

Showing God's character to the world by bringing healing to bodies and souls

Uganda/Sudan Medical Mission

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USMM Coming Events

February
Gulu Medical School
February 10-15
ECS Bishops &
Spouses Retreat –Yei
March 9-18
Travel with ECS
Archbishop to Rumbek,
Cueibet, & Yirol
March 23-30
Gulu Medical School



Bp Bernard of Torit and healthcare workers in front of a diocesan health centre (yes, it's a tent!)

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“Making health a way of life...”

If you read these newsletters closely, you will have noted that there are many changes afoot in the Sudan. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in January 2005 between the north and the south. The Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) has been diligently working to create a new government out of the ashes of war. The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) has elected and enthroned a new Archbishop. We have been able to be on the sidelines viewing much of this activity in Southern Sudan and ECS. Being appointed recently as a consultant to the ECS Health Commission has drawn us into this beehive of activity.

The Health Commission previously functioned primarily as a patchwork of programs focused on HIV, Malaria, and TB during the time of war. An ongoing partnership with Diocese of Salisbury, Sudan Medical Link, brought a steady, small supply of medications into the church network. The work of the Health Commission was relegated to one man who has another full time job. No comprehensive program for health existed.

The new Archbishop of ECS, Daniel Deng Bul, observed that “ECS brings everybody to church.” He noted the importance of “receiving people spiritually, first.” He then expressed his desire to see the ECS help Sudanese “make health a way of life.” With these statements, he charged the ECS Health Commission with the task of building a comprehensive health program for the ECS.

How do you construct a church health commission? If anyone has the answer, please let me know! Lacking such human advice, we have begun the process of developing a strategic plan enveloped with prayer. Research on health programs and current health projects in Sudan is underway. All of this is being aided by touring the 24 dioceses of the ECS.

In January we traveled to seven dioceses: Juba, Bor, Rokon, Lui, Mundri, Lainya, and Torit. People in these areas are returning to their home lands and beginning life anew. This means building homes and starting farms to produce food for their families. The dioceses are hubs of activity. Parishioners come to the churches daily to meet, conduct prayer, and work on various projects. We have found the bishops to be thoughtful shepherds who yearn to truly care for their flocks. By God’s



The 24 Dioceses of The Sudan

strength, they are not overwhelmed by the tasks before them, but rather exhibit a “joy of the Lord” in their ministries. The healthcare facilities within dioceses are spartan. Some buildings are in place but the workers and supplies are few. We witnessed diocesan members conducting healthcare in a variety of structures (buildings, tents, huts, and offices). We found healthcare workers to be caring and desiring to serve the Lord through their God given talents.

In February, we traveled to Diocese of Yei for the first ECS Bishops and Wives Retreat. This gathering attracted three Archbishops and bishops from three continents. I was asked to teach about healing and mission as core concepts of God’s kingdom work. I also led a time of learning about listening prayer. USMM provided a small set of medications for each diocese and treated retreat participants for strongyloides and schistosomiasis, along with other ailments. We gave some specific gifts to address known needs: a surgical set for Lui Hospital, more medication for schistosomiasis to an infested area, and a larger set of medications for Ezo diocese which is currently under siege by the LRA (the LRA...it’s everywhere).

It is a “God-sized” task to care for the sick in this context and to “make health a way of life.” We shall have to depend on God to show us the way forward. He is able, more than able (c.f. Ephesians 3:2).