

A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of
**THE RT. REV. EMERITUS BISHOP
NATHANIEL GARANG ANYIETH JANGDIT**



**"THE LOST BISHOP" | "THE EZRA OF SOUTH
SUDAN"**

January 1, 1935 – February 24, 2026

**'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith' (2Timothy 4:7)**

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*First Bishop of the Diocese of Bor
Former Dean of the Province of the Episcopal Church of
Sudan & South Sudan
Former acting Primate of the Province of the Episcopal
Church of Sudan & South Sudan*

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I
have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the
crown of righteousness."*

2 Timothy 4:7-8

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A MIGHTY CEDAR HAS FALLEN

Today, the heavens rejoice while the earth mourns the passing of a spiritual giant, a visionary leader, and a father in faith to multitudes. The Right Reverend Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit (1935–2026), Bishop Emeritus of Bor Diocese and affectionately known as “The Lost Bishop,” was a devoted servant of God, endowed with rare spiritual and leadership qualities that profoundly shaped both the Church and society.

From the cattle camps of Bor to the halls of Lambeth Palace, Bishop Nathaniel walked in humility. He was a man of peace, reconciliation, and unity. In moments of hardship and uncertainty, he turned to the power of prayer, disarming his adversaries with faith and forgiveness. He was the shepherd who refused to abandon his flock in times of trial—the “Lost Bishop” who was never truly lost to God.

SUMMARY OF THE KEY CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Year	Event
1935	❖ Born in Werkok Boma, Bor County — "Makajing" of the Deer Clan.

Year	Event
<p>1950– 1960</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Education journey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Akol Ajak Bush School (1950 – 1952). ▪ Malek Mission (1953 -1955). ▪ Tonj Junior Secondary School (1955 – 1957). ▪ Tonj Technical School (1958 – 1960).

Year	Event
1960– 1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nathaniel Garang was a devoted soldier in the Anyanya One liberation movement. ❖ He rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant and was stationed at Sakure, near Yambio. ❖ He provided leadership to a team of junior Anyanya officers who mobilized resources to facilitate the travel of William Deng Nhial from Nairobi to Kampala in February 1961. This journey culminated in Deng’s prophetic message to the people of Bor: “<i>Kë pieth abë bën bei Bor</i>” (“Something good will come from Bor”). ❖ As a leading logistics officer, he played a pivotal role in procuring arms from Congo and ensuring their supply to Anyanya soldiers in Western Equatoria.

Year	Event
<p>1966 – 1970</p>	<p>❖ In Masindi, Uganda, Nathaniel Garang embraced the noble vocation of farming at Masinde, Uganda. His labour was a sacred stewardship of the land. Through his work, he nurtured the soil, sustained life, and embodied the values of diligence, humility, and service to community—testifying to the spiritual calling of cultivating creation and providing sustenance for others.</p>
<p>1970– 1973</p>	<p>Nathaniel Garang pursued theological studies at the Nairobi Pentecostal Bible College, where he was awarded a Diploma in Theology. This achievement reflected his commitment to spiritual growth, disciplined learning, and preparation for service in ministry. His theological training stood as a testament to his devotion to God’s calling and his dedication to guiding others in faith and community.</p>

Year	Event
<p>1974 – 1976</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nathaniel Garang was ordained as a Pastor and assigned to Kabat Parish. ❖ In 1975, Bishop Nathaniel, together with Bishop Benjamin Mangar Mamur, pioneered <i>Yan Athieei</i>, meaning “Holy Procession.” ❖ In 1976, he was appointed Pastor in Charge of Bor Parish, where he was faithfully assisted by Paul Nhomrom (Nhomlaau).
<p>1977 – 1982</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nathaniel Garang entered into holy matrimony with Martha Atong Ajak Alith from Alian section in Jalle Payam, Bor County, a union blessed in faith and devotion. ❖ He later returned to Bishop Gwynne College to pursue further theological training, deepening his knowledge and strengthening his preparation for pastoral ministry.

Year	Event
<p>1983 – 1984</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In 1983, Nathaniel Garang was appointed Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Rumbek, serving with dedication and spiritual leadership. ❖ In 1984, he was consecrated as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Bor, a sacred milestone that affirmed his calling to shepherd God’s people and strengthen the Church’s mission in the region.
<p>1985 - 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nathaniel Garang was a pioneer evangelist and a spiritual father of the South Sudan liberation movement. His ministry and leadership embodied faith, vision, and resilience, guiding both the church and the people in their pursuit of freedom and dignity.

Year	Event
<p>1984 – 1990</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ For six years, Bishop Nathaniel Garang endured life in the bush, a period marked by resilience and unwavering faith. He departed with five priests, and through steadfast ministry and spiritual leadership, he re-emerged with seventy-five pastors. This remarkable transformation testified to his enduring commitment to God’s mission and his role as a shepherd who multiplied the faithful even in times of hardship.
<p>1988</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ At the Lambeth Conference in 1988, Archbishop Robert Runcie solemnly declared Bishop Nathaniel Garang as the “Lost Bishop.” This recognition reflected both the trials he endured and the spiritual resilience that defined his ministry, marking him as a symbol of perseverance and faith within the global Anglican communion.

Year	Event
<p>1989 – 1990</p>	<p>❖ Nathaniel Garang co-founded the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC), a sacred institution dedicated to fostering unity, peace, and spiritual guidance among the faithful. His role in establishing the Council reflected his deep commitment to the mission of the church and to the liberation and healing of his people through faith and reconciliation.</p>

Year	Event
<p>1988 – 1995</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He initiated a great Revival in Southern Sudan. This is a historic spiritual awakening in which he baptized more than 2,000 believers in a single day. ❖ Nathaniel Garang is the founder of <i>Jol Wo Lieec</i> Youth Ministry. He established this youth ministry during Mareng Conference in 1988, with the name coined by Rev. Canon John Kelei Chiengkou. ❖ He provided leadership and approval for the compilation and publication of the Hymns Book of 660 sacred songs, enriching worship across the Church. ❖ He is also a founder of <i>Thiec Nhialic (Beseech God)</i> Group in 1994. This is a group dedicated to continuous prayers. He established and led this fellowship, together with its affiliate ministries, including Youth Mama and <i>Tukkī Nhiaal (Kneel and pray to God)</i>.

Year	Event
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ SPLM Torit & SPLM Nasir Reconciliation ❖ • In September 1993, Nathaniel and Reverend Matthew Mathiang journeyed from Lokichoggio to Ulang, Upper Nile, to meet Dr. Riek Machar in a mission of peace and unity. ❖ With support from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Standing Committee on Peace in Sudan, Nathaniel encouraged late Dr. John Garang and Dr. Riek Machar to reconcile. In October 1993, both leaders travelled to the United States (USA) and signed the Washington Declaration, committing the SPLM-Torit and SPLM-Nasir to end hostilities and work together for South Sudan’s self-determination.

Year	Event
1994	<p>His Key Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He registered the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) with the World Council of Churches in Geneva, affirming its place within the global fellowship of faith. ❖ Bishop Nathaniel provided spiritual guidance and pastoral leadership during the SPLM/A Chukudum Conference, fostering unity and moral direction in a time of transition. ❖ He established and operated six Radio Communication Centres across Southern Sudan, creating vital channels of connection with the outside world and strengthening the voice of the people in their pursuit of peace and self-determination.

Year	Event
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bishop Nathaniel preached, offered guidance, and led prayers during the 1995 Moiya Sukun SPLA Officers' Conference, strengthening the spiritual foundation of leadership. ❖ He blessed a unit of 300 men who embarked on the liberation of Eastern Equatoria, consecrating their mission with faith and hope for freedom.
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nathaniel Garang was enthroned as the Diocesan Bishop of Bor in Narus, consecrated to shepherd the faithful with spiritual authority and pastoral care.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He served as a key pillar in the People-to-People peace process, culminating in the landmark Wunlit, Tonj South, Warrap State, Peace Conference, February - March. ❖ He played a central role in fostering reconciliation between the Dinka and Nuer communities, guided by faith and a commitment to lasting peace.

Year	Event
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Through the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC), he facilitated the Pagak Peace Conference, bringing together the Jikany and Lou Nuer communities in a spirit of reconciliation and healing.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He issued a dual proclamation with the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) entitled “Let My People Choose!”, affirming the sacred right of the people to self-determination and freedom.
2006-2008	<p>His Ecclesiastical Leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He served faithfully as Dean of the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan/South Sudan (ECS/ECSS), providing spiritual oversight and administrative guidance. ❖ He acted as Primate of the Province, offering pastoral leadership and representing the Church with dignity and devotion.

Year	Event
2011	<p>Advocacy and Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He was a steadfast advocate for the independence of South Sudan, dedicating his voice and ministry to the cause of freedom and self-determination. ❖ He entered honourable retirement, leaving a legacy of faith, leadership, and commitment to peace and justice.
2022	<p>Recognition of Evangelistic Service: He was honoured with the Anglican Alphege Award for Evangelism, acknowledging faithful witness and dedication to the proclamation of the Gospel.</p>
24 Feb 2026	<p>Rested in eternal glory, bearing the testimony of faith: “I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith.”</p>

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE: EARLY LIFE AND HERITAGE

Bishop Nathaniel was born on January 1, 1935, in Werkok Boma, Makuach Payam, Bor County, Jonglei State. Raised in the Jieng tradition, he grew up as a devoted cattle keeper, composing songs for his cherished

bull, Makajing, and mastering the challenging sports of the cattle camps.



Having lived a purposeful life marked by faith and accomplishment, Bishop Nathaniel entered eternal rest

on February 24, 2026, in Nairobi, Kenya, at the age of 91. He was the fifth child of Anyieth Jangdit (father, Deer Section, Makuach Payam) and Gop Bol Pach (mother, Gualla Section, Kolnyang Payam), who hailed from the family of seers of Lierpiou in Gualla and Angakuei. He was blessed with three sisters, four brothers, and seven half-siblings, whose names are listed in the table below:

Table 1: Siblings from mother, Gop Bol Pach

No.	Name	Sex	Relation	Status
1.	Abiei Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	RIP
2.	Ayen Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	RIP
3.	Jangdit Anyieth Jangdit	M	Brother	RIP
4.	Alier Anyieth Jangdit	M	Brother	RIP
5.	Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit	M	The Late	RIP
6.	Kuol Anyieth Jangdit	M	Brother	RIP
7.	Bol Anyieth Jangdit	M	Brother	RIP
8.	Nyankor Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	RIP

Table 2: Half-Siblings (from step mother Yuol Jok Keer, Anyuat, Ater Section)

No.	Name	Sex	Relation	Status
1.	Yar Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	Alive
2.	Tiir Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	RIP
3.	Yom Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	RIP
4.	Jok Anyieth Jangdit	M	Brother	RIP
5.	Manyok Anyieth Jangdit	M	Brother	RIP
6.	Nyanthic Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	RIP
7.	Akuol Anyieth Jangdit	F	Sister	RIP

Late Bishop Nathaniel Garang was married to Late Martha Atong Ajak Alith from Alian Section in 197. Mama Martha Atong went to be with the Lord on 19th October 2025 in Juba. Baba Bishop Nathaniel and Mama Martha Atong were blessed with six children, and two of them passed on.



Children of Bishop Nathaniel Garang

1. Amer Nathaniel Garang (daughter) – passed away in 1981. *May her soul rest in peace.*
2. John Anyieth Nathaniel Garang (son) – father of four children:
 - a) Kur and Ajoh (from his first wife).
 - b) Garang and Atong (from his second wife).

3. Guyenne Kur Nathaniel Garang (son) – father of three children: Bior, Ajoh, and Atong.
4. Samuel Bior Nathaniel Garang (son) – father of one daughter, Ajoh.
5. Moses Deng Nathaniel Garang (son) – unmarried.
6. Gop Nathaniel Garang (daughter) – passed away in 1992. *May her soul rest in peace.*



Family picture at Kapaat Village 1985

Although none of Bishop Nathaniel's four sons became a priest, they fulfilled their father's wishes by pursuing education and engaging in activities that positively impact others. They have established themselves in various fields, including civil service, banking, and medical

sciences. Bishop Nathaniel and Mama Martha took pride in having raised a family of graduates, as illustrated in the table below:

Table 3: Children of Bishop Nathaniel with their Specialisations

No.	Name	Field/Sector	Title
1.	John Anyieth Garang	Organised Forces	Officer
2.	Gwynne Kurjangdit Garang	Economics	Banker
3.	Samuel Bior Garang	Scientist	Microbiologist
4.	Deng Nathaniel Garang	Medicine	Medical Doctor

Nathaniel was the last person to die among his siblings. Some of the sons and daughters of his siblings are a among us here are: Malith Ayor, Chol Ayor, Anyieth Alier, Anyieth Bol, Deng Maguet, Ayak Maguet, Garang Yom, Malual Jangdit and others.

THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT: EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

In 1949, a pivotal moment of injustice altered the course of Nathaniel’s life. In Bor Town, he witnessed the public humiliation and flogging of a respected young man by police officers. This disturbing incident made him to realise that education was the key to dignity and empowerment. Defying social norms, he left his beloved

Makajing cattle camp and pursued knowledge with unwavering determination.

He began his formal education later than most, attending Akol Ajak Bush School (1950–1952) and Malek Mission School (1953–1955). It was in Malek that the seeds of his lifelong vocation were planted when he was baptised by Bishop Daniel Deng Atong. He then continued his studies at Tonj Junior Secondary School (1955–1957) and Tonj Technical Secondary School (1958–1960). Later, in response to a divine calling, he enrolled at Nairobi Pentecostal Bible College, where he studied theology from 1970 to 1972.

THE WARRIOR YEARS: FROM GUN TO THE CROSS

Before taking up the shepherd's staff, Nathaniel carried a soldier's rifle. During the Anyanya I movement (1960–1966), he served as a logistics officer and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant, stationed at Sakure Camp near Yambio. He operated within the dangerous tri-border region of Sudan, Uganda, and the Congo, facilitating the movement of arms to sustain the struggle for freedom.

Accounts from his time in Anyanya one are widely remembered, including a remarkable buffalo hunt in which he led a starving platoon and secured food under

what he later recognised as divine provision. However, the brutality of war weighed heavily on him. Following a failed ambush at Bazungua Hills in Yambio and a period of deep reflection, he discerned a higher calling. In 1966, he laid down his weapons, convinced that the true liberation of his people would come not through armed struggle, but through spiritual transformation.

The Call to Ministry

Having transitioned from the discipline of a soldier to the humility of a servant, Nathaniel first laboured in a textile factory in Uganda before embracing the vocation of farming in Masinde. This endeavour was not merely for sustenance but served as a providential means to underwrite his theological education. His steadfast devotion to the Gospel bore fruit when, in 1974, he was solemnly ordained into the sacred ministry by Archbishop Alinana Ngalamo.

In 1977, the Lord graciously bestowed upon him a covenantal companion in life and ministry, the late Mama Martha Atong Ajak. United in faith and service, they nurtured a household of six children. Yet, their pilgrimage was marked by profound sorrow, as they endured the grievous loss of their beloved daughters Amer in 1981 and Gop in 1992. Through these seasons of lamentation, Nathaniel's pastoral resolve was deepened, transforming personal grief into a wellspring of compassion for the broken-hearted. His ministry thus became a living testimony to the consolations of Christ, embodying the call to comfort others with the comfort he himself had received.

THE “LOST BISHOP”: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS (1984–1990)

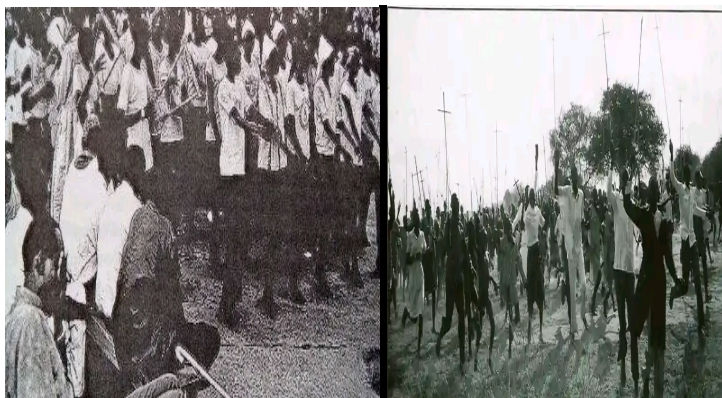
The outbreak of the Second Sudanese Civil War in 1983 became the crucible in which Bishop Nathaniel’s episcopal legacy was forged. On the evening of 15 May 1983, a company of fifteen officers from the 105th Battalion, under the command of Captain Alier Nhial Mangardid, sought Nathaniel’s intercession in prayer mere hours before discharging the first shots of the rebellion. Their appeal for spiritual fortification established Nathaniel as the pastoral and prophetic voice of the liberation struggle from its inception.

The war unleashed unspeakable atrocities. On Christmas Eve of 1984, government forces brutally martyred Evangelist Jacob Akech within the church compound and set ablaze the Leudier Cathedral under cover of night. Compelled to flee into the wilderness, Nathaniel disappeared from public view, yet in exile he emerged as a shepherd and champion of his people.

His journey led him to the villages of Ajang-noi and Kapat in Makwach Payam. Though some SPLA officers attempted to conscript him into military service, divine providence intervened through General Kuol Manyang, who ensured Nathaniel’s return to Kapat. There he reopened Kapat Church, ministered for a season, and later relocated to Panyagor, where he established numerous congregations.

For six years, Bishop Nathaniel remained severed from the wider Anglican Communion. At the 1988 Lambeth Conference in England, his episcopal seat stood vacant, and he was solemnly recorded as “The Lost Bishop,” presumed dead. Yet in the hidden recesses of the swamps, the Spirit of God was at work. Devoid of external funding or institutional support, Nathaniel ignited what became the most profound revival in the ecclesiastical history of Sudan and South Sudan. He consecrated humble grass-thatched structures as cathedrals, expanded the clergy from a mere five priests to seventy-five, and baptized tens of thousands into the household of faith.

Though consecrated in 1984 as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Bor, the ravages of war could not extinguish his divine mandate. Bereft of buildings, stipends, or earthly provision, he proclaimed the Word of God with apostolic fervor, ministering to multitudes and bearing witness that the Church of Christ is not bound by walls but sustained by the living presence of the Lord among His people.



Pictures of revival period 1980s – 1990s

Spiritual Warfare and the “Ezra” of South Sudan

Bishop Nathaniel stood as a warrior of the Spirit, contending against the principalities and powers of darkness that held sway over his people. With apostolic boldness, he confronted formidable traditional deities such as Lierpiou (Gualla and Angakuei), Mayom (Kongor), Mangok (Juet), Baar (Koch), Aler (Nyarweng), and others. In collaboration with Kon Ajith, a local prophet who emerged in the 1990s and was baptized under his ministry, Nathaniel oversaw the destruction and burning of these shrines, an act carried out with the sanction of General Kuol Manyang Juuk and late Dr. John Garang, Chairman of the SPLA/M.

Throughout his episcopacy, Nathaniel endured threats, intimidation, and relentless harassment. He was summoned before traditional courts, accused of sowing disorder and dismantling ancestral beliefs. Yet, even in the face of multiple assassination attempts, whether by grenades or point-blank gunfire, he walked steadfastly through the valley of the shadow of death, fearing no evil, for his confidence was anchored in the Lord of Hosts.

As one deeply versed in Jieng tradition, Nathaniel ingeniously redeemed cultural expressions for the glory of Christ. He instituted the *Yan de Athiëei* (Holy Processions), transforming traditional Dinka dance into a liturgical act of worship. This innovation broke down cultural barriers and ignited a fervent evangelistic movement. Under his leadership, the Church flourished in Southern Sudan, even amidst the crucible of liberation and suffering.

Like the biblical Ezra, Nathaniel became both a spiritual and physical architect of renewal. Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, he returned to the ruins of Bor and undertook the rebuilding of St. Andrew's Cathedral. This edifice, rising from ashes, became a visible sign of resurrection and a testament to the enduring hope of God's people.

ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AND INDEPENDENCE

Bishop Nathaniel discerned that the Church could not remain silent in the face of systemic injustice and national turmoil. His prophetic witness was manifested at the historic SPLM Chukudum Convention of 1994, where he affirmed and cemented the Church's indispensable role in the liberation struggle. His diplomatic mission extended to the highest corridors of global influence, including audiences with the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, where he became a voice for the voiceless, advocating tirelessly for the suffering of his people.

In 1990, he co-founded the New Sudan Council of Churches, a body that became a moral compass in the midst of conflict. As a principal architect of the People-to-People Peace Process, he helped lay the foundation for the landmark Wunlit Peace Conference of 1999, which bridged the deadly chasm between the Nuer and Dinka communities, embodying reconciliation as a divine mandate.

Even in the aftermath of the devastating Bor Massacre of 1991, where his own people endured unspeakable suffering, Bishop Nathaniel chose the path of forgiveness and unity over vengeance. In September 1993, together with Rev. Matthew Mathiang, he chartered a flight from Lokichoggio to Ulang in Upper Nile to meet Dr. Riek Machar, supported by the IGAD Standing Committee on Peace in Sudan. With pastoral courage, Nathaniel urged both Dr. John Garang and Dr. Riek Machar to pursue reconciliation. This effort culminated in their journey to the United States in October 1993, where they signed the Washington Declaration. In this covenant, the SPLM-Torit and SPLM-Nasir factions agreed to de-escalate hostilities and to work jointly toward the self-determination of South Sudan.

Thus, Bishop Nathaniel's ministry transcended the pulpit, becoming a prophetic instrument of peace and a theological architect of independence. His witness testified that the mission of the Church is not only to shepherd souls but also to stand as a moral beacon in the struggle for justice, reconciliation, and the liberation of God's people.

Character and Legacy

Despite his monumental accomplishments, Bishop Nathaniel remained a man of profound humility. He lived by the philosophy of palke, "let it go", entrusting

grievances to the providence of God. His spirit of forgiveness was exemplified when he absolved church officials who had withheld his stipend for eleven years, responding with gracious humor to their confession: “*Weledi, gurush bitaki kan fi, lekini anina akul fogu,*” meaning, “You may have consumed my money, but I have surrendered it to God.”

Though often underestimated, Nathaniel was a “silent risk-taker”, a man of few words whose actions resounded with thunderous impact. His courage was not merely rhetorical but embodied in decisive acts of reform and renewal.

In the year 2000, he broke ecclesiastical tradition by ordaining the first female pastors in the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Four women were elevated to holy orders under his episcopacy, serving tirelessly and becoming renowned as the “Four Women of Faith,” a testament to his vision of inclusivity and the expansion of ministry.

His lifetime of service and witness was recognized globally in 2022, when the Anglican Communion conferred upon him the prestigious Alphege Award for Evangelism and Witness. This honour crowned a ministry marked by humility, resilience, and prophetic leadership, ensuring that Bishop Nathaniel’s legacy endures as a beacon of faith, reconciliation, and transformative service to the people of South Sudan and beyond.

◆ A LEGACY IN WORDS & WORSHIP ◆

"The Written, Sung & Spoken Heritage of the Right Reverend Emeritus Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit"

VOICES OF REMEMBRANCE

Character and Legacy in Testimony:

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, reflected:

"His tireless labour resulted in the greatest revival ever witnessed in Southern Sudan, with conversions to Christianity numbering in the thousands during 1991–1992. This revival spread into the greater Bahr el Ghazal region along the western bank of the Nile, where churches multiplied, pastors were ordained, and congregations grew exponentially. This sustained and extraordinary work of evangelism was carried out without regard for the personal dangers Bishop Nathaniel continually faced."

Hon. Gen. Kuol Manyang Juuk testified:

"Even when mistreated, he never complained. I recall intervening in 1986 when rogue soldiers harassed him, attempting to force him northward to the Bilpam training camp. To my surprise, he readily forgave them."

Rev. Canon John Kelei Chiengkou observed:

"He begins and ends all things with prayer. He never argues or resists; his response is always 'yes,' followed by the suggestion that "Let us pray". He does not trouble

himself to defend against wrongdoing or injustice committed against him.”

Rev. Canon Mark Atem Thuch affirmed:

“He is humble, peaceful, and patient. His devotion to God surpasses any concern for material wealth.”

Hon. Gen. Peter Wal Athiu declared:

“Bishop Nathaniel is truthful and profoundly humble, always placing the needs of others above his own.”

Prof. Gabriel Makuei Deng Makuei reflected:

“His dedication and altruism are extraordinary qualities, rarely found among contemporary church leaders. These virtues are what draw people to him.”

Samuel Bior Nathaniel, his third son, testified:

“My father is a selfless man. Throughout his ministry, he has helped to raise and build many leaders. He always put others first, even when many took advantage of his humility. Yet he never complained, nor did he harbor bitterness.”

CLOSING TRIBUTE

Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit has “laid down his staff”. He leaves behind a church that is vibrant, indigenous, and resilient, a church built not on foreign

gold, but on the blood of martyrs and the sweat of his followers.

Bishop Nathaniel greatly impacted the societies as well as the whole Sudan and South Sudan spiritually, socially and politically. Although he retired in 2011 before passing on, he left a great legacy and a huge vacuum which will not be easy to fill.

To his children and grandchildren, John Anyieth and his children Kur, Ajoh, Garang and Atong, Gwynne KurJangdit and his children Bior, Ajoh and Atong, Samuel Bior and his daughter Ajoh, and Dr. Moses Deng-Ajok, and to the countless spiritual children he fathered in faith: do not weep as those who have no hope. Bishop Nathaniel might have fall asleep, but the seeds he planted have become a forest.

Rest in eternal peace, great shepherd of God sheep. Your watch is ended but your victory is won.

**Memorial Service for Bishop Nathaniel Garang
Anyieth Jangdit (1935–2026)**

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...
they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow
them." — Revelation 14:13*

ATTACHMENTS:

Condolence Messages:

Bishop Nathaniel Garang was mourned by many Christians inside and outside South Sudan. The following are some of condolence messages by prominent figures including the head of the state.

General Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of The Republic of South Sudan:

“He evangelized with vigour and stood up for the marginalized people whom he continuously gave a voice to throughout his career as God’s servant.”

Archbishop Dr. Justin Badi Arama, Primate of Episcopal Church South Sudan:

“He served people with humility, courage, and a pastoral heart. He gave hope and spiritual guidance to the people of South Sudan throughout the liberation struggle.”

Rev. Tut Kony Nyang, General Secretary of South Sudan Council of Churches:

“As we grieve, we celebrate a life devoted God’s service, Bishop Nathaniel was a devoted servant of God, a compassionate pastor, and a tireless advocate for peace

and reconciliation. Even in retirement, he guided and encouraged many.”



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
The President

25/02/2026

**Condolence Message on the Passing of the Retired Bishop
Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit**

It is with deep sorrow that I received the news of the passing of his Lordship, retired Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit, which occurred on February 24, 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya. On behalf of the people and Government of South Sudan, I convey my deep sympathies to the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, its faithful across the country, his immediate family and all the people who were touched and uplifted by his work.

Bishop Nathaniel in his work was the embodiment of the gospel. He evangelized with vigour and stood up for the marginalized people whom he continually gave the voice to throughout his career as God's servant. The intense of the advocacy he did on behalf of the displaced persons during our long war of national liberation illustrated his commitment to the voiceless.

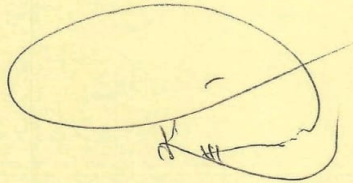
While the entire country will miss his physical absence, we are all consoled that he is with the lord he has served with all his strength during his life time. Bishop Nathaniel will be remembered for his evangelism which resulted in spreading the lord's gospel across South Sudan, and for his loudest voice in defense of the rights of the Christians in the then Sudan when religious persecution was the state policy.

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The President

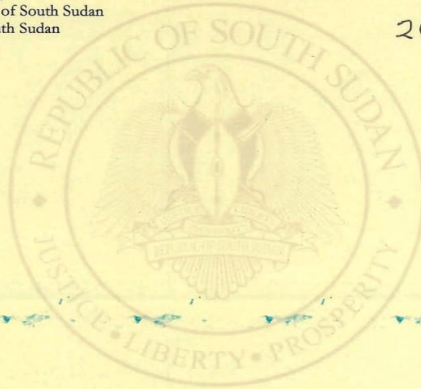
As we mourn him, let his rich legacy of evangelism and deep care for his people guide us in all we do. I pray for God's comfort to the Church, his immediate family and those who are mourning him to cope with the grief caused by his passing.

With my deepest sympathies,



Salva Kiir Mayardit
President,
Republic of South Sudan
Juba, South Sudan

26/2/2026



Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
Anglican Communion
مجمع الكنيسة الأسقفية بجنوب السودان

Office of the Provincial Secretary

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Opposite South Sudan High Court
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Email: provincialsecretary@sothasudan.anglican.org
ocaprovince@hotmail.com
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20th October, 2025

Condolence Message

On behalf of the Administration of the **Episcopal Church of South Sudan**, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of the retired Bishop **Rt. Rev'd Nathaniel Garang Anyieth** on the passing of his beloved wife, **Mama Martha Atong Ajak**.

Mama Martha was more than a bishop's wife—she was a true mother to all, a pillar of faith, and a gentle force behind the success of evangelism in our Church. Her unwavering support, prayerful spirit, and quiet strength helped shape the ministry and touched countless lives across generations throughout the then Sudan and the present South Sudan in particular.

Though we grieve her departure, we celebrate her faithful life and the legacy of love and service she leaves behind. May the Lord comfort Bishop Nathaniel and the entire family with His peace and hope.

"Blessed are those who die in the Lord... for their deeds follow them"
(Revelation 14:13).

20 OCT 2025

Rev'd Peter Garang Deng
Provincial Secretary of the

Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

Cc: ECSS Archbishop & Primate

Cc: ECSS Archbishop's & Bishops

Cc: All faithful

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20



JONGLEI INTERNAL PROVINCE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN

ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Tel: +211926677730, +254720920445, Email: archbjonglei@province@gmail.com



20th October 2025

Ref: Condolences to the Family of the Late Mama Martha Atong Ajak

Dear Bishop Nathaniel Garang, Family Members, and the Faithful in Christ,
On behalf of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Jonglei Internal Province, we express our deepest sorrow over the passing of our beloved mother, Mama Martha Atong Ajak, the devoted wife of the Rt. Rev'd (Rtd.) Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth.

Mama Martha was a woman of deep faith, humility, and courage. She walked faithfully beside Bishop Nathaniel during the great mission of spreading the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ across Sudan and now South Sudan. Even in his retirement, she continued to be his steadfast encourager, prayer partner, and strength. Her life was a living sermon of love, hospitality, and unwavering faith.

Though her departure grieves us, we rest in the assurance that "*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants*" (Psalm 116: 15).

May the Lord Himself comfort Bishop Nathaniel, the family, and all the faithful.



The Most Rev'd Moses Anur Ayom
Archbishop of Jonglei Internal Province
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Bor
Anglican Communion

"we love because he first love us"
1 John 4:19



SOUTH SUDAN PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCES
Chief of Defence Forces

"OFFICIAL LETTER"

To: Family/Bishopric of Late Bishop, Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit

Subject: **Condolences Message on the Passing of Bishop, Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit**

Revered Family and Clergy,

1. It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that I extend my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Bishop, Garang Anyieth Jangdit. His demise is a significant loss to the Christian community and the nation at large.
2. Bishop Garang was a beacon of hope, a devoted servant of God, and a champion of peace and unity. During the liberation war, he played a pivotal role as a spiritual leader, providing pastoral care and support to SPLA/M forces and civilians alike. His unwavering faith and courage inspired many, contributing to the ultimate success of our liberation struggle and the achievement of South Sudan's independence.
3. His tireless efforts to spread the word of God, promote reconciliation, and advocate for the marginalized will be remembered and cherished. Bishop Garang's legacy is a testament to the power of faith, compassion, and perseverance.
4. As we mourn this great loss, we take solace in the knowledge that Bishop Garang's legacy will live on through his teachings, his compassion, and his unwavering commitment to his faith. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his work inspire us to continue striving for a more just and peaceful society.
5. Please accept my sincerest condolences and sympathies during this difficult time. May the Almighty God comfort and strengthen you, your family, and the entire bishopric.

Sincerely,

Gen. Dr Paul Nang Majok PhD/Post.Doc
Chief of Defense Forces
SSPDF/GHQ/S/Bilpam





ALiab COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

27th Feb 2026

To: Family of the Late. Rt. Rev. Bishop, Nathaniel Garang Anyieth,
Bor Community, Episcopal Church of South Sudan, and the people of South Sudan

**REF: CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ON THE PASSING OF THE RETIRED BISHOP
NATHANIEL GARANG ANYIETH**

On my behalf and on behalf of Aliab Community, I wish to express my sentiments of condolence, assuring prayers of suffrage for this beloved bishop as we remember with gratitude his faithful service to the Church, Bor Community and South Sudan in general as a clergy, leader and father.

The Christian community in South Sudan especially **Episcopal Church of South Sudan** has lost an important spiritual leader, a courageous and wise pastor who faithfully served his community in extremely challenging times. He guided the Church in Bor in the difficult period of political and social transformation, with wisdom, love, promoting respect for all people irrespective of their race or status in the society and above all keeping faith alive in the hearts of believers.

Bishop Nathaniel played an instrumental role during liberation struggle of South Sudan when he was consecrated as the first indigenous Bishop of the Diocese of Bor in 1984. He helped in spreading the Gospel, unity and peaceful coexistence among South Sudanese. He established many Churches in Bor, Pan-Aliab, South Sudan and Sudan as a whole. He was the guiding light to many young believers and Christians in our Country.

We extend our sympathy most especially to his family and the entire **Episcopal Church of South Sudan** who mourn, and pray for peace and comfort at this difficult time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you as we join you in mourning this profound loss and offer our sincere condolences. May the Lord receive him into his kingdom and grant him eternal rest, and may the memory of his long and devoted service to the Church live on as a challenge and inspiration to us all.

With Sincere Sympathy,

.....
Hon. Kuol Ayang Kuol
Chairman
Aliab Community Association
Juba, South Sudan



Republic Of South Sudan - Juba
Tel: +211 922 558 810 | +211 925 515 233

KOCH COMMUNITY

Date: 28th Feb, 2026

To: Family ECSS, Friends and
Relatives of the Late Rt. Rev Bishop

**Subject: Condolences Message on the passing of Rt. Rev Bishop Nathaniel Garang
Anvieth**

Dear Family and Friends of Bishop Nathaniel,

It has been our privilege and honor to know and serve with our dear father, Bishop Nathaniel in Kapat Church from 1984 – 1992.

Bishop Garang was a beacon of hope, a devoted servant of God, and a champion of peace and unity during the liberation war. He spread the Gospel of God to all the people of South Sudan during the liberation struggle and advocate for the freedom of the people of South Sudan.

He has been a genuine and encouraging father in Christ and we shall always be thankful for the journey of faith and fellowship we shared together.

Our Heavenly Father has called Bishop Nathaniel Home, where suffering, sorrow, and pain are no more and where there is everlasting light, love, and joy. We entrust our dear father to God's eternal goodness and give thanks for Bishop Nathaniel's life of faith, love, and service here among us.

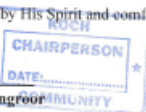
Bishop Nathaniel was Assistant Bishop of Rumbek Diocese, Bishop of Bor Diocese, Dean of the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan and Acting Archbishop of the ECS/ECSS.

We send our heartfelt condolence and our deepest prayers to the family of Bishop Nathaniel and Christian community.

May God uphold you by His Spirit and comfort you with His Love now and always.

28/2/2026
Sign: 

Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor
Koch Community Chairperson
Juba, South Sudan





ADUM- WUOR YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Date: 20/10/2025

**SUBJECT: CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO THE FAMILY OF RT.REV.
NATHANIEL GARANG ANYIETH FOR THE PASSING ON OF MAMA MARTHA
ATONG AJAK**

On behalf of Adam-wuor youth association and on my own I would like to send our heartfelt condolence. Please accept OUR deepest and most heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, Mama Martha Atong Ajak.

While no words can ease the loss you bear, we pray you find comfort in the loving memories you shared and in the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ. May her soul rest in the perfect peace of God, and may you and your entire family be strengthened by the prayers and support of all those who hold you in esteem.

In this time of sorrow, you are in our thoughts and prayers.



YOURS FAITHFULLY

SIGN.....

MIKE WUOI ACHIEK DENG,

CHAIRMAN, ADUM-WUOR YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Phone: +211922221757/+211926150108
Email: chamdhaar@gmail.com



THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
JONGLEI STATE
BOR COUNTY - KOLNYANG PAYAM




25th February 2026

Subject: Condolences to the Family of Late RT. Rev. Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit and all Children of God

Bor, Wednesday, 25th February 2026: Dear beloved family of the late Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth and the wider Body of Christ, we extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers on the passing into glory of father in Christ, Bishop Garangdit, who was a remarkable servant and shepherd of God. From the 1970s through 2026, Bishop Garang's life was a living testimony of unwavering faith, steadfast hope, and sacrificial devotion to the Lord's vineyard. Anointed for ministry, he evangelized to great multitudes in Bor and beyond, gathering souls into the Kingdom of God, strengthening the fellowship of believers, and leading the Church with grace, diligence, and Christ-like humility. His Spirit-led ministry rekindled the fire of the Gospel across Sudan (South Sudan), ensuring that the saving message of our Lord Jesus Christ reached every corner of the land. His steadfast witness during the liberation struggle, together with his meek and resilient spirit, remains a powerful inspiration to all who walked with him in faith.

Consecrated in 1984 as the first Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Bor, Bishop Garang faithfully shepherded the flock entrusted to him by the Great Shepherd through seasons of trial and triumph. Through prayer and the ministry of the Word, he baptized, disciplined, and ordained many servants of God, strengthening the Episcopal Church of South Sudan during its formative and challenging years. Even when Bor was attacked and [he] was driven into exile, his trust in Divine Providence never wavered. In God's perfect timing, he re-established communion with the global Anglican fellowship, affirming the unity of the Church under Christ. His leadership reflected spiritual courage, pastoral compassion, and a deep dependence on the Holy Spirit, offering hope, comfort, and godly counsel throughout the liberation struggle. He stood as a radiant beacon of faith, constantly reminding his people that the light of Christ shines brightest amid the darkest valleys.

As we mourn his earthly departure, we also rejoice in the blessed assurance of the resurrection and celebrate the sacred legacy he leaves behind. Bishop Garang lived a life of Christ-centered servanthood, embodying humility, perseverance, and a passion for unity and peace rooted in the Gospel. His ministry has borne lasting fruit across generations, and his prayerful vision for a faithful and united Church continues to guide the Episcopal community of South Sudan. May the Lord of all comfort surround his family and the faithful with His peace that surpasses understanding, and may the cherished memory of this devoted shepherd remain a guiding light for all who desire to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Truly, we affirm in faith the words of Scripture: "Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord."


Eng. Anthony James Wal Nayanith
Chairman of Kolnyang Payam Global



Email: address: antonjames@gmail.com | Tel: +211 912 181 911 | +211 921 616 635



RED ARMY FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

25th February 2026

To: Family of Rt. Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth
Deer Community, Bor County, Jonglei State and the
Entire South Sudanese citizens.

Dearest,

SUBJECT: PITIFUL CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

With the deepest grief and weeping, I would like to write on behalf of red army foundation, Jonglei State to express our grief for the passing on of our beloved Father in Jesus Christ, the retire Emeritus Rt. Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth who had been robbed by the devil.

The Bishop dedicated his life-time evangelizing the entire South Sudan Communities to ensure that all South Sudanese are grab off from the bondage of Satan in support of his brother Dr. John Garang de Mabior during the liberation struggle, and fortunately, God protected him during that terrible spell until the liberty from oppressors (Satan and Arabs) was secured.

Besides being a good revivalist, he was always humble, champion of peace, unity in all aspects of life, an icon of reliability, trustworthy and considerate to everyone irrespective of tribes and sections.

He will be severely missed by red army members whom he had nurtured from childhood to adulthood and the entire South Sudan. Our hearts are breaking for you in memoriam of your life which has just gone while we were still in need of you in our midst, ooh dear, with empathy and well wishes, we are so sorry for your disappearance, and may your precious soul rest in eternal peace with God amen.

Our prayers for the family of Anyieth Jangdit as a whole, Jonglei Communities and the entire South Sudan's 64 tribes to console underneath this shady situation.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Yours sincerely,

David Dut Ayuen Kou
Chairperson, Red Army Foundation
Jonglei State-Bor
File



Jonglei State Head Office

Bor Town • Jonglei State • South Sudan
+211 921 540 188 / Email:dutmaker66@gmail.com

SOURCE

Ajak A. D. (2024). *The lost bishop: the condensed biography of the Right Reverend Emeritus Bishop Nathaniel Garang Anyieth Jangdit*. Osborne Park, WA: Africa World Books

Ajak Duany Ajak

THE LOST BISHOP

 Africa
World Books
Africa World Books



THE
LOST BISHOP

THE CONDENSED BIOGRAPHY OF THE RIGHT
REVEREND BISHOP NATHANIEL GARANG
ANYIETH JANGDIT

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