

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

You can use the *Forward Day by Day* Readers' Guide in many ways: on your own to enhance your experience of the month's meditations; gather a group from your parish to explore these questions together; or join in the discussion with Forward Movement's online community by visiting us at [www.ForwardMovement.org](http://www.ForwardMovement.org) or by following us on Facebook.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**July 3:** Is navigating trouble something that comes easily for you, or do you struggle against it?

**July 5:** What is your all-time favorite church hymn or spiritual? Secular song?

**July 10:** Who practices radical encouragement and honesty in your life? How can you support them today?

**July 15:** What is your heart's favorite way to praise God?

**July 18:** How are your communication skills with your friends and family? Are there things you might do to improve your skills or articulate your needs differently?

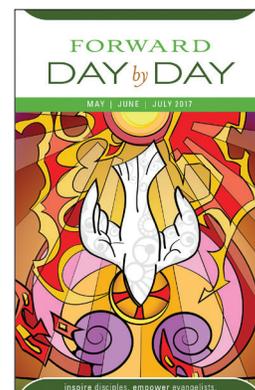
**July 21:** How have job losses or transitions brought about changes in your spiritual life?

**July 25:** Is it hard for you to allow the people you love to fail or struggle? How do you think God feels about you when you struggle or fail?

**July 31:** What vows have you taken in your life? How do they shape who you are and how you are?

## ABOUT THE COVER

The artwork for this issue represents Pentecost, with the descending dove and tongues of fire celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

The 2017 covers of *Forward Day by Day* have been created by artist **Roger Speer** exclusively for Forward Movement. These pieces, and over 20 more, are featured in *The Path: A Journey Through the Bible*; an adult coloring book, *Pathways of Faith*; and *The Path: A Family Storybook*, available from Forward Movement. Examples of Roger's artwork can be found at [www.speerpoint.etsy.com](http://www.speerpoint.etsy.com). He and his wife Fran live in Georgia with their son Fynn.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Miriam Willard McKenney** is director of development for Forward Movement and writes and edits *Daily Devo: Devotions for Families*. She finds extreme joy in parenting her three girls. McKenney met her husband at the 1981 Union of Black Episcopalians conference. She was a children's librarian and school media specialist for twenty years. Miriam has discovered a love of outdoor fitness in extreme temperatures, believing there is no bad weather, just incorrect clothing choices.

# THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

*At the end of every meditation in Forward Day by Day is the day's entry for the Anglican Cycle of Prayer (ACP). Maintained by the Anglican Communion Office in England, the ACP is a way to pray for every diocese and province in the Anglican Communion over a period of two years. The Anglican Communion has eighty million members in more than 160 countries—reflecting an astounding array of languages, cultures, and ministries.*

## Anglican Cycle of Prayer Spotlight:

Forward Movement and Episcopal Relief & Development invite you to pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world and with special intention for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan.

Episcopal Relief & Development participated in an Anglican Alliance call on February 21, 2017 with the leadership of SUDRA, the humanitarian arm of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, regarding the previous day's UN famine declaration. Episcopal Relief & Development plays a leadership role in the Anglican Alliance's ongoing relationship with SUDRA, and has helped coordinate the Alliance's crisis response efforts there since 2014.

"Over half the people in South Sudan are on the verge of famine – due to drought and the security situation," explained The Rev. Joseph El Haj, Manager of SUDRA, on the call. "In Yei and Kajo Keji many people have left their homes and harvests. They are now without food. In Kajo Keji the markets don't have food. Many have already moved to Uganda. Others are staying around the churches for safety."

Episcopal Relief & Development has responded to emergency needs during several periods of political crisis over the past few years, most recently in July 2016 when approximately 220 families sought refuge on Cathedral grounds during an outbreak of violence in Juba. The organization's relationship with SUDRA began before South Sudan gained its independence through a referendum vote in 2011, and has since included emergency response activities as well as efforts to resettle refugees.

"Food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition has been getting steadily worse since the conflict started three years ago," said George Fominyen, UN World Food Program spokesperson in Juba, according to CNN. The UN also noted that 1.5 million people had fled from South Sudan to Uganda, and nearly 2 million are internally displaced within the country. An estimated 4.9 million people are in need of urgent food, nutrition and agriculture assistance. Please continue to pray for all those affected by unrest and food shortages in South Sudan, and for those who are working to reduce suffering and restore security.

"We are concerned about the long-term impact of political instability on South Sudan's agricultural and economic sectors, since it is very difficult to recover when normal day-to-day activities have been put on extended hold due to displacement," said Nagulan Nesiah, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Program Officer for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction. "Whenever we talk with our partners in South Sudan, they always ask us to pray for peace. Emergency assistance will help in the immediate term, but lasting peace is necessary for a full recovery."



Photo Credit: episcopalrelief.org



Forward  
Movement

We're eager to hear what you and your readers' group discover in your discussions.

Share your thoughts and insights:

[www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org) | [rthompson@forwardmovement.org](mailto:rthompson@forwardmovement.org) | 800-543-1813

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