

Quarterly Bulletin 107

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A prayer for peace and safety amid unrest

*O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace:
let the design of thy great love
lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows:
and give peace to thy Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings,
and peace in our hearts:
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SUDAN

There is disturbing news from Sudan (25 October) that the Prime Minister, Abdalla Hamdok, and other civilian leaders have been placed under house arrest by a military group. The internet is down, the TV station is reportedly occupied and Khartoum airport has been closed. Troops have been deployed across the city. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of the military faction of the Sudanese government, in a televised address announced a state of emergency, suspending several parts of the interim constitution, and dissolving the civilian government and interim sovereignty council. He said quarrels among political factions prompted the military to intervene but he pledged to complete the country's democratic transition, saying a new technocrat government would lead Sudan to elections. In recent weeks there had been demonstrations in favour of restoring military government but also large counter-demonstrations by pro-democracy groups, which now continue against the coup.

Prime Minister Hamdok's civilian administration had been making constructive progress though a plan to open the border with South

Sudan was delayed because of political instability. There had also been signs of hope for the economy with the relaxation of US sanctions and slight lessening of hyper-inflation, down a third to approximately 350%. The USA responded to news of a possible coup by declaring it unacceptable and threatening to cut off aid. Prospects for peace in Sudan via the Juba Agreement had previously appeared to be improving, although deteriorating relationships with Ethiopia and the plight of Tigrayan people fleeing Ethiopia into Gedaref state have added to the Khartoum government's security burdens. There had also been some hope of an agreement on the Abyei dispute, though conflict in Darfur continues. What the future of these hopeful signs will be, if a military government takes over, is now very uncertain.

Canon Ian Woodward has assured Archbishop Ezekiel of our prayers for this situation. The Archbishop's immediate priority in his province has been the practical reality of food insecurity exacerbated by extreme floods.

SOUTH SUDAN

As South Sudan celebrated the 10th anniversary of its independence, the ecumenical leaders of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) forcefully declared the failure of the country's political leaders to make any real progress in establishing effective governance or meaningful democratic representation. Governance in South Sudan is inevitably complex, and meanwhile serious ethnic and gender violence continues unabated, including the shooting of two nuns on a bus on the Nimule Road. The SSCC has been outspoken in condemning these atrocities. Upper Nile, Warrap, Lakes, and Central and Western Equatoria are particularly affected by subnational and ethnic/localized violence resulting in displacement, increased protection risks and human rights violations as well as diminished humanitarian aid access. Cattle raiding continues in Jonglei and South Sudan People's Defence Forces are engaged in skirmishes in the Equatorias. Particularly concerning is the threat and violence to UN and NGO staff and the destruction of property. In addition South Sudan is still threatened by increasing food insecurity for at least two thirds (7 million) of the population. COVID and floods have considerably worsened the crisis

SUPPORT THE LINK WITH YOUR PRAYERS

If you belong to a prayer group, write intercessions or include the Sudans in your regular prayers, you can now find monthly prayer points on our website. <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/prayer>

SUDANS DAY 2021

We had an wonderful day on 9 October at St Francis Salisbury, a very welcoming and well-appointed venue. The excellent speakers included HE Agnes Oswaha the Ambassador of South Sudan, and Jane Backhurst, Christian Aid's Senior Advisor on South Sudan. A presentation from MAF brought back memories for many! CRESS (Christian Relief and Education in South Sudan), the Poole-Wau Link and the Episcopal University also gave presentations as well as members of our Sudans Link committee. In addition the 'side shows' are always very interesting. Revd Ron Hart has organised the Sudans Day for so many years and we do thank him and his wife Creddie for all their hard work and commitment as he 'bows out'.

THANKS FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Sincere thanks to the hosts and organisers of 2 fundraising events: to Madeleine Tarrant and her team who worked so hard to plan and run the Medical Link Garden Party at South Canonry, raising £12,500 and also to Lord Cranborne and his staff for a delightful Soiree at Cranborne Manor which raised £3,000. The funds raised will be put to use immediately – see the Medical Link Report.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The Community of St Denys has offered a grant to each of the 4 Theological Colleges that we support. It has also contributed to 2 new classrooms in Immanuel Kindergarten in Yei; to CRESS education for South Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda; and to refurbishment at ECS Girls Senior Secondary School in Omdurman for the three classes of the new Intermediate School in its compound.

Sherborne Girls School has formed a Friends of Omdurman Girls group under the guidance of Revd Jenny Nelson who is working to engender other school links.

MEDICAL LINK

We have communication that the clinics we support around Nzara are out of medicines. There is also a request for 3 new clinics to be supported as violence in Tambura County has resulted in a movement of people into Ezo County. The tender process is underway and we expect to have ordered medicines by the time you read this. The Bishop Holtam fund sponsored 4 new students in Maridi, who started in April.

SUPPORT THE LINK WITH A REGULAR DONATION

Although COVID affected the support we normally send to our brothers and sisters, more people have started a regular bank donation which is a great help. On the website is a standing order form with the choice to support medical or general costs. 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

If have any queries about use of your data or wish to be removed from the mailing list please contact *Anne Powell, Sudan Bulletin Editor*, sudanbulletin@outlook.com Tel 01258 861397