

Prayer requests and other updates received from brothers & sisters in South Sudan during December 2013

Below we share information received from our brothers and sisters in South Sudan and elsewhere to inform prayers at this time. Please pray for those who are fighting, the civilians who are affected and for clergy as they minister to them.

Church Leaders issued a "message of peace and reconciliation" which you can read here

http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/mission/sudan/church%20message %2017dec2013%20FINAL.pdf

and a clergy statement is available here.

http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/mission/sudan/Clergy%20statements %2018%20December%202013.pdf

Messages received

Received 21/12/13 Bishop Justin (Diocese of Maridi) writes: "Dear Friends in Christ

"Christmas greetings to you all in the name of our saviour whom we look forward to celebrate His coming to earth in human flesh on 25th December.

"On behalf of the Christians in the Diocese of Maridi, I want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to you all for the fellowship, friendship and partnership we have enjoyed together. Thank you for your encouragements to us that has enabled us to preach and demonstrate practically the love of God to His people in South Sudan.We look forward to continue in fellowship and partnership with you.

"Though with much worries and fears, Maridi Diocese and the whole of Western Equatoria is still calm and peaceful. It is our prayer that this peace will hold and continue to expand to all the other states where there are conflicts. We request your prayers for all Church leaders in South Sudan that they will stand firm to console, reconcile and preach the message of hope and peace at this confusing moment in our Country.

"We wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy new year 2014. Justin Badi - Bishop of Maridi Diocese"

Received 20/12/13

Bishop Moses (Diocese of Wau) writes:

"You may know that very sad things are happening here in South Sudan and many people fear for the future. This should be a time of peace, we should not be fighting and killing

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each other. My brother in faith, Bishop Abraham has put out a message asking for prayers, I want to share this with you and encourage you support his request.

"Please may you, your family, and your Church join us on this coming Sunday on December 22 to pray for peace, wisdom to our leaders, those who lost their lives, and families affected who to be comforted by God. Please keep me in your prayers and all the Bishops so that we can deliver God's message to His people at this time. Thank you all for your prayers. God bless you all and Merry Christmas."

We thank you all for your kind care and support for us in Wau and for all of South Sudan. Our nation needs your prayers at this difficult time, please keep us in your hearts and join with us in prayer on Sunday. If you are able please pray for us that God may guide us back to peace this Christmas, it would be a present worth having.

Blessings for Christmas +Moses"

Bishop Anthony (Diocese of Kajo-Keji) writes:

"Last night I received a call from someone I know in Bor asking for prayers. Please pray for all those displaced in UN centers, churches. Pray for all those involved in efforts for peace that dialogue will be accepted by all parties to end the suffering of people of South Sudan. At the end of a 3 day Christian children's camp for 600 children in Kajo-Keji, we prayed for peace in this country."

Bishop Stephen (Diocese of Lui), (thanks to Lui Network for sharing) writes:

"We are thankful to you for keeping us continuously in your prayers, we need your prayers and we need it always because Christmas is at the door but our country is going through difficult time especially those who are in Juba and other places where there is gun shoots.

"We need peace and we are praying for permanent peace that will give us rest.

"May the birth of Jesus Christ as prince of peace during this Christmas time bring new meaning in our lives and transform us into installment of peace in our countries and beyond.

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2014."

Received 19/12/13

Bishop Elijah (Diocese of Cueibet) called and was able to tell us that the area is quiet and he is safe.

Bishop Anthony (Diocese of Kajo-Keji) writes:

"I am back in Kajo-Keji. At Nairobi airport this morning I was asked as to why I am returning to South Sudan when everyone is leaving. I told them that I need to be with the people especially during Christmas."

A friend in Juba writes:

"We thank God for his full protection. Pray for the situation in Bor especially children who are suffering due to lack of food, water and shelter. I am now in the [Juba} hospital and the situation of those wounded is very terrifying due to lack of enough medicines - pray for this situation."

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Bishop Abraham (Diocese of Aweil) writes:

"I want to thank you all for your prayers. Your prayers did change things in Juba. Praise the Lord! But, I want to ask you all to continue praying for people of Bor town who were attacked last night and they are now scattered. I believe that even though our beloved nation is in conflicts God is in control and this conflicts will soon come to an end. Pray for our leaders to be guided by our God so that they make wise decision.

"Also, you all have been concern where I am now, I was celebrated early Christmas with my family in Kenya and I was to go back to South Sudan on December 18 but this conflicts broker out in Juba. I was to go back today to South Sudan but I was told that there are no flights operating from Juba to Aweil. Also, my beloved pastors advised me not to come now. I thank them for their love and concern they have for me. So I am here in Kenya with my wife and children. We are safe but my heart is with people in South Sudan.

"Moreover, we, four Bishops of Anglican Church and a pastor from Presbyterian Church (Dinka and Nuer) went today to met with South Sudanese Ambassador Majok Guandong in Kenya to discussed how we can talked with South Sudanese who are living here in Kenya especially Dinka and Nuer not to fight themselves because this recent fight in South Sudan is not about Dinka and Nuer. It is about politicians.

"Therefore, the out come of the meeting is that I am going to Kakuma Refugee Camp to talk and pray with our people there I will go tomorrow if possible. One Bishop will go to Nakuru to talk and pray with South Sudanese there, another Bishop will go to Eldoret and two Bishops and a pastor will remain in Nairobi area for talk and prayers and they will be join by Ambassadors on Sunday.

"Please may you, your family, and your Church join us on this coming Sunday on December 22 to pray for peace, wisdom to our leaders, those who lost their lives, and families affected to be comfort by God. Please keep me your prayers and all the Bishops so that we can delivered God's message to His people at this time. Thank you all for your prayers. God bless you all and Merry Christmas."

Received 18/12/13

Bishop Moses (Diocese of Wau) writes:

"I got caught up in Nairobi after coming for my Studies at St Paul's University.

"I have been in touch with people in Wau and they say the situation there is calm although I heard that one person was killed in Kuajok (Capital of Warrap State) yesterday and some Politicians in the State arrested.

"The Eastern African Countries are sending delegations to South Sudan tomorrow to negotiate peace between the two Leaders (Kiir and Machar) and their groups. Please pray that an agreement is reached so that peace returns to the Country."

Bishop John (Diocese of Ezo) writes:

"Ezo is safe from the fighting taking place in Juba. We are told it spread to Bor town of Jonglei state."

Bishop Justin (Diocese of Maridi) writes:

"Many thanks for your prayers. The situation is now a bit calm in Juba.

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"The worry is about some politicians who have escaped with some armed followers after them. We do not know what they plan to do. There are some news of unrest in other towns like Bor in Jonglei.

"Western Equatoria is calm and I am now back home in Maridi.

"Happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year."

With acknowledgements to Salisbury Diocese.