



# COMPANION RELATIONSHIPS



# Bethlehem / Kajo Keji



## WE ARE THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM, USA AND THE DIOCESE OF KAJO KEJI, SUDAN

The relationship between the Diocese of Bethlehem in Pennsylvania and Kajo Keji in Southern Sudan began with a calling from God. In 1999 the newly-reconvened World Mission Committee in Bethlehem was led to a relationship with Kajo Keji through Rev. Michael Kiju Paul, a seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary; he preached and taught that summer about conditions in Sudan. Connie Fegley, chair of the World Mission Committee, journeyed to northern Uganda in March 2000 to make a wonderful contact with refugees living there. Bishop Manasseh Dawidi then came to Bethlehem, and he communicated the pressing needs of his diocese, the greatest being education.

In April 2001 ten people from Bethlehem traveled to Washington D.C. for a day of advocating for Sudan with senators and representatives, plus the State Department.

In 2002 four people from Bethlehem (Archdeacon Rick Cluett, Rev. Elizabeth Moulton, Jack Moulton and Dr. Randall Fegley) traveled to Kajo Keji to establish mission priorities. Bethlehem quickly established projects for churches, youth groups, and individuals, chief among them "adopting" schools in Kajo Keji. Soon the majority of the diocesan churches were participating.

In 2004 a near famine was caused by an influx of returning refugees and drought conditions. An emergency appeal quickly became the "August miracle" when over \$80,000 poured into Diocesan House in Bethlehem, and food soon arrived in Kajo Keji.

## "Live God's love: tell what you have seen and heard."

Diocesan mission statement

In January 2005 Bishop Paul and Diana Marshall embarked on a grueling journey to Kajo Keji, where he ordained the first woman priest in that diocese. The journey culminated in an unplanned, 14-hour bus ride back to Kampala, Uganda, where Bishop Paul realized that "God wanted my attention." Soon after, the concept of launching an unprecedented capital campaign was hatched—not to benefit the Diocese of Bethlehem but for Kajo Keji and the needy in eastern Pennsylvania. Thus the seeds of the **New Hope Campaign** were planted.



Bishop Paul joined Bishop Manasseh in ordaining clergy.



## "God wanted my attention."

Bishop Paul V. Marshall



The diocesan Episcopal Church Women (ECW) contacted the Mothers' Union in Kajo Keji and began the craft program; a crew of ECW women traveled the diocese selling beautiful baskets, clothing, wood carvings, and other items made by our sisters in Sudan. Over \$25,000 has been sent back to Kajo Keji to benefit their ministry. Also, the Bethlehem Tailor Training Program in Kajo Keji is a project of the Mothers' Union and has become a model for empowering women in Africa.

In April 2007, Bishop Anthony Poggo was enthroned bishop of Kajo Keji, replacing the retired Bishop Manasseh. Archdeacon Rick Cluett and Connie Fegley traveled to Kajo Keji to be part of the ceremonies.

In 2007 four missionaries (Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow, New Hope Campaign Chair Charlie Barebo, Jo Trepagnier, and Dr. Randall Fegley) traveled to Kajo Keji, gathering information that became the New Hope Campaign. To date over \$3,800,000 has been raised, a truly staggering figure considering the small size of the Diocese of Bethlehem and the difficult economic times. New Hope has provided funding for rebuilding classrooms, dormitories, and a library at the theological college, as well as establishing a residence and guest quarters for the bishop, and also building other schools.

New Hope is building 5 primary schools and one secondary school. They will be providing start-up money for micro-financing which will greatly benefit the people of Kajo Keji. New Hope has also contributed funds to construct a new diocesan center for the Diocese of Kajo Keji.

