



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

June 15, 2005

### Witness of the Church in Sudan

In January 2005 a "Comprehensive Peace Agreement" was signed between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M). This was a great day for the people of Sudan, as it brought an end to many years of hostility. Now, as the peace process begins, the Sudanese Christians are praying that this agreement, unlike the other agreements before it, will be a true and long-lasting one that will bring peace to all of Sudan.

A lot of work is needed, and the Presbyterian churches in Sudan are rising to the occasion and searching for areas that they can help be a real witness to God's grace for all people. The Presbyterian Church of Sudan (PCOS) has created a special department with the sole purpose of helping facilitate the church's work in the repatriation process. The Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency, a ministry of the PCOS, is reviewing the work it has been doing to see how this new peace agreement will change their operation. They have already been busy helping people return to areas in the south by providing shelter, food, and household items, as well as helping them restart their own development by providing agricultural tools and seeds for planting.

"One area of concern for those of us working with the church in Sudan," writes Barry Almy, "is what appears to be an understanding by some western groups that the 'Christian' area of Sudan is in the south." This, however, is a



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major misconception. The Christian church is alive and strong in the north, a mainly Muslim area of the country. The SPEC works in the north and has been partnering with the PC(USA) for over 100 years. SPEC has made a commitment to continue its outreach and growth to areas that have not had much Christian influence. They are continuing with their prison ministry where the chaplain ministers to both Christian and non-Christian inmates who are facing the death penalty. They are asking their partners to reaffirm their commitment to the body of Christ in the north, and like their brothers and sisters in the other Christian churches in Sudan, they are using this time to ascertain God's calling for them in the "New Sudan."

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*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

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