



# RECONCILE



2009 Annual Report

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## Who We Are...

**I**n January of 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed between Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the ex-rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) of southern Sudan. The signing of the agreement brought an end to two decades of a civil war that killed 2 million people and displaced countless others. The war devastated infrastructure and introduced severe trauma to the people of Sudan—incapacitating communication and transportation abilities, and heightening the region's susceptibility to future conflict.

The Resource Centre for Civil Leadership (RECONCILE) was one of the New Sudan Council of Church's response to the prevalent problems of the tense and combustible social and political environment of the war-torn country. The organization began operations in 2003 with the mandate to help communities to build trust, heal the wounds of trauma, transform conflict into peace, and promote reconciliation within communities and among different ethnic groups.

***Our Vision*** is, “Harmonious and caring communities in Sudan realizing their full potentials, living and working together in justice, peace, truth, mercy and hope.”

***Our Mission*** is, “To contribute to Nation Building by facilitating processes for equipping communities in Sudan with knowledge and skills for sustainable Peace through trauma healing, accountable governance and social transformation.”

The vision and mission of RECONCILE are realized through the programs we provide: the RECONCILE Peace Institute, Civic Education and Peace Building Program, and the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program. All of these programs contribute to the construction of a peaceful, democratic nation through education and mediation.

## 2009... A Year of Challenges and Opportunities

**T**his past year has presented the nation of Sudan, and our work at RECONCILE, with both challenges and opportunities throughout the year.

As was the case with many organizations worldwide, RECONCILE battled through the hardships accompanying the global financial crisis. Low oil prices negatively affected already-troubled infrastructure in southern Sudan, and financial support for the organization was noticeably harder to come by.

2009 also marked a deadly year for the people of Sudan, especially in the South. Renewed inter-ethnic fighting contributed to the deaths of approximately 2,500 people and the displacement of an estimated 350,000 inhabitants. The death toll surpassed that of the Darfur region for the first time in years. Much of the violence occurred in Jonglei State, and RECONCILE reacted with missions of trauma healing, reconciliation, and peace building, as will be presented later in the report.

Standing out before a somewhat gloomy backdrop, however, were significant signs of promise and hope. Throughout the course of the year, RECONCILE was able to facilitate numerous functions involving people from all corners of southern Sudan—including the 1<sup>st</sup> annual RECONCILE Peace Institute.

Additionally, we have the honour of welcoming a new Executive Director, Rev. Peter Tibi. The good Reverend worked many years for the Africa Inland Church-Sudan, and has served in the upper echelons of the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) and Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). We are thrilled to be able to incorporate his leadership into our flourishing organization.

Finally, Sudan is about to conduct its first national multi-party elections in two decades. Additionally, there is a CPA-mandated referendum on Southern self-determination and popular consultation for transitional areas. These democratic practices provide unique challenges and opportunities, both to Sudan and the work of RECONCILE. In a country that is largely unfamiliar with the democratic process—and is in many ways split by ethnic, political, and economic differences—it will be a challenge for organizations such as RECONCILE to unite the country under the banner of a common peaceful, democratic cause. But the people of Sudan have proven to be extraordinarily resilient, and the upcoming elections give hope to many that the region is moving towards a better future. The talented and dedicated staff at RECONCILE, with the help of generous support by donors, was able to carry out numerous seminars, workshops, and activities that bring the country ever-closer to realizing its potential as a peaceful democratic society.

## Changes at RECONCILE

The past year witnessed a few changes in the personnel at RECONCILE. The organization said a sad “goodbye” to a few familiar faces, and was excited to welcome some new talent as well.

During the month of March, the RECONCILE family witnessed the departure of two staff members: Simon Chol and Florence Ropani. Simon was a RECONCILE Peace Officer for the Civic Education and Peace Building Department and Florence was an administrative secretary in the main administration office. The organization is grateful for the hard work contributed by both of these talented individuals.

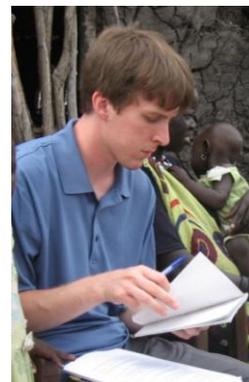
July marked another sad farewell for RECONCILE’s first executive director, Emmanuel Lowilla. The loss of a director can be a hard and trying time for any organization; but to the close-knit RECONCILE family, it was like parting with a father-like figure as well. Again, RECONCILE is incredibly grateful for all that Mr. Lowilla contributed to the young organization, and his impact will be felt for years to come.



**Rev. Peter Tibi**  
Executive Director

But just as the organization was saddened by the parting of old friends, it was equally elated by the entrance of a promising new Executive Director. In October, Rev. Peter Tibi took the helm of the organization. Rev. Tibi has held multiple administrative and leadership positions, including with the Africa Inland Church, New Sudan Council of Churches, and Sudan Council of Churches. His entrance into RECONCILE has drawn much excitement—both from within RECONCILE and from its partner organizations.

RECONCILE was also pleased to be able to accommodate a volunteer from November 2009 through March 2010. Nathan Magrath is a resident of Pentwater, Michigan, USA. He volunteered through the Reformed Church in America, and is serving RECONCILE as a documentation officer for five months.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RECONCILE Peace Institute



**A**fter more than 2 years of research, curriculum development, planning and fund-raising the RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI) got off of the ground on February 9, 2009. RPI consisted of a twelve-week course consisting of six modules in Trauma Healing and six modules in Peace Studies, which run concurrently. Each module runs for two weeks. Classes began on 9<sup>th</sup> February and ended on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The classes consisted of lectures, group discussions, role plays and simulations, individual presentations, and case studies. A total of 27 full-time students studied for the duration of the three months, while an additional 22 students selected one of 6 two-week modules offered under each concentration. A number of organizations sent their workers for training at RPI. Ten ethnic groups from within southern Sudan were represented by participants. Thanks to the generosity of donor organizations, 22 scholarships were awarded to participants who wished to attend. The organizations, and the number of scholarships sponsored, are listed below:

- DanChurchAid – 1
- FinnChurchAid – 4
- Lutheran World Federation – 6

- Mennonite Central Committee – 4
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – 2
- Reformed Church in America – 5

RPI was also graced with a lineup of extraordinarily talented instructors from a wide range of countries, including Zambia, South Africa, Sweden, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Uganda, the United States, and Sudan. The following organizations made it possible to bring this incredible talent in:

- Church of Sweden
- Institute of Justice and Reconciliation
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Reformed Church in America

RPI provides a great opportunity to administer much-needed peace building and trauma-healing training to members of a wide range of communities around southern Sudan. We hope to be able to continue this educational experience in the years to come, in order to prepare leaders to help build a stronger, more peaceful nation.

## Civic Education and Peace-Building

**A**pril 2010 will bring Sudan its first multi-party national elections in two decades. Less than one year later southern Sudan will be confronted with a referendum on self-determination, prescribed by the CPA, which will give Southerners the chance to vote either for unity with Sudan, or secession and formation of a separate country. Sudan is in a very tense political time period, and RECONCILE's Civic Education Program has confronted the challenges faced in some of the toughest areas.

RECONCILE's Civic Education Program, through conduction of community workshops and training seminars, seeks to improve governance systems through the respect of human rights, rule of law and order, democratic transformation, and the implementation of the referendum for the right of self determination for the people of southern Sudan. Functions conducted by the Civic Education Program are outlined below.



### 11-14 March & 23-26 March—Voter Education: Workshop in Civic Education (Lobone, Ikotos Counties., Eastern Equatoria State)-Sponsored by FinnChurchAid

Two workshops were held during the month of March in the state of Eastern Equatoria: one in the payam of Labone and another in Ikotos County. The workshops were made possible through the generosity of FinnChurch Aid, and was facilitated by RECONCILE staff. Lectures, group discussions, a mock election, and presentations were all used as tools in the workshop. 57 Participants attended, including women leaders, church leaders, youth leaders, and local authorities. Participants learned about the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the basic principles of a democratic election, the institutions governing elections, possible factors influencing votes, and the practical process of elections—from candidacy to campaigning to polling to counting votes. The possibility of violence after elections, and how to manage such aftermath, were also addressed. Participants were grateful for the workshop, and said it would give them a sense of dignity to be able to conduct elections successfully. As with other civic education workshops conducted by RECONCILE, there was a desire to see RECONCILE and the community cooperate more in the future.

05-15 April, 15-26 November—Exchange Visit of the Chiefs from Yei County to Renk and Melut (Renk & Melut Counties, Upper Nile State; and Yei, Central Equatoria State)- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)

In early April, RECONCILE organized an opportunity for five chiefs of Yei County to visit the counties of Renk and Melut. The Yei chiefs received the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in the host counties, and learned about the local governance and community infrastructure, as well as specific issues and problems facing these communities. From the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, the second half of the exchange took place. Three chiefs from Renk County and three chiefs from Melut



County came to Yei County, where they met sixteen Yei chiefs. During this latter half of the exchange, the chiefs were able to visit the Dinka community in Yei, and visit a number of towns bordering the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. The chiefs held a meeting and decided upon three resolutions:

- 1) We commit ourselves for the unity of South Sudanese people now...[and in the future]
- 2) We commit ourselves to enforce law and order in all the areas under our jurisdiction in respect for human rights which should be practice all over South Sudan.
- 3) [We are committed] to democratic transition and accountable governance for South Sudan.

Overall, the visit promoted the cultural awareness and communication that is so important at the present point in southern Sudan.

09-11 April—Civic and Voter Education Training (Melut, Upper Nile State)-sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

April, 2009 was an urgent month for RECONCILE's Civic Education and Peace Building Department. The first national multi-party democratic elections were scheduled to take place in the middle of the year, and countless communities had to be reached and educated about these elections, their importance, and the civic responsibility of citizens and leaders. With the help of PDA, RECONCILE was able to hold a voter education workshop in Melut, Upper Nile State. Participants included 35 church leaders,

community leaders, government officials, and youth. Lectures, group discussions, question-answer sessions, and a mock election helped to prepare these leaders for the upcoming election by educating them about their civic responsibilities and rights, as well as practical knowledge about the election process, including responsible campaigning, polling, and post-election conduct. Southern Sudanese voters are going to be facing a multitude of candidates for many different elected positions, and some of these positions were discussed. Democratic and electoral institutions were also discussed, as was the connection between all these institutions and processes and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The national elections were postponed and rescheduled for April, 2010, but the urgency of civic and voter education remains the same. RECONCILE strives to utilize the extra time before the elections to reach out to communities like Melut as much as possible.

*10-14 May—Duk, Uror, Ayod, Nyirol and Twic East Counties Peace Conference (Bor, Jonglei State)-Sponsored by PACT Sudan and DanChurchAid*

In May of 2009, a much-anticipated peace conference was held to provide a forum to help discuss and reconcile differences between the counties of Duk and Uror, as well as the surrounding counties. Violence has been a common occurrence between Duk and Uror, largely based on cattle-raiding and ruthless counter-attacks, as well as ethnic biases and land and water access. The conference was conducted under the theme of “Peace, Unity and Development” at the Dr. John Garang



Institute in Bor. It was funded by the organizations PACT Sudan and DanChurchAid, and facilitated by RECONCILE. The conference brought in over 200 individuals, including thirty government and community leaders from both Duk and Uror Counties, as well as representatives from surrounding counties and twenty Government of Southern Sudan officials. The peace conference saw much success due to the common desire for peace, as well as strong leadership on behalf of the Jonglei State government. The outcome of the conference realized the creation of the Dr. Garang Institute Agreement, which included the following summarized resolutions:

- Disarmament of the civilian populations of the eleven Jonglei counties.
- End of cattle theft among communities.

- Agreement on grazing and water access based on traditional agreements and customary permission.
- Flash point/border locating of security forces and law enforcement agencies.
- A general end to hostilities between communities.

To address the issue of following up on the agreement, the Jonglei state government was asked to form a monitoring committee. The agreement was signed by the paramount chiefs and county commissioners present at the conference.

*22-24 June—NED Civic and Voter Education Workshop (On-base, Yei, Central Equatoria State)-Sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy*

RECONCILE, with the generous support of NED, was able to organize and host this civic and voter education workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to bring members of different political parties together to ensure that they would be able to engage each other in a Responsible Electoral Engagement and Process (REED). The workshop was chaired by Rt. Rev. Hillary Adeba and facilitated by RECONCILE’s then-Executive Director Emmanuel LoWilla and IKV Pax Christi’s Horn of Africa representative John Ashworth. The participants included government officials from various Sudanese political parties.

Using a variety of techniques, including storytelling, group work, and historical studies, the participants learned about good governance, elections, election-related violence, and electoral law. Details of the election process and the institutions behind elections were addressed, and healthy discussion between the participants on what was learned took place. In the end, the participants created the “Code of Conduct for Political Incumbents and Aspirants of Yei River County,” and committed themselves to the follow-through of a peaceful democratic process in the upcoming elections. Despite negative feelings between political parties, the workshop was a success. There is great need for RECONCILE to continue civic training such as this, especially in the run-up to the 2010 general elections and the 2011 referendum on southern Sudanese self-determination and possible independence.

*13-29 July—Supervision and Mentoring Visit to Key Mobilizers in Malakal, Torit and Yambio (States of Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, and Western Equatoria)-sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee*

Key Mobilizers have become an essential element to the expansion of RECONCILE’s capacity. The respective communities of these RECONCILE-trained individuals benefit from numerous meetings and forums organized and conducted by the individuals themselves. Key Mobilizers are RECONCILE’s eyes and ears on the ground in various

reaches of southern Sudan, and have proven to be reliable sources of ground reports and logistical assistants. In July, through the financial support of MCC, RECONCILE was able to conduct a supervision and mentoring visit to some of these “Key Mobilizers” in the major towns of three different states. RECONCILE staff was able to talk directly with these individuals to learn about their community work, as well as the challenges they face and recommendations they have. There has been proof of significant positive changes within the communities impacted by the presence of “Key Mobilizers,” but additional training and resources were requested by the individuals, and we hope to be able to provide this for these promising community leaders.

*July, August, September—Five Voter Education Workshops in the Towns of Gummuruk, Pibor, Lekwongole, Makuac, and Kolnyang (Pibor and Bor Counties, Jonglei State)-sponsored by PACT Sudan*

Jonglei State is home to a few of the least-accessible towns and payams within southern Sudan. It has also proven to be one of the most violent regions in the entire country. With both of these facts being true, education concerning the upcoming national elections is extremely important. With the generous sponsorship of PACT Sudan, RECONCILE was able to support “Key Mobilizer” voter education workshops in five separate locations in two counties of the state. Over 170 community members and leaders were able to attend the workshops to learn about the election process, practical voting procedures, and their own rights and civic responsibilities regarding the transforming democratic society in southern Sudan. The participants were very thankful for the information about elections, and many said that they would register to vote. Given the lack of information disseminated to the area before the workshops, as well as the amount of information gleaned by the participants during the events, additional events of this kind are essential for the future of democratic transformation in the region.

*22-26 September—Theatre Entertainment Education Training for Drama Groups and Secondary Schools in Yei River County (Yei, Central Equatoria State)-Sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee*

The first training of school teachers and drama groups in preparation for a theatre festival in Yei was carried out in April 2007. It brought together twenty five participants from three drama groups and six secondary schools. Ten of the participants were female. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009, RECONCILE training centre welcomed seventeen participants to the second theatre entertainment education training in preparation for the second “Schools and Drama Groups’ Theatre Festival 2009.”

The training brought together teachers from Yei Day Secondary school, Yei Girls Boarding secondary school, Kings College, Nile High School, Equatoria College and St. Joseph senior secondary school-Lutaya and members of four drama groups: Community

Empowerment For Peaceful Resolution of Disputes (CEFORD), Forum for Civil Artists, Peace Lovers Movies Club, and Southern Sudan Theatre Association.

The aim of the training was to give the teachers and drama group members skills and techniques to prepare for a public information sharing event—under the sub-theme ‘Election Year- what happens next?’ After five days of training, the groups and schools came up with a final theme: “Let us build a democratic Nation through Peaceful Elections.”

The trainees covered basic concepts of human rights, especially political and civil rights such as the right to vote, freedom of expression, democracy, theatre entertainment education, plays, speech, poetry and folk songs.

The highlight of the training was two days of the participants preparing to showcase their work developed for the third day of the workshop. They were divided into three groups, each developing one of the sub themes of the main theme. The sub-themes were: ‘non-violence during elections,’ ‘promoting democracy,’ and ‘respecting human rights.’ The artistic work was creatively presented in dramas, songs, and poetry, all depicting the negative aspects of violence, lack of democratic freedom, and the consequences on the lives of the characters.

The participants were awarded certificates of participation at the end of the training and made schedules of rehearsals for the upcoming festival which was set for 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

*05-07 October—Key Mobilizer Seminar (Torit, Eastern Equatoria State)-Sponsored by FinnChurchAid*

One important way in which RECONCILE has been able to greatly increase its capacity for outreach is through the use on “Key Mobilizers.” These individuals assist RECONCILE by organizing community-based forums and workshops, and assisting in logistical measures when RECONCILE staff visits these oft-secluded communities. A Seminar for a group of these “Key Mobilizers” based in Eastern Equatoria State was held in Torit. The purpose of the seminar was to provide the group with information and knowledge concerning civic and voter education. The information provided will assist the “Key Mobilizers” to effectively communicate with their respective communities in order to better prepare citizens for the upcoming election process. The group was also able to report on scholarships provided for RECONCILE Peace Institute.

*Eighteen Community Forums on Voter Education-sponsored by FinnChurchAid*

RECONCILE “Key Mobilizers” led eighteen community forums on voter education for a total of 668 people within their local communities. These forums occurred in the communities of Labone, Magwi, Torit, Nimule, and Ikotos. Key Mobilizers organized the

forums, and took leadership and facilitation roles within them. The following topics were discussed at the forums:

- Equal rights to campaign
- Candidates' rights to security during campaigns
- Women's equal and independent voting rights
- One person – one vote
- Right to secret ballots
- The illegality to buy votes through payment, bribery or other pressure
- The process of voting

The participants were able to garner important knowledge and skills regarding accountable governance and the election process, as well as information pertaining to community-based violence and trauma.

*07-28 October (Pochalla), 24 November-05 December—Capacity Building Forum in Jonglei State, Pochalla and Twic East Counties (Jonglei State)-Sponsored by DanChurchAid*

During the months of October, November, and the beginning of December, RECONCILE facilitated two forums concerning civic education—one in Pochalla County, and the other in Twic East County. These forums included 160 community leaders, tribal leaders, government officials, law enforcement and security officers, women, and youth. The forums put an emphasis on accountable governance, trauma/recovery, voter education, and conflict resolution. A mock election was conducted, followed by discussions on how local authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs) can create a climate that can mitigate election-related violence. Participants were given the opportunity to rate themselves on their civic knowledge before and after the forums, and a significant improvement was seen. Recommendations for the government and community made by the participants included:

- SPLA military deployment along Twic East border with Nuer and Murle tribes to help reinforce peace.
- General disarmament of the civilian population.
- Strengthening of justice systems.
- Additional peace training should be conducted.

- Better implementation of legislation regarding child protection and prevention of cattle theft.

Participants in the forum were pleased to have RECONCILE conduct the event, and requested that the organization conduct additional future training in leadership, justice, and peace.

12-15 October, 26-30 October —NED Voter Education Workshop (Torit, Eastern Equatoria State; Maridi, Western Equatoria State)-Sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy

With general elections for due to take place in April of 2010, voter education is more important than ever in southern Sudan. With the generous support of NED, voter education workshops were held in the communities of Torit and Maridi. The 73 participants in the workshops included a variety of community members from the areas. Using lecturing, group work, discussions, and a mock election, the workshops educated participants on the



Comprehensive Peace Agreement, what comprises a democratic election, and the government bodies that control an election. Participants also learned about the practical aspects of the election process, including the procedure at a polling station and what can be found there. Finally, the possibility of post-election violence was addressed. Threats of violence during the election process were discussed, as were ways to decrease the chances and/or severity of such violence. Overall, the workshops were very informative for the participants, but more education must be conducted. A great majority of the population is isolated from urban centres, and is largely ignorant of the election process and their right to vote. With the Government of Southern Sudan lacking resources to educate its population on elections, organizations such as RECONCILE must perform trainings such as this quickly. Civic education workshops like these are hugely important for the future of the nation, and more must be done to support them.

19-22 October—Voter Education, Gender-Based Violence, and Violence Against Children in Nimule and Magwi Payams (Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State)-Sponsored by FinnChurchAid

Two seminars were held in Nimule and Magwi Payams in Magwi County. The seminars addressed the issues of 1) voter education, and 2) gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children. Funding for this endeavor was provided by Finn Church Aid and implementation was carried out by RECONCILE. 97 community leaders, government officials, women, and youth attended in order to become better equipped

for elections, to learn about the problems of GBV and violence against children, and to become more empowered as citizens to transform their society. Ultimately the seminars achieved a number of things, including:

- Uncovering issues between internally displaced persons (IDPs), their host communities, and the relationship's effect on voter participation.
- Encouraging the populace to host and participate in successful elections.
- Educating residents of the communities on the different forms of GBV and violence against children, and how to deal with such violence.

The RECONCILE staff also outlined recommendations for the way forward. These included holding more seminars similar to this one in order to encourage a stronger democratic society, and stepping up efforts to widen voter mobilization and participation.

*25-28 September—Civic and Voter Education (Juba, Central Equatoria)-sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy*

With elections quickly approaching, it is easy to get caught up in educating the general population about the importance of elections and procedures involved. However, it must be remembered that these elections mark a first for most people in Sudan, including political party leaders and political aspirants. With this in mind, RECONCILE decided it would be wise to hold a civic and voter education forum for these current and potential political leaders in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba, Central Equatoria. Funding from NED helped make the plans become reality, and a workshop was held in late September. Five political parties were represented by 37 participants at the forum. After a brief introduction by the delegations, the participants came together to learn about the context in which elections are being held, specifics on electoral institutions and processes, and responsible conduct throughout the entire election process. The participants drafted a list of agreements among the political party delegations present. RECONCILE was pleased to be able to hold a forum of such high importance, and hopes to be able to organize similar forums in the future.

*19-22 October—Voter Education (Nimule and Magwi, Eastern Equatoria State)-sponsored by FinnChurchAid*

Transformation of a society into a successful democracy is not an easy task, and this task has the potential to be particularly difficult in the Magwi and Nimule areas of Eastern Equatoria State. In addition to civil war, the communities have been ravaged by numerous attacks by the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). A culture of violence has evolved in the region, and has become a barrier to progressive societal reforms. But with the support of FCA, RECONCILE was able to organize and facilitate a

workshop to help tackle this barrier. Community leaders, women, youth, and government officials were invited to the event, and were given important information and skills to help the community realize its full potential as democratic movers. Democratic and electoral institutions were discussed, group presentations were held, and a mock election helped nail down the particulars of the voting process. Participants were greatly excited to receive the information, and stated that they felt empowered to register and vote in the upcoming elections. This response is widespread among communities taught by RECONCILE, and the organization hopes to help further disseminate the information regarding elections and democracy.

13-14 November—Ethnic Group Leaders Consultation Workshop (Yei, Central Equatoria State)—sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Ethnic tensions are an ever-present concern for southern Sudanese society. Clashes between ethnic groups within the region have led southern Sudan to replace Darfur as the deadliest area in Sudan in 2009. Tending to these inter-ethnic issues is incredibly important, especially with elections approaching in 2010 and a referendum on southern Sudanese self-determination in 2011. With the financial support of PDA, RECONCILE was able to help the Episcopal Church of Sudan Yei Diocese organize and facilitate a workshop for 26 tribal leaders representing at least 13 area ethnic groups. The participants explored the concepts of conflict resolution and reconciliation. The leaders were highly receptive of the information, and drafted a series of resolutions, promising tolerance, peace, patience, and understanding among the various ethnic groups of the area. The experience of the workshop aroused feelings of hope for the future, and RECONCILE will strive to further spread this hope through similar events in the future.

09-12 November—Civic and Voter Education Training for Religious and Community Leaders (Malakal, Upper Nile State)—sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy

With upcoming elections and a CPA-mandated referendum on southern Sudanese self-determination, one of the better ways to prepare communities is through the education of community and religious leaders. RECONCILE was able to accomplish this in the tense area of Malakal with the generous support of NED. A workshop was held in the town for 35 religious leaders, community leaders, and government officials. The participants were educated on the electoral process and how to manage electoral crisis and violence. The group of leaders participated with each other and engaged the concepts of democracy and the election process. They were given the opportunity to look at the electoral law and its implications, and also given additional opportunities to engage the concepts of peace-building and conflict transformation. Time was also spent exploring the specifics regarding democratic concepts and institutions. Lectures, group discussions, and presentations helped the participants grasp an understanding and

acquire skills to help peacefully manage free and fair democratic elections in the Malakal community. Preparing community leaders is essential for the success of the first democratic elections in two decades, and RECONCILE will work to continue the facilitation of such important events.

14-17 December—Voter Education Workshop (Morobo County, Central Equatoria State)-sponsored by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst

With national elections quickly approaching in April of 2010, and a CPA-mandated referendum on southern Sudanese self-determination a short year away, educating citizens on their civic responsibilities and their rights regarding voting has never been so important. Through the generous support of EED, RECONCILE was able to facilitate a voter education workshop in Morobo County, Central Equatoria. The 60 participants included local authorities, church leaders, youth leaders, and community leaders. Using lecturing, questioning, group discussions, presentations, and a mock elections, the participants learned about the importance of elections, their relationship to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and what the practical procedures of the election process (including the polling itself) actually entail. The participants greatly appreciated the training, and felt that they could act as a “watchdog” during elections, as well as set an example of free and fair elections for surrounding communities. RECONCILE and the Morobo community are eager for further opportunities for cooperation in the future.

14-17 December—Equipping Sudanese Communities for Elections and Addressing Gender Based and Child Violence (Torit, Eastern Equatoria State)-sponsored by FinnChurchAid

RECONCILE intends to contribute to building peace and democracy in the southern Sudan through ensuring that communities, particularly women and youth, are aware of their rights, especially regarding participating in a free and fair election. In addition to civil war, LRA attacks have helped create a “culture of violence” in the war-torn area of Eastern Equatoria. Through the generous support of FCA, RECONCILE was able to facilitate a workshop aimed at both voter education, and gender-based and child violence. Participants included community leaders, women, youth, and government officials. Lecturing, explanation, questions, story-telling, group discussions, and presentations were all used to help provide participants with knowledge and skills to participate in peaceful, free and fair elections. A basic introduction to trauma, its causes, and its effects, especially in regards to women and children was also discussed and explored through group discussions and lectures.

13-17 December—Civic and Voter Education Training for Religious Leaders, Community Leaders, and Government Officials (Renk, Upper Nile State)-sponsored by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst

With the support of EED, RECONCILE was also able to hold a civic and voter education training workshop for 57 religious leaders and community leaders in the Renk area of Upper Nile State. These leaders learned valuable information and skills to help guide the community through a peaceful democratic election process. Electoral and democratic institutions were explored, the election process was broken down in detail, and possible violent incidents throughout the process were discussed. Having proper information disseminated to community and religious leaders concerning democratic processes is essential for successful elections nationwide, and RECONCILE hopes to be able to continue such training in the future.

# Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program

In war, deaths and decimated infrastructure are only the ‘tip of the iceberg.’ The memories and trauma incurred by conflict promote a cycle of violence that can ravage communities for years after a general peace has been signed. This has proved to be the case in southern Sudan, and has contributed to one of the deadliest years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Tribal conflicts in places such as Jonglei State, as well as continued atrocities committed by Uganda’s rebel Lord’s Resistance Army have deeply wounded individuals and communities emotionally as well as physically. RECONCILE’s Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program aims to alleviate these emotional wounds and lead personal and communal healing.

The Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program aims to heal the emotional wounds in communities in order to forge an enhanced trust within and between communities, promoting nation building throughout Sudan. Functions conducted by the program in 2009 are listed below.

## 03 February—Assessment on the Refugee Situation in Lasu (Lasu, Central Equatoria State)-Sponsored by Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

For years, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) has been terrorizing regions of northern Uganda, southern Sudan, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and southern Central African Republic. In December of 2008, a joint military operation against the LRA was carried out by the armies of Uganda, the DRC, and southern Sudan. In the aftermath of the operation, the LRA attacked a number of Congolese villages, sending many refugees to the southern Sudanese town of Lasu. RECONCILE staff investigated the situation in Lasu. They found that many Congolese refugees in Lasu refused to return to their homes out of fear of harassment by their own Congolese military. The RECONCILE team investigated the challenges and weaknesses in responding to the refugee situation, and found that there was a significant problem in regards to screening and registering refugees through UNHCR. In addition to this, there was resistance to the Paramount Chief of Lasu’s decision to allocate land for a refugee camp. The RECONCILE investigative team made a series of recommendations concerning the situation, including:

- The county administration must take a more active role in the registration of refugees.
- The county administration must allocate land for a refugee camp.

- There must be better cooperation between the UNHCR, county administration, and other stakeholders.

05 May—Yei Chiefs and Yei County Commissioner Reconciliation Meeting (Yei, Central Equatoria)-sponsored by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst

Consultations with Legislative Council members and individual chiefs in RECONCILE's base county of Yei exposed a high level of misunderstanding between some of the chiefs in the Yei area and the Commissioner of Yei County. It was decided that such latent conflict within the county was unacceptable. With the support of EED, RECONCILE was able to facilitate a reconciliation meeting to bring the conflicting parties together. The 126 participants of the meeting included various chiefs, headmen and headwomen, boma members, payam and county officials, and representatives from other area NGOs. The chiefs were granted time to bring their numerous grievances and allegations to the surface, and the commissioner was given time to respond. RECONCILE then facilitated a discussion concerning conflict resolution and reconciliation. By the end of the workshop, the parties involved realized the necessity of settling disputes and reconciling with one another, and time was spent approaching each other to reach agreements and ask for forgiveness. RECONCILE was proud to take part in such a great act of peaceful settlement of disputes, and hopes to be able to facilitate similar meetings in the future.

13-24 July: Contributing to Peace building for LRA victims in Lasu Payam (Lasu, Central Equatoria State)- Sponsored by Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

Following the Lasu assessment in February, RECONCILE conducted a workshop in the community to help promote healing among the traumatized refugees. The training brought together 50 women, men and community leaders at the end of two weeks. 20 children were also simultaneously trained over a five day period from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July. The training took place in two venues in Lasu payam- the Nyori Parish Church and the Nyori Refugee reception centre. A security breach at the settlement camp necessitated the last-minute change for two venues, as the participants from the camp would not be allowed to leave and attend the training with the host community. At Nyori parish church, the training brought together 34 women of all age groups during the first week and 10 men joined in during the second week. At the Nyori refugee camp, the training brought together 26 women



and 16 men over the two week period. The training was designed to help the community gain an understanding of the dynamics of traumatisation and how to respond in helpful ways. It was hoped that the training workshop would help enhance stability, peace and harmony in the communities affected by LRA.

18-22 May—Trauma Healing, Reconciliation and Conflict Resolution Workshop (Mugwo, Central Equatoria State)-Sponsored by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst

January of 2009 witnessed an escalation of violence between the Logori and Yondu people of Payawa Boma in Mugwo Payam. This fighting was promoted by border and land disputes between clans. Using funding from EED, RECONCILE organized a trauma healing, reconciliation, and conflict resolution workshop. RECONCILE facilitated the workshop between 74 clan members, community leaders, women, youth and government officials. The workshop witnessed many stories and confessions. Brainstorming, writing, and role-playing were all used as tools to help negotiate a future peace. The end of the workshop witnessed forgiveness between clans and individuals. Recommendations for the future were outlined by the RECONCILE facilitators, and included:

- Follow-up visits to the area to check on progress.
- Regular inter-clan meetings to help mediate conflict.
- Increased cooperation between RECONCILE and Mugwo Payam.
- Any future similar workshop in the area should be held at the payam headquarters. This would encourage greater participation.
- There should be a higher number of youth being trained in the areas covered in the workshop.

07-11 September—Trauma Healing Training Workshop For LRA Displaced persons from Ezo (Yambio, Western Equatoria State)-Sponsored by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst

2009 was a rough year for the people of Ezo County, Western Equatoria State. The Ugandan rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), had staged at least a dozen attacks on the people of Ezo in the months leading up to the workshop. News reports, mixed with reports on the ground from church leaders and RECONCILE's own "Key Mobilizers" made it apparent that the Ezo refugees were in dire need of trauma education. For this reason, a trauma healing training workshop was sent to Yambio, the location of many of the Ezo refugees. The workshop was funded by EED and facilitated by RECONCILE. The 54 participants included internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Ezo and other surrounding communities affected by the LRA attacks. Participants

learned about trauma, its causes, its effects, and how to care for people who are traumatized. Turnout was excellent despite the threat of continued LRA violence, and participants were grateful for the workshop RECONCILE had brought to them. However, there was a special appeal made to continue training in the area, especially in issues relating to violence against women and children.

19-23 October-Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence and Violence against Children (Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State)-Sponsored by FinnChurchAid

The Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has been terrorizing populations within southern Sudan for years. Some of the hardest hit people have resided in the communities surrounding Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State. At one point, the county commissioner's office reported 1,149 deaths along with numerous abductions and rapes. Some of the most deeply affected people of such terrorism have been women and children. LRA attacks have traumatised communities, leading to rises in domestic abuse of women and children within a terrible cycle of violence. Basic human rights have been violated, and responses to these abuses have been slow, if not non-existent. With the generous support of FinnChurchAid, RECONCILE was able to conduct a workshop addressing rights of women and children, and the abuses of these rights. Twenty women participants learned about their own rights, the rights of children, the causes and effects of trauma on communities, and how to deal with traumatised individuals.



November—Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Children (Akobo: Nov. 4-9, Gummuruk: Nov. 16-21 & Pibor: Nov. 23-30, Jonglei State)-Sponsored by Presbyterian Women USA

During a 2008 trip to Pibor, a community trauma-healing workshop was conducted. During the event, the women asked for their own workshop specifically for women and regarding women's issues. RECONCILE agreed, and with the gracious help of Presbyterian Women, the organization planned and implemented the requested workshop. Throughout November, a series of three workshops were held for 55 Nuer women of Akobo, and 110 Murle women of Gummuruk and Pibor. The workshops addressed rampant inter-ethnic fighting that has killed more than 1,400



people in 2009, the domestic violence which has subsequently escalated, and the problem of a local syphilis epidemic in the Pibor area. The women learned about the rights of women and children. They also learned about trauma caused by conflict, how it affects people (including children), and how to deal with those affected by it. Root causes of conflict, especially inter-ethnic conflict, were addressed. Finally, the women compiled a list of resolutions they would carry out, as well as recommendations for their local communities, state, and nation. Most importantly, communication was established between the women of the warring tribes. The women of Akobo wrote a letter to the women of Pibor County, asking for peace and a chance to meet in Pibor. The women of both Gummuruk and Pibor responded and agreed that it would be good to meet. A meeting was planned between the two groups, to be held in Pibor.

*14-18 October—Assessment of the Situation in Akobo (Akobo, Jonglei State)-Sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

In 2009, RECONCILE received numerous reports concerning a potentially bleak situation in the Akobo region. The Nuer tribe in the area has experienced intense inter-ethnic conflict, resulting in numerous casualties and loss of property. With the generous support of PDA, RECONCILE was able to send a fact-finding mission to Akobo, and meet with a group of community administrators and leaders. Through the assessment meeting, information was obtained pertaining to the conflicts between the Nuer of Akobo and other surrounding tribes, including dangerous civilian armament mixed with limited resources, including food, water, and cattle. It was decided that RECONCILE should work to lobby on behalf of the suffering population, as well as conduct workshops concerning conflict resolution, human rights, democratization, accountable governance, rule of law, and trauma.

*29 October-02 November—Inter-Ethnic Church Leaders Forum (On-base, Yei, Central Equatoria State)-Sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

Jonglei State witnessed a violent year in 2009. Tensions have increased between three of the main ethnic groups in the state: Dinka, Murle, and Nuer. These tensions have developed into violent encounters and have led to numerous deaths (including women and children), rapes, and abductions. Community and household violence have also subsequently risen. With the generous support of PDA, RECONCILE was able to host and facilitate a forum for a number of church leaders of the warring ethnic groups. Unfortunately, a World Food Program flight failed to transport the Murle delegation from the town of Pibor. Despite the setback, the participants who were able to make it met and planned for ways in which they could help lead their tribes to peace and eventual reconciliation. Causes and effects of trauma on communities and individuals were discussed, as well as ways to manage conflict and lead communities down a path

toward reconciliation. The church leaders eventually formulated a promising list of resolutions, including further inter-ethnic efforts towards peace and reconciliation.

*11-17 November—Akobo Community Healing Seminar (Akobo, Jonglei State)-Sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

Akobo is one of the 11 counties in Jonglei State that has felt the brunt of inter-ethnic violence between the Nuer and Murle tribes. Information from the ground, including that of RECONCILE “Key Mobilizers,” had made it apparent that the community of Akobo was in great need of training in trauma awareness, trauma healing, and counselling skills. With financial help provided by PDA, RECONCILE was able to send two facilitators. The 30 participants included community leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, and government officials. Participants learned what trauma is, how it is caused, and how to help heal those affected by it. Stories were shared, role plays were conducted, and counselling skills were presented and learned. Fear is high in the Akobo area. Even as the workshop was being conducted, there were rumours that a Murle attack was developing. The attack never came, but it confirmed the strong need for similar workshops in the future for the area.

*02-08 December—Lekwongole Community Healing Seminar (Lekwongole, Jonglei State)- Sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

March of 2009 marked one of the deadliest attacks in southern Sudan for the year. Over 400 mainly Murle civilians were killed by Nuer attackers. The attack resulted in deadly counter-attacks, in what has been one of the more heated ethnic conflicts in the nation. RECONCILE, recognizing the deep trauma and anger in the region, conducted a community healing seminar in Lekwongole. 30 community leaders and members attended and learned about relationships with each other and other communities, causes of conflict, reactions to conflict, anger-management, forgiveness, and peace and reconciliation. The community responded well to the seminar, and constructed a list of resolutions and recommendations, including a request for a peace and reconciliation conference between the Murle, Nuer, and Dinka tribes. The women of Lekwongole also wrote a letter to the women of Akobo in response to a letter sent to the Murle women of Pibor.

Additionally, there was a trauma healing seminar specifically for children. The seminar was facilitated by a “Key Mobilizer” for RECONCILE in Pibor County, Jonglei State, who taught the group of 30+ Lekwongole children about trauma. A story of a traumatized child was shared, and the child participants then shared some of their own stories. The traumatized children’s relationships with God and the community were addressed, as were strategies to deal with trauma. Despite the lack of education among the children, the seminar saw relative success. Sunday school teachers showed their appreciation, and requested further RECONCILE work in the area in the future.

# Institutional Development

The RECONCILE base compound in Yei witnessed great improvements during the year of 2009, helping to increase organizational capacity for on-base programs, sponsorship of events, and the Peace Institute.

Firstly, the Training Centre welcomed the construction of a library facility. The facility was made possible by the financial support of EED. The library is intended to hold the Training Centre's ever-growing collection of peace studies and trauma healing resources, in addition to a small computer lab for use by the Peace Institute students.



Second, through the generous support of the Presbyterian Church USA, a new staff housing duplex was constructed. All staff members are now housed in staff buildings, and no longer in the RPI dormitory.

Thirdly, housing was constructed for the visiting instructors of the Peace Institute. The project was funded by EED. The construction of the housing units confronted a couple of difficulties, but was ultimately able to be finished in time for RPI 2010 in the beginning of January.



Finally, the Institutional Development program was able to advance the Goat Project. After a setback caused by the deaths of three of the female exotic goats, the Project was able to advance. RECONCILE's "Key Mobilizers" are on track to receive goats through the Project in early 2010 in order to help better their respective communities. Additionally, construction of a poultry house was started to help compliment the Goat Project.