

# sudan sunrise

RECONCILIATION - EDUCATION - COMMUNITY BUILDING

## Letter from Alexa: Our Trip to South Sudan



Greetings!

We are so happy to communicate that our trip to South Sudan went exceedingly well. We are going to take this opportunity to convey as much information as possible regarding the trip, in hopes that the current project will be up and running very soon.

### Torit Cathedral Project

This trip was focused solely on the rebuilding of a Catholic cathedral twice destroyed by Islamists. The rebuilding initiative was started by project director, Rudwan Dawod, who had been previously imprisoned and tortured in Khartoum for his peace and reconciliation efforts between Sudan and South Sudan, and between Christians and Muslims.

Our trip consisted of two phases in Torit: the first phase was for us to meet with the Catholic authorities before Rudwan's arrival in order to "test the waters" on the viability of this project. The second phase consisted of Rudwan and a journalist, Caroline Dumay, who is covering the story for France24.

The first phase went exceedingly well. We met with eleven priests in Torit to explain Rudwan's story and his vision. His story was met with overwhelming appreciation and enthusiasm for the project. The next morning, we met with the rest of the parish council and, again, after hearing Rudwan's story, the vision for the project, and our hopes for it, there was great enthusiasm. Amongst some of the comments made by the parish council were that this could be a

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### Latest Update:

The Papal Nuncio for South Sudan has replied that the Cathedral project is important and will require approval from the Vatican. Sudan Sunrise is providing all the help we can as that approval is sought.

### French Speakers Only!

France's Channel 5 featured an update on the Cathedral project pro Caroline Dumay (in French language only).

The link to the video can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/JTAfrique/videos/1056625744399340/?p>

### Relief to Diko Boma

Those from Diko Boma who live here in the US and some of their Ar friends raised \$2,000 which was delivered in March to a representative Bishop Bismark Avokaya of the Diocese of Mundri. Because Diko Boma received many refugees fleeing conflict in Greater Mundri, relief is not easy. Delivering aid in a conflict zone is complicated, and we are awaiting the initiative. On a personal note, we send special condolences to Bishop Bismark and his family we recently lost his son, a student in Uganda who was beaten to death by thieves.

### Imagine Carrying Your Chair to School

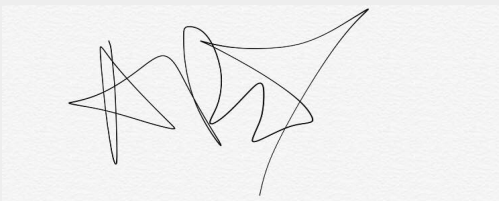
symbol “not just for South Sudan, but for the world” as currently the religious climate is thick and disheartening. Additionally, another member expressed the sentiment that “Muslims are our brothers.” The overwhelming and very moving sentiment was of compassion, forgiveness and an eagerness to work on this project together. We left Torit for Juba the next morning, excited about Rudwan’s arrival.

The next trip back to Torit was with Rudwan and Caroline Dumay. Upon meeting the clergy and parish council, we at Sudan Sunrise were thrilled and very moved. One of the priests, Father Archangelo, told the biblical story of Jesus saving a woman from being stoned, commanding those “without sin, to cast the first stone” and how from that moment on, the tradition was changed. Father Archangelo described that in his spiritual faith, he believes Rudwan has come to change the tradition and bring peace amongst former enemies in South Sudan.

Lastly, we met with a group of Muslim volunteers in Juba who were all interested in joining the project of rebuilding. We spent the evening speaking with them about the uphill battles they would be facing from their communities and their families (as Sudan and South Sudan are a hotbed for extremism right now). In spite of the struggles and the risks they would be facing, all attendees communicated their devotion to peace, their commitment to reconciliation and their belief in the project.

We left South Sudan very moved, invigorated, committed, and ready to restart this project with the full support of the local diocese. Our next steps will include conversations with the Vatican, and we are very optimistic. The Pope has declared this year as the Year of Mercy. What a year for this project! Thank you all for your continued support!

With great appreciation,



Alexa Brand, Director of Advancement

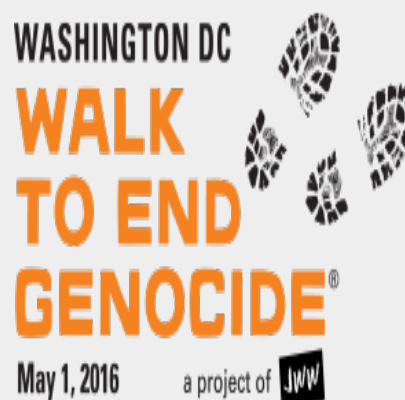


Of the many things accomplished by St. John’s Episcopal Church’s I Fund was the purchase of new benches and desks for the Manute B in Turalei! No more will the students have to carry their chairs (if they have them) back and forth to school every day! Well done, St. John’s!

## Preaching Peace in the Cattle Camps

The Rev. Daniel Deng Kuot’s ministry has focused this year on clergy in Duony Gok, South Sudan. This week Daniel writes that he and his team are taking a bold step: “We are going to preach peace to the youth in the cattle fields. The young are carrying guns and there is lots to worry. It is new to me and the whole community, and they are using them for their purposes.”

## The Walk to End Genocide



The Walk to End Genocide is on May 1!

We are proud that two co-chairs of the sponsoring organization, the Interfaith Network of DC (Richard Young and Martha Boshnick) are members of our Board. Also, we are grateful that the first Walk to End Genocide in Sudan Sunrise helped provide a well to Wunthou and school lunch in Turalei.

Make sure to register!  
<https://dc.walktoendgenocide.org/>

Please visit our website at [www.sudansunrise.org](http://www.sudansunrise.org).

Donate at [www.sudansunrise.org/donate/](http://www.sudansunrise.org/donate/).

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