

## South Sudan Community Center

***“Arizona and the Episcopal Diocese of Malakal working together to build hope and faith in the lives of the South Sudanese”***



### Emotional Journey to Deliver Water Filters to South Sudan

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For the last three-and-a-half weeks, I have been in Southern Sudan and Kenya. The following is a report on my experiences while I was there. However, the most important point of this report is what the Diocese of Arizona has made possible to the people of South Sudan. The people of South Sudan feel that this Diocese is a part of the healing of their own internal crisis.

In the Dinka language there is a prayer that states “God, please let me get sick to see who is my real brother.” Therefore, the people of the Diocese of Arizona have become brothers and sisters to the people in need in Southern Sudan because of the support they have provided. Those who received the water filters wish to thank everyone who contributed at the last convention for the water filters.

When I last visited Southern Sudan in 2013, everything was relatively quiet and peaceful. People were enjoying life because two years prior, they had gained their independence. People were happy and hopeful. Unfortunately, on December 15, 2013, a senseless war broke out between the former vice-president and the current President of South Sudan.

I say “senseless war” because it is between two Southern Sudanese tribes: the Dinka and the Nuer. Each tribe is determined to annihilate the other. The international community and those monitoring civil rights issues have deemed this war to be genocide. Elderly people as old as 90 are being assassinated, women who are pregnant are having their unborn child ripped out of them, children less than five years old are being beheaded, as well as the elderly.

There are ten states in South Sudan, and on my visit, I saw that three of those states have been completely destroyed by this war. I also saw thousands and thousands of displaced people. They have fled to Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Central Africa.

When I visited Juba, I went to five refugee camps of displaced people. I was able to take the medicines that the Diocese provided, as well as water filters. In Kakuma, I found that there is a refugee camp about every five miles and there are 49 zones designated for refugees from this war. To them, I took medicines and water filters as well.

I met with several bishops at the Bishop's Conference held in Juba. There were seven bishops present from the following dioceses: Malakal, Bor, Renk, Mundire, Twic East, Parieng, and Awarial. I was able to deliver to them medicines and water filters. I also provided water filters, crutches, and medicine to Nuba Mountain.

Sherikal Camp in Juba and Nimule Camp also received medicines. The schools that received medicines and water filters were Bishop Green College of Theology, St. Peter Primary School for Displaced Children, and Bor Alliance High School.

My visit also included the Military Hospital in Juba where I saw over 10,000 wounded soldiers literally lying on the floor because there were no beds for them. Mach, the director of the hospital said the following words, quoting Mathew 25:35: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." That means that the Diocese of Arizona has done all this by my visit to those in the military hospital. My experience is that everyone in the South Sudan who received our help is feeling the same way.

The Director also told me that "in the name of Christ we are all one body." Therefore, I would encourage every member of the Diocese to join us in a second trip to help South Sudan, so that you would come and see.

I thank God for the protection over my mission to South Sudan. Thank God I was healthy and my mission went successfully. I also thank the Diocese of Arizona, who made it possible for me to do this mission. It was the mission of the Diocese that I carried out. Many thanks to the Bishop of Malakal for his assistance. He escorted me to all of the places. Lastly, thank you to the entire leadership of the ECSS (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).