Wednesday 13th July 2011

To all partners and friends of the ECS,

Independence greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, I thank and congratulate all the people, organisations and governments who stood by southerners throughout the long years of war and suffering. On Saturday 9 July we all reached the Promised Land. This great achievement has now launched our new nation.

We also give thanks to Almighty God for this miracle, a moment most of us thought we would never see; the deliverance of the people of South Sudan.

We, the South Sudanese and indeed the whole world witnessed and celebrated the independence of the southern territory of Sudan, formerly known as Southern Sudan and now officially the Republic of South Sudan. We watched the celebrations for ourselves as well as on behalf of those who sacrificed their lives so that this day might come.

Some of you were present in Juba at the official ceremony to celebrate with us and I am sure you will agree that it was a wonderful occasion filled with songs, shouts and tears of jubilation. There was a strong sense of liberation as we watched the flag of old Sudan lowered and the new flag of the Republic of South Sudan raised.

We ask that you continue to work with and support us and the South Sudanese people as this baby nation learns to stand tall and truly independent. There is still much we can all do together.

May God bless you all

The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak
Archbishop, Primate and Metropolitan of the
Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan and
Bishop of the Diocese of Juba

2 Cor. 5: For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake