



A Newsletter of RECONCILE, the Resource Centre for Civil Leadership

1½ Mile Maridi Rd. Yei, Sudan
info@reconcile-int.org

Thank You!

At the beginning of this New Year, the staff at RECONCILE would like to show its appreciation to the worldwide supporters of the organization. In 2009, more than forty events organized, supported, and facilitated by the RECONCILE brought in more than 2,500 participants, effecting dozens of communities and thousands of community members across six southern Sudanese states. None of these extraordinary events would have been possible without the prayers and financial support for our work. Thank You!

New Year, New Challenges, New Hopes

2010 has arrived, and with the New Year comes a new set of challenges and opportunities, both for Sudan and the RECONCILE organization. Sudan has entered a critical election year, with the country's first multi-party democratic elections in over two decades being held in April. In less than a year, there is to be a referendum held for self-determination of the southern Sudanese population. At the same time, violent conflict in the South continues to ravage populations, and the subsequent effects of trauma are paralyzing communities. At such a crucial time, RECONCILE has stepped up to the challenges presented with new leadership and an ambitious plan to help usher in a peaceful and democratic society.

In 2009, Emmanuel LoWilla stepped down from his leadership post at RECONCILE. The sad farewell



left a gap, but in October a new Executive Director was welcomed into the RECONCILE family. Rev. Peter Tibi has years of administrative experience with Africa Inland Church, the New Sudan Council of Churches, and the Sudan Council of Churches. His dreams and goals for

RECONCILE as an organization—as well as its duty as an outreach tool for peace building in Sudan—come at an important time. The leadership and experience he brings to the organization is appreciated, as is his hope for a strong national and organizational future.

An array of RECONCILE programs have been also been planned for 2010, with a specific focus on civic and voter education concerning the upcoming elections and referendum, as well as continued trauma healing and peace building activities.

Second Annual Peace Institute

Underway

The second annual RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI) began in early January and is concluding in March. RPI



2010 included 32 participants from approximately 15 ethnic groups, coming from a wide variety of locations and backgrounds. The training includes courses on community-based trauma healing and peace building. The organization is proud to offer such a unique and important service in the country, and is thankful for the broad support it has received—both through participant scholarships and financial support for instructors and additional institutional support.

Inter-Ethnic Peace Meeting

Between Women a Great Success

During November of last year, RECONCILE conducted three workshops pertaining to trauma healing, violence against women and children, and inter-ethnic relations. The workshops were held in the Nuer community of Akobo and the Murle communities of Gummuruk and Pibor. The Nuer



and Murle have been engaged in violent conflict, contributing to an exceptionally violent region within Sudan, and setting the death toll of the South above that of Darfur in 2009. However, the women of the workshops were determined to spark a change, and resolved to come together for a

peace meeting. RECONCILE assisted in organizing the meeting, and in January the women of the two tribes came together in the town of Pibor for a three-day conference. During the conference, the women worked to reconcile ethnic differences and start a mutual journey of healing. The meeting was a true testament to the importance of empowering women in the peace building process. The women now hope to meet again in the Nuer town of Akobo in the upcoming months to continue striving for a more peaceful relationship.

RECONCILE Partners Gather to Discuss Future



Eight RECONCILE partner organizations arrived from Africa, Europe, and North America to meet with the staff and governing board of RECONCILE on February 20. A meeting was held to discuss RECONCILE's role in the future of the region. Topics covered included the context of RECONCILE's work in the country as a whole, programs of the past year, and expansion of services for the upcoming year. All parties involved recommitted to the work of RECONCILE, and showed a strong willingness to support the programs offered by the organization. The partners, as well as the staff and board of RECONCILE, greatly appreciated the opportunity to get together, and all hope to be able to continue to meet on a regular basis.

Kajo Keji Leaders Meet to Discuss Elections

On January 25-27, RECONCILE teamed up with the organization IKV Pax Christi to hold a forum in the Sudan-Uganda border town of Kajo Keji for community leaders and political aspirants. The upcoming national election in April was the main topic of discussion. An extensive context analysis of the area—as well as the nation as a whole—was discussed. Participants learned about the election process and how to contribute to a peaceful and democratic election period through free and fair



elections. The participants drafted a “Code of Conduct” in order to display a measure of good faith, and to assist the latest step for the transformation to a peaceful, democratic society.

A Farewell to Dear Friends

A teary February 18th gathering was held to bid farewell to two members of the RECONCILE family. Rev. Debbie and Del Braaksma were instrumental in the expansion and growth of RECONCILE programs in the past five years. Rev. Debbie served as Programs co-ordinator for the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Department before becoming the



Principal of the RECONCILE Peace Institute: a program in which she spearheaded the materialization of the vision of the Sudanese Churches. Del served as the Coordinator for Institutional Development—overseeing much of the construction of the Training Centre in Yei, Sudan, and setting many on-base projects in motion to enhance the output and

capacity of RECONCILE at large. The two announced they would be leaving after Rev. Debbie was offered an administrative position for Africa missions with the Presbyterian Church USA in Louisville, Kentucky (a partner organization of RECONCILE). The Braaksmas' presence at RECONCILE will be missed, but the blessing of their service to their community and the world will continue.

Compiled by Nathan Magrath,
RECONCILE Documentation Officer
nathan.magrath@gmail.com

Comments? Questions?
Please Contact Milcah Lalam
RECONCILE Programs Manager
lalam@reconcile-int.org