

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

**July and August**  
Complete Health Survey for Episcopal Church of Sudan  
**September**  
Gulu Medical School Tour of northern dioceses with ECS  
**Archbishop**  
**October**  
Catch up time in Goli



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## Surrounded by Foes

They say the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) has left Sudan and moved into CAR (Central African Republic). But as we traveled through-out Western Equatoria State (WEQ) in August, we were daily confronted by the evidence of their presence in Sudan. The most dramatic was in Ezo town. The Commissioner's (Mayor) residence was looted and several people were killed (including three priests of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). The road from Yambio to Ezo was limited to travel by military escort only. We cancelled our trip to Ezo the following day. ECS has four dioceses in WEQ. Entire parishes are displaced towards towns (e.g. Maridi, Ibba, Yambio, and Ezo). Most church leaders have fled to safety. Cultivation has stopped as people fear to work in the fields. Food supplies are dwindling. It is an opportunity for the dioceses to express God's love and care to the people by providing land and provisions for the displaced, while appealing to the government and outside world for help.

They say there is peace between northern and southern Sudan as a result of the CPA signed in 2005. But as we traveled through Upper Nile State in August, we were daily confronted by evidence of the fragility of that peace. In Malakal, fighting broke out between the forces of the north and those of the south in February of this year. After three days, many were dead and fear had settled like fog over the city. We could not easily move about and were restricted from taking pictures. Our hosts were tense. When we traveled by boat along the Nile from Malakal to Melut and then by car to Renk, we found SPLA troops heavily deployed throughout the area and were slowed by their omnipresent road and river check-points. We even slept on a cargo boat one night because we were prevented from moving after dark. The area is attractive to the Khartoum government because of its oil reserves. The plethora of oil rigs, pumping stations, and

reservoir tanks made me think of Texas. It is an opportunity for the diocese to demonstrate reconciliation as ambassadors of Christ.

They say there is peace in Southern Sudan among the tribes. But as we have traveled in Jonglei state, we were daily told the stories of fighting between tribes over cattle. Just after we left Wongelei in July, several people we had met during the conference were killed in an attack on the town. In August, the archdeacon for Kongor area was killed in a similar confrontation between tribes. The July 2009 version of the MAF Flyer summarized the situation well: "In recent months the death rate in Southern Sudan from violent conflict has been higher than in Darfur", said the UN special representative to Sudan, Ashraf Qazi. Hundreds have died, thousands have been displaced and scores of villages razed in the South. Many of the South's key oil regions, among them Jonglei and Upper Nile, have been paralyzed by bloody tribal clashes linked to longstanding rows over cattle." It is an opportunity for the diocese to teach about forgiveness and restoration.

Foes from outside and foes from within. Where is God in the midst of these trials? Psalm 105 (go get your bible) tells of God's faithfulness to Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Israel living out their faith in the midst of foes. God's presence wasn't limited to the Old Testament. God, Himself, comes in the form of Jesus to address the plight of mankind. Jesus lived in the midst of foes. Jesus was hunted as a baby by Herod. As Pharisees plotted to accuse him, Jesus healed on the Sabbath (Luke 6:6-10 and 13:10-17) and forgave sins (Mark 2:3-12). During his arrest, Jesus was beaten and humiliated. Jesus' response on the cross was: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). God's presence wasn't limited to the Bible, He is still "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Even in the midst of foes.

## In a diocese far, far away...

The meeting was really boring until the Youth worker began to speak. When he mentioned the 400 youth from Muslim backgrounds that were following Jesus in his diocese, I perked up. His earnest request was simple..."we need bibles. We want to increase our knowledge, so we can tell others," he continued. Day and night I talked with God about these youth. Within one week, the bibles were bought and put on a plane to begin their journey to these youth who are surrounded by foes deep in Southern Sudan. Thank you, Lord! (Details removed for security)