

This workshop was organised for a call for peace at the grassroots level. The local chiefs were brought together by the New Sudan Council of Churches in order to relate their testimony of confession and think together for the way forward to peace process. Hence, a genuine call was that, if we are to reveal ideas which express our joy and testimony, we must discuss with respect, what we are thinking in a larger forum inside the South Sudan. Therefore, Wunlit People to People Peace process was a result of that small gathering of the local chiefs.

● **The Dinka - Nuer West Bank Peace and Reconciliation Conference 27 February- 8 March 1999:**

The Dinka and Nuer chiefs, the church and community leaders, elders, women and youth met in a peace and reconciliation meeting in Wunlit, Bahr el Ghazal in Sudan under the auspices of the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC). The living testimony of Wunlit created a positive spirit of peace and stability among the tribes in South Sudan. The example set by politicians and military commanders was another respect for the grass root communities calling for peace talks in which the politicians and commanders have taken the back seats and have lent their support in full to the civil society leaders to discuss and negotiate their differences.

The Wunlit peace conference was initiated with the sacrifice of a white Bull (Mabior Thon/Tu-Bor) and have sealed the covenant in Christian worship and traditional sacrifice in which the participants declared the following points:-

- All hostile acts shall cease between the Dinka and the Nuer whether between their respective military forces or armed conflicts. A permanent cease fire is hereby declared between the Dinka and the Nuer people with immediate effect.
- Amnesty is hereby declared for all offenses against people and property committed prior to 1/1/99 involving the Dinka and the Nuer on the West bank of the Nile River.
- Freedom of movement is affirmed and inter-communal commerce, trade, development and services are encouraged.
- Local cross-border agreements and arrangements are encouraged and all shall be respected.
- It is hereby declared that border grazing lands and fishing grounds shall be available immediately as shared resources.
- Displaced communities are encouraged to return to their original homes and rebuild relationships with their neighbours.
- The spirit of peace and reconciliation in this covenant must be extended to all communities in South Sudan.