



The Africa Appeal

New Year 2018



Dear Supporters of the Africa Appeal,

Special Report: South Sudan

Bishop Garang spent the Christmas season in the diocese of Aweil: however, when we spoke in mid January, he needed to go home to Nairobi to recover from a respiratory infection acquired during his time in Aweil and surrounding area.

Once again, during his stay, he was able to document the four major problems which faced the people of the Diocese of Aweil – and in effect, the majority of the people of South Sudan! Although the Diocese and the city itself are not too close to any intense fighting, the overall situation in Juba, the capital, and in Upper Nile and Unity provinces, but as uncertainty continues, supply chains for essential supplies are disturbed, infrastructure – roads and power supply – are left to fall into disrepair, with many people displaced from their homes by the civil war which has been raging in eastern and central parts of the country.

Map of the [South Sudanese Civil War](#). The map image is based on [Module: Southern Sudan Civil War detailed map](#).

-  Under control of the [Government of South Sudan](#) and Allies
-  Under control of the [Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition](#) and Allies
-  Under control of the [Government of Sudan](#)



Map source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Southern_Sudan_Civil_War.svg

This insecurity has resulted in the four problems: challenges which are proving serious threats to the remaining population. These are:

- ❖ famine and malnutrition,
- ❖ the lack of clean water for human and animal use,
- ❖ disease, especially the threats of malaria and cholera:
- ❖ aid for those fleeing the civil war.

How many people are involved with this problem? Here are photographs taken in the Diocese at Christmas 2017: the local church (in the background with the thatch roof) is built of brick adobe and is slowly collapsing: it needs to be replaced! But how big does the new church need to be? And where would you find the money for such a project?





The second major challenge is the lack of clean water in many villages. The church has been very fortunate to have received aid from Voice of the Martyrs Canada (VoM) in the drilling and installation of two village wells in Luethwek and Baau: but as you can see, there are more villages. As these projects are beyond our means at this time, we ask for your prayers for a partner agency to step up and take on the task started by VoM Canada.

The incidence of water borne diseases in Aweil is common to many areas: this summary from World Health in 2013 has not changed very much:

‘With the high number of returnees entering South Sudan coupled with low and weak coverage of routine immunization in the states, the lives of hundreds of children continue being at risk of immunizable diseases. In the reporting period, cases of measles continued to be reported from Lakes, Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Central Equatoria states, thus endangering the lives of children not immunized children. Eighty-eight (88) suspected cases of measles (incidence rate of 1.07 per 100,000 populations) with one related death were reported across the country in this reporting period. The overall incidence rate increased in week 45 as compared to week 44 from 0.85 in week 44 to 1.07 in week per 100,000 populations. The suspected measles cases were reported from: Lakes (19), two from Central Equatoria state, two from Western Bahr el Ghazal state six from Upper Nile State and 59 from Unity state. ♣ As the numbers of people affected by floods continued to increase in most parts of the country, affecting up to 278 790, threats of water borne, and vector borne diseases continued in areas where floods occurred. Partners however continue putting in place response efforts to minimize any likely occurrence of water borne and vector diseases.’
http://www.who.int/hac/crises/ssd/sitreps/south_sudan_eha_17november2013.pdf





This is made worse because of the influx of those escaping violence in other regions: internal displacement sounds polite, but really means the arrival of many thousands of people into this region where severe shortages of essential food supplies already existed. With this arrival, the pressure on health services is increased, so that those with malaria and other endemic diseases such as cholera have difficulty finding proper treatment.

At this time, we give great thanks to Voice of the Martyrs for the funding of the two water wells: I understand that Bishop Garang has high hopes that such collaboration might continue, although it seems that the internal security situation in the country might cause any further progress to be delayed – just as this does in Congo (DRC).

For those who have become sick from this polluted water, there is no pharmacy or doctor just around the corner: it may be that you have to walk a long way from your village to find medical help: note that the Aweil Civil Hospital, the maternity and paediatric departments are managed and staffed by ‘Médecins sans Frontières’ (Doctors without Borders): this is the only specialized hospital for a population of over 100,000 people. This ‘You Tube’ link will let you see more about the hospital in 2016: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpMln4Q3lxk>)



So, if you manage to see a doctor, where do you fill your prescription? There are no health centres, no pharmacies: but you need to get help for this problem: after all it seems to be the same thing that you had last year. Perhaps this is the one place in the world where people turn to their Church for help: which makes sense as the church has proven to be a central authority as this nation gradually develops its system of governance, hindered by the current conflict.



Pastoral work takes on a new dimension when the only source of medication is your Bishop, who is able to distribute the medications that you need, with thanks to the major institutions like World Health and the World Food Programme who supply the products. This also speaks to the essential role of the church as mediator: when other organizations are unable to enter into areas, the priest is trusted by the people, and so projects can be achieved.



This trust established between people and the clergy of the church is also important in the delivery of such essential services as education. It is for this reason that the government of South Sudan has allocated land for the construction of a school and orphanage in the Diocese of Aweil: but as I wrote in the last Appeal letter: 'The land is there and is now ready for development: Bishop Garang has the plans: all that is needed is the financial support so that the school project can start construction.' The Africa Appeal was able to fund the transfer fees for the land, as required by the government to formalise the land transfer, but there remains a major project which calls for

significant support.

DRM+

How to give support to these churches

There are no deductions from moneys received by the Appeal; the full dollar amount is sent to Cameroon, South Sudan, Congo or Kenya. Any overheads are paid from gifts received for this purpose.

In Canada

The Parish of St. Bride

By  see <http://parishofstbride.webs.com/>
Or: c/o 20895 Camwood Ave., Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2N9

*Please make a note that the funds are for the Africa Appeal on the front of the cheque.
Tax receipts will be issued by the parishes.*

In the USA

The ACC Mission Fund, The Anglican Catholic Church, PO Box 5223, Athens, GA 30604

In Australia

Anglican Aid Abroad, PO Box 256, GRANGE, QLD 4051

Or

A safe and inexpensive way of sending your gift is to make a deposit at any WESTPAC BRANCH to our Account at Morningside: MISSIONARIES OF ST ANDREW – ANGLICAN AID ABROAD 034 058 58 0656 - or use the INTERNET.

If you need a receipt for tax purposes or acknowledgement in the newsletter, please write to tell us your name, details of the deposit and enclose a self-addressed envelope. If you intend the donation for a special project, please let us know, so we can designate it accordingly.

In the UK

Cheques should be made payable to “Anglican Catholic Church - Diocese of the United Kingdom” and marked on the back: “Missions – Cameroon, Congo or S. Sudan” as appropriate and sent to:

Diocesan Treasurer, ACC Diocesan Office, St Nicholas House, 42-48 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AN