



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE DES EGLISES DE TOUTE L'AFRIQUE

www.aacc-ceta.org Tel: 254 - 20 - 4441483, 4441338/9 • Fax: 254 - 20- 4443241, 4445835 • Email: secretariat@aacc-ceta.org
General Secretariat: Waiyaki Way, P.O. Box 14205, 00800 Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya

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To all AACC members, ecumenical partners
and friends of the Sudan

Renewed Call for Prayers for the Sudan, November 9-14, 2009

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. (Romans 12:9-13)

Dear member churches and congregations,
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This week, the global ecumenical family is gathered in Juba in Sudan for a week of deliberations with the Sudanese churches in the framework of the Sudan Ecumenical Forum (SEF) and the Round-table of the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). The aim of these meetings is to have fellowship, show solidarity, share analysis and to sharpen the ecumenical roadmap for the accompaniment of the Sudan in the areas of advocacy, reconciliation and capacity building.

The AACC is fully committed to this accompaniment in this critical time in the history of the Sudan and its people. The people of God in the Sudan are indeed in need. A firm expression of this accompaniment was the just concluded Ecumenical High-level Peace Mission to Khartoum on 3rd – 7th of November where church leaders from Ethiopia and Kenya, together with the AACC Secretariat, was invited by the SCC leadership to meet with the Sudanese churches, the government of Sudan, government commissions and representatives of the UN in order to address the present situation in the Sudan in this time of crossroads. The mission once again confirmed the urgency to amplify the voice of the Sudanese churches and to re-engage internationally for peace in the Sudan. Let me mention some of the most pressing issues of concern coming from this visit that need your prayers and support.

1. *Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)*: There is urgent need for all parties to the agreement to fully honor the provisions of the CPA. This calls for continued high-level ecumenical diplomacy with the political actors in the Sudan, for advocacy towards the CPA guarantors to take stronger responsibility and action on this matter and for the churches to mobilize and continue to work for peace and reconciliation.
2. *Responsibility to protect the lives of innocent people*: There is need to engage all stakeholders and particularly those with the responsibility to protect so as to ensure human security and an immediate stop of the recurrent violence and clashes being recorded from different parts of the country.
3. *Voter registration, elections and the referendum*: This very month of November 2009 is the only time for voter registration in the Sudan and over a week has already passed. The level of awareness of this registration period and its implications on the elections seem very low and registration should therefore now be the number one priority for both the Sudanese churches and ecumenical partners. When this window of opportunity is closed it will be too late. There is also need for a comprehensive program for civic education and mobilization for both the elections and the forthcoming referendum so that all the people of Sudan can make free and informed choices.
4. *Humanitarian imperative*: It has become evident that the resettlement program has failed and that inadequate efforts are being made to address the plight of the IDPs and returnees who lack basic services, justice and living in constant fear of evictions or abuse. There is need for all the ecumenical partners to consider this matter seriously and help the Sudanese churches and the communities to address this crisis effectively.

5. *Christian unity*: At this time of distress and uncertainties about the future there is need to step up our encouragement and prayer support for all the churches in the Sudan that they might be united in spirit and purpose in order to fully utilize the potential in the body of Christ for positive and peaceful change for all the people of the Sudan. As our Lord Jesus Christ prayed himself: *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20f)*

As AACC we would once again like to remind us all to carry our Sudanese sisters and brothers in prayer and good works: *“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)”* As Paul also says to the Romans in the text above; we are serving the Lord by being devoted to one another in love, by being faithful in prayers, creating hope in times of affliction and in by sharing with those who are in need.

This is why we call all our members, local congregations, ecumenical partners and friends of the Sudan to join us this week for prayers for the Sudan. Please feel free to use these five prayer topics as a basis for your prayers. However, the need for recommitment is not only for this week but for the ecumenical journey that started long before the CPA and that still seeks its fulfillment. Let us therefore in hope and prayer respond to the call and invitation of our sisters and brothers in the Sudan from the SCC Assembly, August 14, 2009: *“Let Us Join Together to Rescue the Peace for Our People”*.

Brotherly greetings in Christ,



Rev. Dr. André Karamaga
AACC General Secretary

PS. Please share this letter with your local communities and ask them join us in prayers for the Sudan. We strongly believe in the power of prayer. DS.

CC: Rev. Dr. Sam Kobia, WCC General Secretary
Rev. Ramadan Chan Liol, SCC General Secretary

Regional Office: Togo: B.P. 2268, Lome, Telephone (000228) 21-59-24 Fax: 215266 • Email: bureau.regional@ceta-aacc.org

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La CETA est une communauté de 173 églises et conseils chrétiens dans 40 pays d'Afrique

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