

Quarterly Bulletin 106

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Blessed are you, Lord our God.

How sweet are your words to the taste, sweeter than honey to the mouth. How precious are your commands for our life, more than the finest gold in our hands. How marvellous is your will for the world, unending is your love for the nations. Our voices shall sing of your promises and our lips declare your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever. Amen

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HEARTFELT THANKS

To everyone who has responded to last year's 'SOAP AND FOOD' appeal and to this year's request to consider a regular donation to the work of the Sudans Link. Your generosity makes a huge difference to our sisters and brothers in the Sudans. It lets them know that we care about them in a practical way, as well as praying for them regularly, which many of you do. The remainder of our 'SOAP AND FOOD' appeal money has been sent to the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. See the report later in this Bulletin.

TWO ENJOYABLE EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE MEDICAL LINK

The Medical Link Garden Party on **Sunday afternoon 5th September** from 2 – 5pm in the South Canonry in Salisbury. Bishop Anthony Poggo from Lambeth Palace has agreed to be present.

A Soiree at Cranborne Manor on **Wednesday 8th September** 6 – 8pm supported by Lord Cranborne. You can buy tickets for this delightful event via the Just Giving page [here](#) or go to Just Giving and search for Sudan Medical Link.

SUDANS DAY 2021

Please join us on **9th October 9.30 am – 4 pm** at St Francis Church, Salisbury. A great opportunity to hear from, and talk with, people who really know about the situation in our link dioceses. A poster and booking form are enclosed with emails of this Bulletin. You can book by emailing sudan.secretary@salisbury.anglican.org or by ringing 01963 23726.

Fees will not be collected in advance but please bring with you on the day your fee of £8 per person (£6 for the unwaged/retired or where three or more people share one car).

SOAP AND FOOD IN SOUTH SUDAN

SSUDRA, the development and humanitarian wing of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, has used the final instalment of money we sent to distribute WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) supplies to people in Juba Diocese and in the Diocese of Yei including internally-displaced people (IDPs). We received a detailed report with photos and testimonies. The IDPs included the most vulnerable such as breastfeeding mothers, the elderly, female-headed households, child-headed households, people living with chronic diseases and people with disabilities. They had been uprooted from their villages and the living conditions in their very congested and crowded camp are precarious. There is a lack of access to health treatment and the mental health, psycho-social condition and nutrition of these people are affected. Malnutrition, disability and old age are believed to make people more susceptible to COVID-19, especially when they are living in crowded conditions. Interviews with some of the IDPs tell of the terrible violence that is still affecting parts of South Sudan.

For example, Rose, is 53 years old and has four grandchildren. She said *"We left everything when fighting broke out between rebels and the government forces. After the fighting the soldiers burnt our church which was built by Samaritans Purse. The churches and schools were destroyed by the government forces after their defeat by the rebels. As I speak to you there are dead bodies of civilians laying down not buried. It is our tradition that the dead ones must be buried but how do you go to collect*

the dead ones and bury them? We will be killed. Many skeletons remained unburied in the area. Thank you SSUDRA, ERD and the Diocese of Salisbury for bringing to us food, laundry soaps and sanitisers. We are vulnerable and soft targets of coronavirus. We are used to cultivating our garden and the children peacefully and joyfully go to schools. We are here in Yei town with no piece of land to cultivate okra, maize, potatoes etc. We need peace to enable us to go back to our respective places of origin.”

Victoria is 18 years old and has a child. She married at the age of 15 years because of lack of school and fear of being raped by government soldiers. She said she could not live in her village because of the killing, rape, looting and torture going on in the villages. Being children, Victoria and her husband separated because they couldn't manage their home affairs. She said *“We appreciated the help brought by SSUDRA, Diocese of Salisbury and ERD. May our true God who saved us from the village provide them with much money and energy to work for vulnerable people like us. We are hungry, you fed us and dirty, you gave us soap to wash our clothes and bodies clean. We will not be able to go back to witness the killing, rape and the looting going on in our villages. We rather prefer to die of hunger than being raped, tortured and killed. In God I trust that peace will prevail one time and those culprits are brought to book.”*

Robert Hayward who advises Christian Aid, and the Salisbury Sudans Committee said *“The Salisbury Appeal money has been a real blessing to those IDPs and also to families in Juba Diocese.”*

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

There's very good news about support for education from a number of people and organisations. The Anchor Foundation has provided a grant of £5,000 to each of the Theological Colleges that we usually support in Sudan and South Sudan. This is a huge help when we have been unable to send as much as usual.

Holy Trinity Cathedral Gibraltar has granted £111,000 for the construction of a Science Laboratory extension at Juba Diocese Model Secondary School (JDMSS), The £12,000 needed for fitting-out costs is being given by two individuals, the school PTA, the Sherborne Parish

Faith in Action Committee and the JDMSS Building Fund (Friends of JDMSS). Work has started and should be completed by the end of August. JDMSS continues as a beacon providing outstanding education.

MEDICAL LINK

We are more optimistic about the opportunities for developing primary care in South Sudan than before because of your support and for the additional reasons:

- Three-year funding to take on additional new students for training has been allocated by Bishop Holtam from his fund. (Currently we have 7 students training at Maridi Health Training Institute and 6 at Mary Help College in Wau).
- Individuals have generously donated personal funding to support training of specific students.
- Fees have reduced meaningfully in two of the colleges we commission places from.
- We have managed to continue to supply drugs and medical supplies to 11 clinics that we support, using a competitive tendering process. The second consignment for 2021 has been ordered.
- Fundraising activity is now supported by a small team.
- Leadership and medical support for the Medical Link has been strengthened.

SUPPORT THE LINK WITH A REGULAR DONATION

Although COVID restrictions affected the support we normally send to our brothers and sisters, more people have started a regular donation via the bank which is a great help. On the website is a standing order form with the choice to support medical or general costs. Visit <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/donate> or contact the Sudans Link Treasurer, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB.

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