



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate

September 25, 2007

On behalf of *New Hope*
In the Diocese of Bethlehem

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

I am writing to give thanks for the inspiring work that is taking place in the Diocese of Bethlehem. On this the beginning of New Hope's five year capital campaign, I wish to lend my voice to those celebrating the contributions of this diocese to the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals.

I believe that New Hope is representative of the bountiful harvest that comes from global relationships. It is the end result of a longstanding partnership between the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Kajo Keji in the Sudan. Such dynamic relationships have the power to transform our priorities and renew our sense of mission. Indeed, they have the power to reawaken that spirit of generosity and compassion that characterizes new life in Christ.

I give thanks for the caring individuals and communities who have already contributed to New Hope's capital campaign. Whether these contributions have been in the form of time, talent, or financial gifts, that which was given will go toward creative initiatives on behalf of communities in the Sudan and Pennsylvania. All of these contributions go toward the building up of God's vision of *shalom*. In this vision, we encounter a world where all are treated with dignity and respect, where our shared life is enriched by the gifts of all the people of God.

New Hope is an invitation to transform our priorities and vision in light of the great suffering in this world. Bishop Paul Marshall and all who have worked on this campaign have done a wonderful job of connecting this call to transformation to the concrete needs of those living in this diocese and the Sudan. In answering this call, we are following God's invitation to new life, one enriched by an awareness of global poverty and our own capacities to solve it.

May God continue to bless the flourishing ministry of the Diocese of Bethlehem. I remain,

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori

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