



## Faithful and Trusting Christians: Mission and Evangelism Lessons from South Sudan

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### What is the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)?

#### Overview:

- Independent and lay-led foundation
- ECF's mission is to strengthen the **leadership** and **financial** capabilities of Episcopal congregations, dioceses, and other institutions
- ECF carries out this mission through a wide array of programs including...



#### Leadership Resources

- ECF Vital Practices ([ecfvp.org](http://ecfvp.org))
- Vestry Resource Guide
- Fellowship Partners Program
- Educational Events

#### Financial Resources

- Capital Campaigns
- Planned Giving
- Endowment Management
- Educational Events

## ECF Fellowship Partners Program

**Innovative scholars and ministry leaders transform lives.**

Since 1964 the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) has provided financial support to emerging scholars and ministry leaders throughout the Episcopal Church. In addition to financial support, ECF helps these individuals to share their knowledge, experience, and best practices with the wider Church in practical ways.

Open to both lay and ordained Episcopalians, ECF builds a relationship with Fellows not only when they are receiving financial support, but over the long haul, so that our community of Fellows may serve as a gift and resource to the Church in serving God's mission.



### What comes to mind...

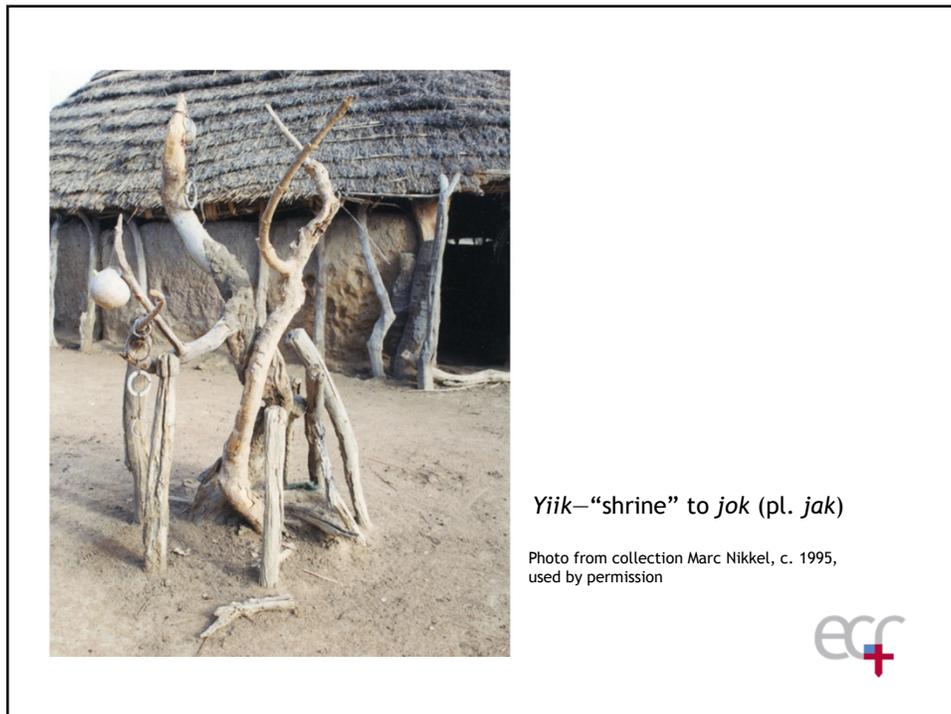
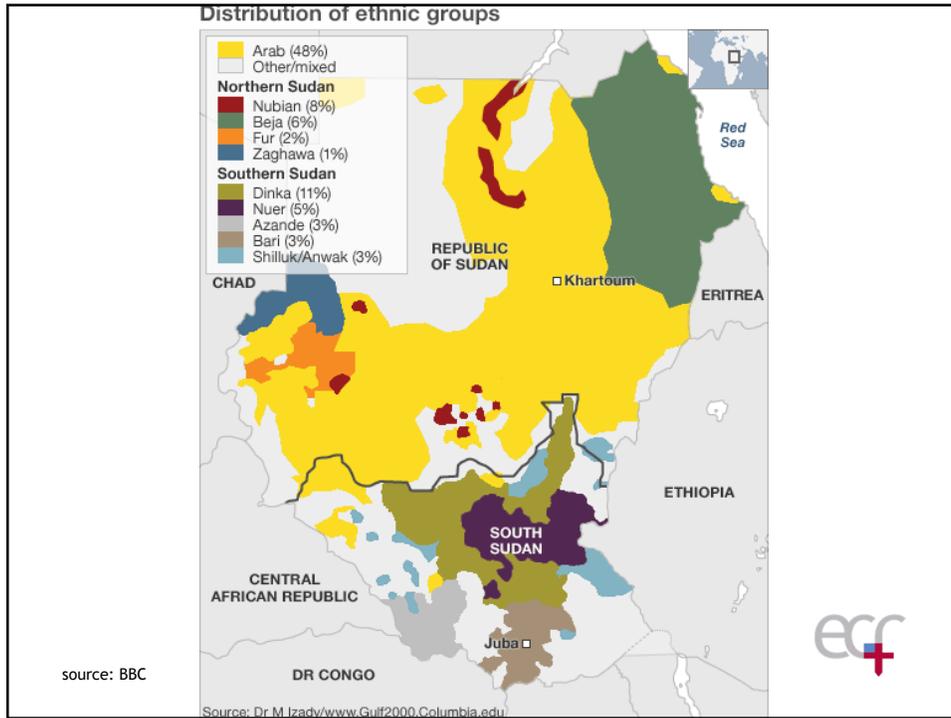
- when you hear the word “evangelism”?
- when you hear the word “mission”?

Photo by Jesse Zink, 9 July 2011



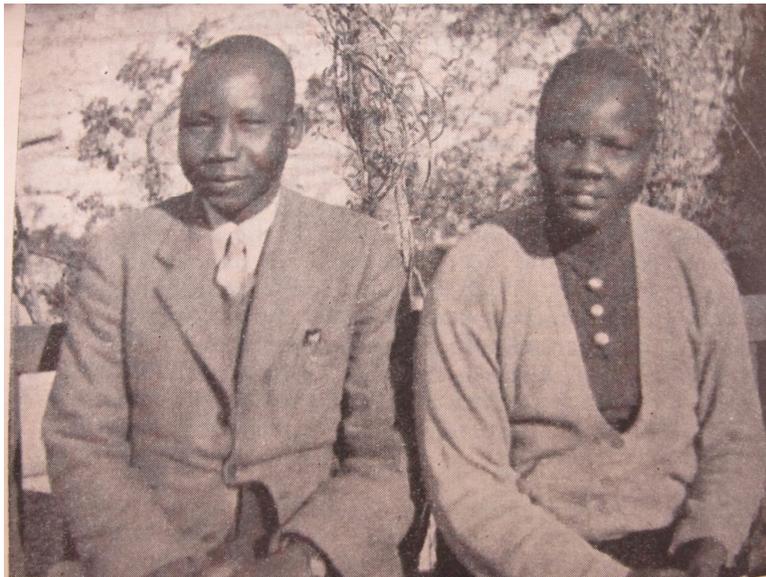
*Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.*







Dinka youth, c. 1940s  
Photo from CMS Archives



Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Atong, c. 1950  
Photo from CMS Archives





Mary Aruay Majak, Sept. 2013

Photo by Jesse Zink



Church outside  
Akot, South  
Sudan

Photo by Jesse Zink



Cattle camp church service

Photo from collection Marc Nikkel, c. 1996, used by permission



Youth group dramatize rejection of *jok* at Kakuma Refugee Camp

Photo from collection Marc Nikkel, c. 1995, used by permission



Church service  
in Kakuma  
Refugee Camp

Photo from collection  
Marc Nikkel, c. 1994,  
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*Verse:*

Let us give thanks;  
Let us give thanks to the Lord  
in the day of devastation and in the day of  
contentment.

Jesus has bound the world round  
with the pure light of the word of his father.  
When we beseech the Lord  
and unite our hearts and have hope,  
then the *jok* has no power.  
God has not forgotten us.  
Evil is departing and holiness is advancing,  
these are the things that shake the earth.

*Chorus:*

Do not look back; we are the people  
who have received the life of Christ.  
Let us show forth the light of the Son of God.  
Do what you are able to do  
according to the gift which has been given you.

—BDDKD, #4



The evil *jok* has been thrown down,  
and now the earth is filled with evil.  
I will take the blood of Christ; for I want to bathe.  
Who are those who have come out of deep anguish?  
I will take the blood of Christ; for I want to bathe...  
*Nhialic* has called us to attend a great meeting  
We are late; *Nhialic* make us strong

—BDDKD, #309



Hymn learning  
among Dinka  
women

Photo from collection  
Marc Nikkel, c. 1996  
used by permission



<sup>1</sup> Ah, land of whirring wings  
beyond the rivers of Ethiopia,  
<sup>2</sup> sending ambassadors by the Nile  
in vessels of papyrus on the waters!  
Go, you swift messengers,  
to a nation tall and smooth,  
to a people feared near and far,  
a nation mighty and conquering,  
whose land the rivers divide.

<sup>3</sup> All you inhabitants of the world,  
you who live on the earth,  
when a signal is raised on the mountains, look!  
When a trumpet is blown, listen!

<sup>4</sup> For thus the Lord said to me:  
I will quietly look from my dwelling  
like clear heat in sunshine,  
like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.

<sup>5</sup> For before the harvest, when the blossom is over  
and the flower becomes a ripening grape,  
he will cut off the shoots with pruning-hooks,  
and the spreading branches he will hew away.

<sup>6</sup> They shall all be left  
to the birds of prey of the mountains  
and to the animals of the earth.  
And the birds of prey will summer on them,  
and all the animals of the earth will winter on them.

<sup>7</sup> At that time gifts will be brought to the Lord of hosts from a people tall and smooth, from a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divide, to Mount Zion, the place of the name of the Lord of hosts.

—Isaiah 18 (NRSV)



**God Will Punish Sudan**

Beyond the rivers of Sudan there is a land where the sound of wings is heard. <sup>2</sup>From that land ambassadors come down the Nile in boats made of reeds. Go back home, swift messengers! Take a message back to your land divided by rivers, to your strong and powerful nation, to your tall and smooth-skinned people, who are feared all over the world.

<sup>3</sup>Listen, everyone who lives on earth! Look for a signal flag to be raised on the tops of the mountains! Listen for the blowing of the bugle! <sup>4</sup>The Lord said to me, “I will look down from heaven as quietly as the dew forms in the warm nights of harvest time, as serenely as the sun shines in the heart of the day. <sup>5</sup>Before the grapes are gathered, when the blossoms have all fallen and the grapes are ripening, the enemy will destroy the Sudanese as easily as a knife cuts branches from a vine. <sup>6</sup>The corpses of their soldiers will be left exposed to the birds and wild animals. In summer the birds will feed on them, and in winter, the animals.”

<sup>7</sup>A time is coming when the Lord Almighty will receive offerings from this land divided by rivers, this strong and powerful nation, this tall and smooth-skinned people, who are feared all over the world. They will come to Mount Zion, where the Lord Almighty is worshipped.

—Isaiah 18 (Good News Bible, 1st British edition)



Church service,  
Kakuma  
Refugee Camp

Photo from collection  
Marc Nikkel, c. 1995  
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<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. <sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

—Acts 2:37-47 (NRSV)



## Questions to go home with

- What is the goal of evangelism?
- What are the dominant forms of communication in our culture? Is the Christian message present in these?
- Where do we see ourselves in the Biblical narrative? How are we inviting others into this story?



## Further Reading

### About Sudan

- Marc Nikkel, ed. by Grant LeMarquand, *Why Haven't You Left? Letters from Sudan* (Church Publishing, 2005)
- Marc Nikkel, *Dinka Christianity* (Paulines Africa, 2001)
- Abraham Nhial, *Lost Boy No More: A True Story of Survival and Salvation* (B&H Books, 2004)
- Dave Eggers, *What is the What* (Vintage, 2007)

### By Jesse Zink

- *Backpacking through the Anglican Communion: A Search for Unity* (Morehouse, 2014)
- *Grace at the Garbage Dump: Making Sense of Mission in the Twenty-First Century* (Cascade, 2012)
- "Songs of Exile and Faith," *The Christian Century* (31 December 2013)

## Episcopal Church Foundation

ECF website: [www.episcopalfoundation.org](http://www.episcopalfoundation.org)  
ECF Vital Practices: [www.ecfvp.org](http://www.ecfvp.org)

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