

Every blessing *+Moses Deng*

## 8-1-16 Over 2,000 citizens displaced by SPLA attacks near Wau

(Radio Tamuzaj)

Over 2,000 civilians have fled their homes after attacks by SPLA forces in several villages outside South Sudan's Wau town over the last few days, according to displaced people.

A mother who arrived in Wau together with over 2,000 displaced told Radio Tamuzaj that she lost her husband in an attack at Korokanda in Momoye area. "I come from Korokanda, all people have come here," she said. "People were being attacked, houses were burned, that's why I came here with children, and we don't know where to go. So that's the situation we are in now." The mother said the displaced families are now accommodated in Kosti School for Girls in the town, saying they lost everything after the killings, looting, and burning that took place in their area.

She pointed out that they lack food and other basic services. Meanwhile, several eyewitnesses confirmed that the school was full with the newly displaced people who came from remote peripheral areas in Wau County.

On Wednesday, multiple sources told Radio Tamuzaj that SPLA forces attacked several villages around Wau town, killing at least one civilian and torching 29 homes and two schools, besides the arrest several people.

Radio Tamuzaj earlier reported that SPLA forces prevented United Nations peacekeepers including human rights monitors from accessing affected populations outside Wau.

### Related Articles

[SPLA accused of killing and burning homes near Wau](#) (7 Jan.)

[SPLA spokesman denies aerial bombing in Wau county](#) (8 Dec.)

[UN says clashes in Wau County violate ceasefire](#) (8 Dec.)

[Wau authorities arrest 7 civil society activists who protested abuses by security forces](#) (30 Nov.)

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## 29-1-16 2 killed, tens of houses burned in SPLA attacks in Wau

(Radio Tamuzaj)

Two people were killed including an old man and a girl in SPLA attacks in villages around Wau town of Western Bahr el Ghazal State, while tens of houses were burned, according to local sources.

Many citizens who spoke to Radio Tamuzaj said SPLA troops attacked Momay village killing an old man and a girl. One citizen said the attack resulted in the destruction of around 82 house and properties, which forced civilians to flee. "They are killing civilians and burning houses," another citizen said. They confirmed insecurity in Farajalla, Busari and other parts of Wau county. The citizens blamed the state government for allowing the SPLA attacks in the area.

### Related Articles

[Wau SPLM leader calls on SPLA to withdraw from town's suburbs](#) (15 Jan.)

## 7-1-16 SPLA accused of killing and burning homes near Wau (Radio Tamuzaj)

SPLA forces attacked several villages outside Wau town over the last two days, killing at least one civilian, according to multiple sources in the area. The government forces killed a civilian identified as Albino Okello at Angonga area, the sources said.

Several residents from Korokonda, Angonga, Momoye, and Buseri areas, all about 10 kilometres away from Wau, said 29 homes and two schools were burned, and at least seven people were arrested during the SPLA operation.

The residents added that about ten youths went missing along the Wau-Buseri road over the last three days.

The sources accused an SPLA unit deployed in the area during Christmas celebrations of looting citizen's properties, forcing families to flee to Baggari and others ran into the bush.

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## SPLA blocks UN human rights team (Radio Tamuzaj)

Meanwhile, Radio Tamuzaj is separately informed that SPLA forces prevented a United Nations team including human rights officers from reaching Momoye displaced persons camp outside Wau town on 23 December, just before Christmas. The SPLA also blocked another United Nations team from reaching Baggari area on the same day, Radio Tamuzaj learned. A spokesperson for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan said they were not in a position to discuss specifics when Radio Tamuzaj asked about the incidents.

### Related Articles:

[UN says clashes in Wau County violate ceasefire](#) (8 Dec.)

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## 17-2-16 From Sister Gracy (Carmalite Nun)

We are expecting more people to be malnourished in the coming days, because the fighting is now closer to Wau... in Bussere, Basilia and MoiMoi which are not far from Wau---about 13 to 25 kilometres. In Gebelkheir, Lokolokop, Agok and Nazareth areas people cannot leave their houses before seven in the morning and after 7 in the evening. If they do so the life is in danger.

Many of the peoples' houses are being burnt with the food they have harvested and kept for the dry season....so they have joined with empty hands their relatives in Wau town. This is an added burden on the families in Wau which are already suffering because of increased market prices due to the devaluation of the South Sudanese pound.

I do not know where all is going to end. There is no security at all.

Pray for the people of South Sudan. May God change the minds of the hard hearted leaders.

with prayers Sr Gracy

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## 18-2-16 Government and opposition forces clash in Wau County (Radio Tamuzaj)

Tingo Peter, a member of the SPLA/M in Opposition and native of Western Bahr el Ghazal,

said yesterday that there were clashes between their forces and SPLA forces in Atali area (on the road to Busalia) and Tadu south of Busari in Wau County on Wednesday.

He said the clashes started when the government troops organized themselves in big numbers and attacked their position in Wau.

“We have talked with the governor of Wau state but unfortunately he said he does not have any information about the incident,” he added.

Radio Tamazuj was unable to contact the government for comment.

Meanwhile, multiple sources inside Wau town confirmed a large military presence of SPLA in the south side of the town Tuesday evening up to Wednesday morning on their way to south of Wau. They said this created fear and panic among the citizens in el-Khamsin and Gari Jadeed residential areas and forced many of them to flee to other residential areas in Wau town.

Citizens in the areas south of Wau town confirmed to Radio Tamazuj hearing heavy gunfire in different places in Wau south payam.

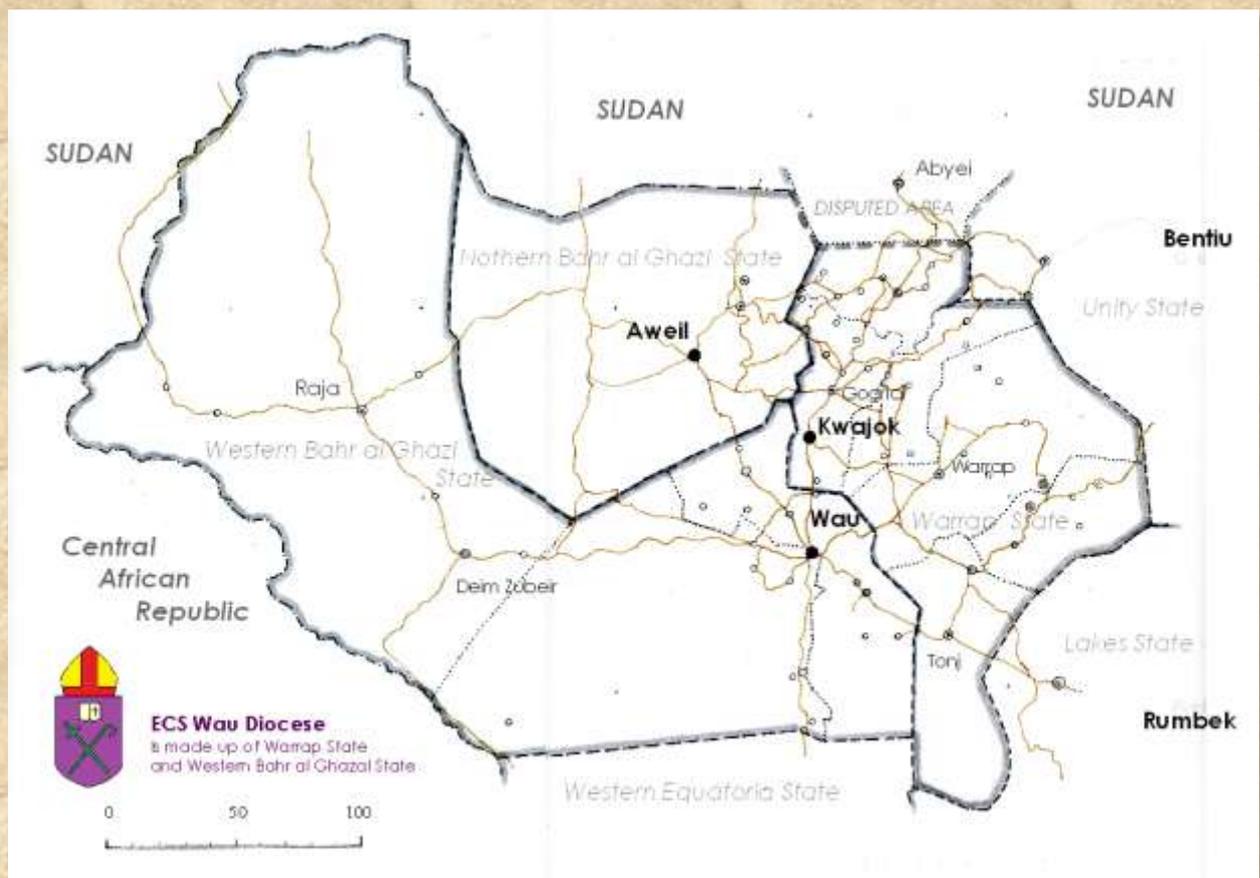
One source said he saw smoke in the air in different parts on the road from Jebel Rabeih to Busari, adding that SPLA burned many houses.

### 19-2-16 Opposition party blames Wau governor for failure to contain recent clashes (Radio Tamuzaj)

The secretary general of the United Democratic Salvation Front – Mainstream party in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Juma Zacharia Deng, has blamed the newly appointed governor of Wau state Elias Waya for failure to contain violence in the state.

Juma said in statement to Radio Tamazuj that the governor is the head of the state security committee and yet he has failed to hold any urgent security meeting to contain the [clashes](#) that erupted this week in the state and continued for two days.

“Since the formation of the new government in Wau the citizens did not enjoy any sense of



stability and they were targeted and killed every day in Busari and Busalia besides the incidents of looting and killing in the residential areas in the town,” he said. Juma said that SPLA forces are in most of the residential areas of the town beating and looting citizens. He called on the government to commit to the ceasefire and give peace a chance.

Meanwhile, Col. William Gatjiath Deng, military spokesman of the rebel group SPLM/A-IO accused the government forces of attacking their positions in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria. He pointed out that such incidents are threatening the implementation of the peace agreement, especially at a time when they are ready to come back to Juba to implement the deal.

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## New Governor, Elias Waya Arrives In Wau Town

Thousands of people gathered on Tuesday in the newly created Wau State to receive the newly appointed State Governor Elias Waya Nyipuocho.

WU 12, January 2016 **[Gurtong]** - Waya on Tuesday was received by many from Wau airport up to the State council of ministers where he later addressed the people.

Waya and his deputy Andrea Dominic were accompanied by the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly deputy speaker Hon. Mark Nyipuocho Ubong and South Sudan former Education Minister Joseph Ukell Abango.

Addressing thousands of people who gathered at the State Council of Ministers to receive the Governor, Waya and his deputy said their top priority for the State is security followed by other issues including the political situation and development.

Governor Waya called upon the people of Wau State to embark on peace and reconciliation.

“The peace is already signed; therefore, the situation should go back to normal, the

government has already signed everything with the SPLM-IO, there is no more war again, you have your sons who were in the army of SPLM-IO in Pagak, they are coming back soon, they will be in Wau, therefore you have to welcome them in peace like those of Taban Deng Gai and his team in Juba,” said the Governor.

“Please, forgive each other and open a new page to peace, discuss your differences at day time not at night,” he said. “You are here in Wau to stay as a normal citizen, therefore you abide by the law and if you work out of the law, this is your own risk,” he said.

Waya assured the people of Wau that those who were detained during the outbreak of the 2013 South Sudan conflict based on political issues in Wau will soon be released and reunited with their families.

**This article was originally published by the Gurtong News Agency**

**Please pray for peace in South Sudan**

## Rial Baai - An Incredible Story

By Susan V Mead

Who would have thought a 55 year old woman would finally realize her dream of coming to South Sudan, 23 years after hearing the Rev. Marc Nikkel speak of his time with beloved Jieng friends in southern Sudan?

Who would have thought the church where this woman was baptized more than half a century ago, would make it possible for a computer center in Kuajok, South Sudan to have new laptops for the computer training they conduct 7 days each week?

Who would have thought that the children from the little rock church in the Virginia mountains, where this woman now calls home, would make it possible for more than 50 people from all over South Sudan to meet at St. John's College in Wau to learn about solar electric power and empowerment through training in leadership, persistence, goal setting, time and money management?

Who would have thought that a chance meeting in a parking lot 5 years ago, between a sociology professor and a young South Sudanese author, would lead to a friendship that would bring ALL these factors together in South Sudan in February 2016?

Who would have thought?



Susan Virginia Mead and Mariak Machok Chuor, that's who! Susan, who had been voted most school-spirited AND most argumentative in secondary school---a strange combination which means she NEVER lets go of an idea or project she is enthusiastic about!! Mariak, who had been a Lost Boy from the ravages of the South Sudanese civil war, and went to Kakuma refugee camp at the urging of his father, to get his education; he, who while at Kakuma dreamed of going to further his education in the U.S. and then returning to teach his people ways to use technology, *Rebuilding What Had Been Destroyed* (the title of the book he completed the year he and Susan met). And that is exactly what he did!

### Susan's Story

Even though she waited more than two decades after hearing Marc Nikkel in 1993 tell the story about the love and tragedy he had experienced during his years in south Sudan, she finally landed in the Diocese of Wau on January 15, 2016 to teach at St. John's College and build partnerships with Clement Mboro Kindergarten and Primary



School, as well as Mariak Chuur's Rial Baai organization. However long the road was to finally realizing this dream, she was not idle during those waiting years!! In addition to finishing her Ph.D. in sociology and giving birth to two children in the three years after hearing Marc Nikkel's story, she found ways to connect with southern Sudanese people half a world away. Not so!! At the request of a priest from Yambio who was a visiting student at Virginia Theological Seminary, she created a "Get My Goat" campaign for donating funds to displaced Episcopal Mother's Union members to buy goats for family income; she hosted that same priest twice at Ferrum College over the next decade, involving the whole college and sending him home with plans drawn and pictures of a model created by Ferrum education students for a girl's school that they still hope will be built one day. Susan networked with individuals and organizations to fund a rare scholarship to help a South Sudanese man begin flight training school in the U.S.. And she welcomed former child soldier, international musician, and peace activist Emmanuel Jal to the Ferrum College campus for the first time in March 2011. The visit was so

successful, that she made plans for him to return in the fall for a full concert for 500 college students and to speak to over 1000 primary and secondary students. You can see why Susan cannot understand how people think it is so difficult to build relationships with international communities that may seem too far away or too volatile to visit! Not so!!

It was then she met Mariak Chuur. Mariak came into Susan's life in 2011, a very special year for her work with South Sudan, and more importantly, for the nation itself. South Sudan had voted for independence and became the newest nation in the world that year. At Ferrum, Susan spent the whole year working with students to bring awareness of the issues of peace and justice faced by the new nation. Mariak was a part of that year's programming. After they had met in the summer, Susan and Mariak arranged for him to come share his own story, his newly published book, and resources developed by his South Sudanese friends in North Carolina. Hearing Mariak's story was so good for the students because, even though he had been born in South Sudan and had also been a child

soldier in the bush, they could relate to him as a person who had gone to secondary school right there in Virginia. They listened as if he was one of them, even though his story was so very different; some of them even discovered that they had gone to the same high school! That sealed their



Success for Deng  
a first year student at St  
John's College



Bishop Moses hands  
over solar training  
equipment



A Big crowd for the solar training in Good Shepherd Cathedral

connection with him.

Susan and Mariak found several other opportunities to work together and then kept in touch through e-mail, Facebook, and phone calls while he was in North Carolina, then when Mariak went off to Texas and found his new calling in solar training, and even when he fulfilled his dream of heading back to South Sudan to make the difference he always knew he could make in his village, among his family, and with his skills.

The chance meeting has grown into a dear friendship that, most of the time, has to exist with half a world in between the two friends. But during the week of February 8-12, 2016, that gap was closed! During that very special week, Susan Mead supported by the children of her church in

Virginia, and Mariak Choor, who had formed the Rial Baai organization “to bring light to the community” all around South Sudan---joined one another at St. John’s College and Good Shepherd Cathedral in the Diocese of Wau to train people from all walks of life: the college students and staff; diocesan staff; members of the Dinka, English, and Arabic congregations; employees of Voice of Hope radio and the Clement Mboro School; and others from the Wau community. They all learned basic solar principals, took practical tests, and learned life empowerment techniques. Forty-four people earned their basic solar certificates and Susan was one of them! The dream of working together in South Sudan, sprouted five years earlier but germinated from seeds planted decades before, finally came true!

See more on the Rial Baai Project website: <http://www.rialbaai.org/>



**Rial Baai  
Project**

*“Bringing Light  
to the Community”*

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Lord we give you praise for this holy time of Lent in which to prepare for your passion and sacrifice in Holy Week, your arrest and death on the cross during Good Friday and your glorious resurrection on Easter morning. Amen.

## Please Pray With Us

**Pray for the hardworking clergy and volunteers of Wau Diocese who work without pay in difficult conditions.**

**Give thanks to God for people and agencies that come to work with us such as Susan, Mariak and the Rial Baai organisation.**

**Pray** for the Archbishop of the ECSSS and all in South Sudan so that all violence may be stopped and all peace initiatives be followed with vigour.

**Pray** for lasting peace and strong development in South Sudan.

**Pray** for the recognition and removal of corruption in South Sudan.

**Pray** for the refugees at Maanangui camp that they may one day be able to go home in peace.

**Give thanks to God** for the generosity of people such as Mr Ben Parkin.

**Pray** for St John's College of Theology and Development and its principal Rev Nathaniel Maral.

**Pray** for all farmers in our community in need of education particularly people new to farming.

**Pray** for the street children in Warrap State and the boarding school project set to help them.

**Give Thanks** for the partners working with us in the development of our society.

**Pray** for the situation of food security in South Sudan so that people may have enough to eat.

**Pray** for the many South Sudanese exposed to fighting and violence at this time.

### Church prayers needs

**Pray** for our Bishop the Rt. Rev Moses Deng Bol, who works so hard for the Diocese, pray that God will help him to do what needs to be done.

**Pray** for Bishop Abraham Ngor – the new Bishop of Gogrial Area Diocese that God will guide him.

**Pray** for Bishop Peter Yuol Gur – the newly consecrated Bishop of Tonj Area Diocese.

**Pray** for Captain Rev Paul Lueth the first Church Army Africa Officer in South Sudan.

**Pray** for all pastors, priests, deacons and assistants working hard in Wau Diocese.

**Pray** for the Mothers Union in Wau Diocese and the good work that they do.

**Pray** for all schools and teachers in Wau Diocese and all those trying hard to learn.

**Pray** for the development of the Area Dioceses of Gogrial and Tonj becoming full dioceses.

**Pray** for Rev Peter Angui Akook the new Administrator of St John's College.

**Pray** for Rev Angok Achuil Angok the coordinator of Tonj Area Diocese.

**Pray** for all Christians working hard to build and sustain peaceful development in faith..

**Give thanks to God** for the valuable work of CARD in our community and the development it brings to make life better for the future.